

LESSON 1

TWO COMPETING CALLS

MAIN IDEAS

- Wisdom and foolishness call out to us.
- Wisdom is loving what God says is good and right and doing it. Foolishness is loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it.
- The choice to follow wisdom or foolishness is determined by what we love; our actions come from our hearts.
- Wisdom leads to life and favor from God, but foolishness leads to death and destruction.

MEMORY VERSE

Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding. (Proverbs 10:23)

SCRIPTURE

1. Proverbs 9:13-15
2. Proverbs 1:20-21
3. Proverbs 8:6
4. Proverbs 9:17
5. Proverbs 10:23
6. Proverbs 1:32
7. Proverbs 8:34-35

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

Note: Visuals that do not need to be cut out and/or assembled in some way for use during the lesson presentation are provided as PDFs for electronic display in the Curriculum Resources. These visuals are identified below and in the lessons following with bold text.

- Wisdom Quest Map Poster (tape together as directed, or purchase through Truth78.org)
- Wisdom Quest Map Pieces (cut out as directed)
 - Wisdom Definition (M1)
 - Foolishness Definition (M2)
 - Death & Destruction (M3)
 - Favor & Life (M4)
- **Nature Scavenger Hunt Flyer (1A)**
- **Leather Crafting Flyer (1B)**
- You will need these visuals in print even if you plan to display them electronically:
 - **Foolishness Calls (1C)**
 - **Wisdom Calls (1D)**
- **Wisdom Definition (1E)**
- **Foolishness Definition (1F)**
- **Death (1G)**
- **Life (1H)**
- Note for Parents (for each child)
- Parent Page for Lesson 1 (for each child)

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Bible (English Standard Version)
- Choose one of the following:
 - 3-4 activity-related objects (e.g., basketball, drawing pad and markers, board game, book)
 - 3-4 books covering different topics (e.g., sports, animals, jokes, biography)
 - For a camping theme, choose camping objects (e.g., an ax for throwing, fishing gear, and archery equipment; camp handcrafts; common camping snacks such as trail mix, s'mores, and "twigs" or pretzel sticks)
 - 3-4 recordings of different kinds of music (e.g., classical, country and western, gospel, etc.)

- Whiteboard and markers
- Tape
- New Testament with the books of Psalms and Proverbs, or a Bible (could be used during this lesson and sent home after the last lesson)

MATERIALS FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Wisdom Quest Map Activity

For each child:

- Wisdom Map Activity (available from Truth78.org)
- Note: The map pieces are at the back of the Wisdom Quest Journal. There are no pieces for M1 and M2 since children will write the definitions on their map.
- Pencil or pen
- Scissors and glue

2. Wisdom Quest Journal (available for younger or older children from Truth78.org)

Supplies will vary based on the child's age and the journal selected and could include:

- Wisdom Quest Journal
- Pencil or pen
- Crayons or markers
- Glitter pens or gel pens

3. Key Verse Game

See the appendix for ideas and possible supplies.

4. Relay Races

No supplies required.

5. Sidewalk Murals

- Sidewalk chalk (for each child)

6. Bird Calls

- Optional: Bird call device or a recording of bird calls

7. Camp Activity

- Set up and have the children work through a "Wisdom's Call Blindfold Obstacle Course." See the **Camp-Theme Booklet** for details. (The booklet is a Curriculum Resource PDF included in the kit for program coordinators.)

PREPARATION

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the children in your group.

- **Wisdom Calls and Foolishness Calls**—Though these two visuals are included as a PDF for electronic display, you will also want to print them so you can physically handle them during the lesson presentation.
- **Wisdom Definition and Foolishness Definition**—Though these two visuals are included as a PDF for electronic display, you will also want to print these visuals so that you can physically interact with them during the lesson presentation.
- **Sword Drills**—See Sword Drill instructions in the appendix.

- **Music**—Your program might also benefit from an album by Sovereign Grace Music called *Walking with the Wise*, available through sovereigngracemusic.org.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

INTRODUCTION

(Give the following illustration.)

Suppose you were at camp, and you picked up this flyer.

(Display the **Nature Scavenger Hunt Flyer**, and read it aloud.)



Nature Scavenger Hunt

Join in the fun of finding various nature treasures!

When: 10 a.m.

Where: Meet at the picnic area.

This sounds like fun. But you have a problem. You also found this flyer.

(Display the **Leather Crafting Flyer**, and read it aloud.)



Leather Crafting

Learn how to use leather-crafting tools and make a key chain, coaster, backpack tag, or bracelet.

When: 10 a.m.

Where: Meet at the craft hut.

You can't join in the scavenger hunt and make a leather craft.

(Display the **Nature Scavenger Hunt Flyer** again.)

This calls to you, "Come on the scavenger hunt!"

(Display the **Leather Crafting Flyer** again.)

This calls to you, "Come make a leather craft!"

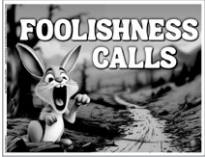
Which will you listen to? Which one will get your attention? Which one will you choose? Will you pay attention to the scavenger hunt flyer and find some nature treasures? Or will you pay attention to the leather craft flyer and make a gift for someone? You can't do both. You have to make a choice.

- In life, we have a lot of choices—some important and some not so important.
- The book of Proverbs in the Bible tells us about a VERY IMPORTANT choice we have. It tells us about two things calling to us. But we can only follow one of them.
- One of those calls is the call of foolishness.

(Read the following verses, or hand your Bible to a child or a few children to read to the class. Or, if your group is familiar with the Bible, have a Sword Drill—see the appendix for directions.)

Proverbs 9:13-15—The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. ¹⁴She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town, ¹⁵calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way,

Folly is the same thing as foolishness. Foolishness calls out to us. Foolishness is loud and ignorant, and it is seductive—it wants to capture us.



(Display the **Foolishness Calls** visual.)

- The other call is the call of wisdom.

(Read the following verses or have a Sword Drill and ask a child to read it.)

Proverbs 1:20-21—Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; ²¹at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

Wisdom also calls to us.



(Display the **Wisdom Calls** visual.)

Both wisdom and foolishness call to us, and we must choose which one we will follow.

We cannot follow both; we must choose one or the other.

Foolishness Calls and Wisdom Calls visuals (to hold as described here)

(Hold the **Foolishness Calls** visual in one hand and **Wisdom Calls** visual in the other hand, spreading your hands far apart to demonstrate that that they represent different directions.)

How will you decide whether to follow wisdom or foolishness?

ILLUSTRATION

Activity objects, books, or camping objects, or be prepared to play the different recordings

(Ask a child to come to the front. Show him the **activity objects, books, or camping objects, or play the different recordings**. Note the differences between the choices and ask the child to make a choice. Then ask why he made the choice he did and link this to his desires. See the example below, making the following points.)

- There is a wide variety; there are many kinds of [music/activities/books]. (You may want to demonstrate this—for example, “I have three/four different recordings/objects/books here,” and note each choice.)
- The child can make any choice he wants (e.g., “Which music do you like best?” or “Which activity do you like best?” or “Which of these books would you enjoy reading most?”)

Why did you make the choice you made?

- His choice was determined by what he likes (e.g., “You chose [kind of music] because you like [kind of music]”).

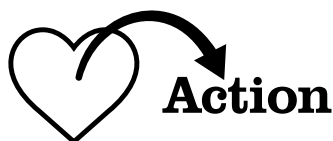
? *What comes first—the attitude (what is in your heart) or the action (what you do)? [what is in your heart]*

Whiteboard and markers

(Draw a heart on the **whiteboard**.)

- *You have heart desires—things you like.*
- *Then the action comes from what is in your heart.*

(Draw an arrow from the heart and write the word **ACTION** on the **whiteboard**.)



What you do comes from what you love. We make the choices we make because of what we like—because of what our hearts draw us to.

- Just as we choose [music/activities/books] because of what we like, we choose to follow wisdom or foolishness because of what we like. What we love determines what we will do.
- Whether we listen to wisdom or foolishness is determined by our hearts—what we love.

Let's find out the difference between the call of wisdom and the call of foolishness. This is what wisdom calls to us.

(Read the following verse with a noble tone of voice.)

Proverbs 8:6—Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right,



Wisdom is always calling out to us to do what God says is good and right.

(Display the **Wisdom Definition** visual and choose a child to read it.)

WISDOM is loving what God says is good and right and doing it.

DISCUSSION

(Lead a discussion to help the children discover what this definition means. Be sure to emphasize the words “sometimes” and “usually” so that the children understand that even those who love wisdom SOMETIMES act foolishly—they are not perfect. But those who are truly wise do not USUALLY act foolishly or continue to act foolishly. Most of the time they act wisely. An example is given below.)

- ? *What kinds of things are good and right?* [kindness, generosity, etc.]
- ? *What you do comes from what you love. So how will you act if you love these good and right things?* [kind—treating people nicely, being polite, helping others; generous—sharing with others, giving money to those in need; etc.]

If you love kindness, will you usually act mean? If you love generosity, will you usually act selfishly? You may sometimes act mean or selfish, but if you truly love kindness and generosity, you will not usually act mean or selfish.

(Display the **Wisdom Definition** visual again and have the children read it aloud.)

WISDOM is loving what God says is good and right and doing it.

(Ask a child to **tape** the **Wisdom Definition** map piece to M1 on the **Wisdom Quest Map Poster**.)

Foolishness calls to us, too. But foolishness calls out to us to do what God says is bad and wrong.

This is the kind of lie that foolishness calls out to us.

(Read the following verse in a conniving voice.)

Proverbs 9:17—“Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”



Tape, Wisdom Definition map piece, and Wisdom Quest Map Poster

Foolishness calls out to us to do what is bad and wrong—like stealing and being secretive about the bad things we do.

Foolishness is the opposite of wisdom.



(Display the **Foolishness Definition** visual and choose a child to read it.)

FOOLISHNESS is loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it.

- ❓ *What kinds of things are wrong?* [lying, stealing, meanness, cheating, etc.]
- ❓ *How will you act if you love these wrong things?* [cheat on tests, bully other kids, fight with your brother or sister, lie to your parents, etc.]



(Display the **Foolishness Definition** visual again and have the children read it aloud.)

FOOLISHNESS is loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it.

(Ask a child to **tape** the **Foolishness Definition** map piece to M2 on the **Wisdom Quest Map Poster**.)

(Read or have a Sword Drill with the following verse.)

Proverbs 10:23—Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

- Fools—foolish people—like doing wrong; they enjoy wrongdoing.
- Foolish people like doing what God says is bad and wrong, because their hearts love what is bad and wrong.
- Wise people love wisdom—they love doing the right thing. Doing the right thing makes them happy.
- Wise people love wisdom and doing what God says is good and right, because they love what is good and right.
- You have a choice of following the way of wisdom or the way of foolishness.
- You can't follow both because they are calling you to go in different directions. (Point out the two paths on the **Wisdom Map Poster**.)
- Wisdom is calling you to do what God says is good and right. Foolishness is calling you to do what God says is bad and wrong.

Tape, Foolishness Definition map piece, and Wisdom Quest Map Poster

Wisdom Definition and Foolishness Definition visuals (to hold as described here)

(Hold up the **Wisdom Definition** and **Foolishness Definition** visuals again, holding each in one of your hands.)

Which call you listen to is very important because the paths of wisdom and foolishness don't lead you to the same place.

(Read the following verses and ask the children to listen to find out where following wisdom and where following foolishness lead.)

Proverbs 1:32—For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

- ❓ *Where does foolishness lead?* [death, destruction, hell]

Foolishness leads to destruction and death.



Tape, Destruction & Death map piece, and Wisdom Quest Map Poster

(Display the **Death** visual. Ask a child to **tape** the **Death & Destruction** map piece to M3 on the **Wisdom Quest Map Poster**.)

(Explain to the children that wisdom is speaking in the following verse.)

Proverbs 8:34-35—*Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. ³⁵For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD.*

? *Where does wisdom lead?* [blessing, life, favor, kindness]

Wisdom leads to life and favor.



Favor & Life map piece

(Display the **Life** visual. Ask a child to **tape** the **Favor & Life** map piece to M4 on the **Wisdom Quest Map Poster**.)

It seems like a simple choice, doesn't it? Foolishness leads to death and destruction; wisdom leads to life and God's favor or blessing on your life. But our hearts won't always make the right choice because sometimes we love the wrong things. How can we follow the good and right way of wisdom? This is what we will be finding out by the end of these lessons.

(End with prayer.)

SMALL GROUP APPLICATION

(Application can most effectively be done in a small group setting. The questions are suggestions for possible directions to take the discussion. Pray for wisdom and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Be sensitive to the answers and the needs of the children. Be sure to pray for the children and encourage them to pray for each other.)

- ? *How does wisdom call to you?* (Remind the children that the definition of wisdom is "Loving what God says is good and right and doing it.") [through parents, the Bible, good friends, teachers]
- ? *How does foolishness call to you?* (Remind the children that the definition of foolishness is "Loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it.") [through ungodly TV shows, bad friends, our own hearts that want what is wrong]
- ? *Can you give an example of loving what God says is good and right, and acting on that love?* [being kind to a new person at school or to someone who doesn't like you; making peace with a brother or sister instead of fighting; obeying parents; etc.]
- ? *Can you give an example of loving what God says is bad and wrong, and acting on that love?* [stealing, lying, disobeying parents, etc.]

Our actions show what is in our hearts. Think of something you did this week. What did this tell you about your heart?

Is it easier to follow the call of wisdom or the call of foolishness? Why?

Do you find yourself being pulled in the direction of foolishness or in the way of wisdom? Give some examples.

Can you change what you love? Can you make yourself love what is good and right? Explain.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

(If time allows, choose one or more of the following activities.)

1. Wisdom Quest Map Activity

Introduce the Wisdom Quest Map Activity, pointing out the Way of the Foolish and the Way of the Wise. Children can write in the definitions of wisdom [loving what God says is good and right and doing it] and foolishness [loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it], and then cut out pieces to glue on the paths that show the destiny for each [Death & Destruction for the Way of Foolishness; Favor & Life for the Way of Wisdom]. (You will find the map pieces to cut out at the back of the Wisdom Quest Journal.)

2. Wisdom Quest Journal

Introduce the Wisdom Quest Journal, helping the children to do the activity for Lesson 1.

3. Key Verse Game

Play a Key Verse Game. (See the appendix for suggestions.)

4. Relay Races

Play some relay races. When a child gets to the far side of the room, he must say the definition of wisdom. Then he can run back and tag his teammate. Do the same with the definition of foolishness.

5. Sidewalk Murals

Using sidewalk chalk, have the children draw illustrations of the fool (who finds pleasure in evil conduct) and the wise person (who delights in wisdom). Then write out Proverbs 10:23:

Proverbs 10:23—Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

6. Bird Calls

If you have a bird call or know how to make a bird call, demonstrate it to the children. You could also have a recording of a bird call or several bird calls. Have the children practice these calls. Explain that birds respond to a call that is familiar to them—what is according to their nature. We do the same; we respond to wisdom or foolishness according to our nature, according to what we like.

7. Camp Activity

Set up and have the children work through a “Wisdom’s Call Obstacle Course.” See the **Camp-Theme Booklet** for details.

SEND HOME

- Note for Parents (for each child)
- Parent Page for Lesson 1 (for each child)
- **Note:** Keep the New Testaments with the books of Psalms and Proverbs, or the Bibles until the end of the last lesson, when you will send one home with each child.



NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Join in the fun of finding various
nature treasures!

When: 10 a.m.

Where: Meet at the picnic area.

LEATHER CRAFTING

Learn how to use leather-crafting tools and make a key chain, coaster, backpack tag, or bracelet.

When: 10 a.m.


Where: Meet at the craft hut.

FOOLISHNESS CALLS



WISDOM CALLS





WISDOM
is loving what
God says is good and
right and doing it.

FOOLISHNESS

**is loving what God
says is bad and
wrong and doing it.**

**FOOLISHNESS
LEADS TO
DEATH**

WISDOM LEADS TO LIFE



WISDOM QUEST

Discovering Biblical Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord

DEAR PARENTS

***Wisdom Quest* is a study for children on wisdom and the fear of the Lord.**

The hope for this curriculum is that it will whet your children's appetite for God and encourage them to pursue the things of God. *Wisdom Quest* is a study presenting wisdom and foolishness as competing calls. It shows children that our hearts determine whether we will follow the way of wisdom or the way of foolishness. Children will learn that wisdom leads to life and favor from God and foolishness leads to death and destruction.

Lesson 1: Two Competing Calls

Key Scripture: Proverbs 9 (The Way of Wisdom)

Both wisdom and foolishness call out to us. We must choose which call we will respond to. Foolishness is loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it. Wisdom is loving what God says is good and right and doing it. The choice to follow wisdom or foolishness is determined by what we love. The lesson ends by showing the end of each choice: Wisdom leads to life and favor from God, but foolishness leads to death and destruction.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 10:23

Lesson 2: The Way of the Fool

Key Scripture: Luke 23 (The Crucifixion)

Being with wise people can help you become wise; being with fools can help you become foolish. Children will learn about four different types of fool and how they behave: 1) a mocking fool makes fun of God and the things of God—he does not respect God or love what is good; 2) the rebellious fool is stubborn and continues in evil; 3) a godless fool has no room in his heart for God; and 4) a simple fool believes anything, but a wise man is discerning.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 13:20

Lesson 3: The Way of the Wise

Key Scripture: Genesis 39 (Joseph and Potiphar's Wife)

Loving wisdom is a protection for us. Children will study the example of Joseph to see four characteristics of the wise person: The wise person loves wisdom, delights in God's commands, hates evil, and has self-control.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:6

Lesson 4: The Fruit of Wisdom

Key Scripture: 1 Samuel 25 (David and Abigail)

A person who finds wisdom is blessed. This lesson explores four more characteristics of a wise person: The wise person listens to advice, heeds correction, looks ahead, and trusts God.

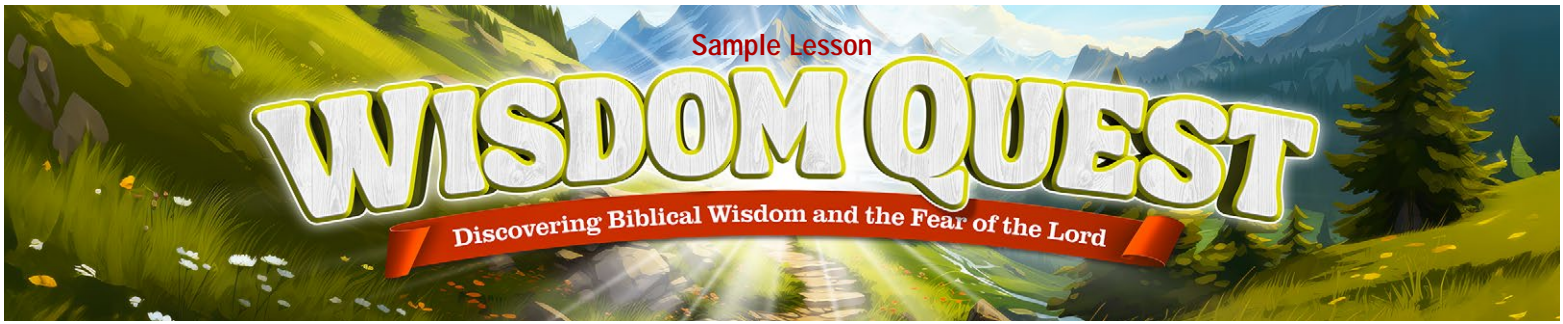
Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:13

Lesson 5: Seek Wisdom

Key Scripture: Luke 5 (Jesus Calls the Disciples)

We should be in awe of God, because He is great, and He is good. In this final lesson, children will learn that wisdom is supreme and is a valuable treasure, and the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 9:10



LESSON 1

TWO COMPETING CALLS

What Your Child Heard Today

- Wisdom and foolishness call out to us.
- Wisdom is loving what God says is good and right and doing it. Foolishness is loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it.
- The choice to follow wisdom or foolishness is determined by what we love; our actions come from our hearts.
- Wisdom leads to life and favor from God, but foolishness leads to death and destruction.

How can we follow the good and right way of wisdom? This is what we will be discovering through these lessons.

To Read About This

- Proverbs 9:13-15
- Proverbs 1:20-21
- Proverbs 8:6
- Proverbs 9:17
- Proverbs 10:23
- Proverbs 1:32
- Proverbs 8:34-35

Some Questions to Ask Yourself and Your Child

Do I love what is good and right, or what is bad and wrong? If my actions come from my heart and are a reflection of what I love, what do my actions show that I love? Where in my life does wisdom call to me? Where does foolishness call to me? How can I increase wisdom's call and decrease the call of foolishness?

Memory Verse

Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding. (Proverbs 10:23)

For Further Reading

The book of Proverbs contains a series of God-inspired proverbs that are not intended to be read as absolute statements. They are given to us as statements of general truth.

Start reading Proverbs 10 and discuss key proverbs with your child.

LESSON 1

TWO COMPETING CALLS

MAIN IDEAS

- Wisdom and foolishness call out to us.
- Wisdom is loving what God says is good and right and doing it. Foolishness is loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it.
- The choice to follow wisdom or foolishness is determined by what we love; our actions come from our hearts.
- Wisdom leads to life and favor from God, but foolishness leads to death and destruction.

MEMORY VERSE

Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

(Proverbs 10:23)

Sample
Color the pictures below.



FOOLISHNESS
CALLS



WISDOM
CALLS



LESSON 1

TWO COMPETING CALLS

MAIN IDEAS

- Wisdom and foolishness call out to us.
- Wisdom is loving what God says is good and right and doing it. Foolishness is loving what God says is bad and wrong and doing it.
- The choice to follow wisdom or foolishness is determined by what we love; our actions come from our hearts.
- Wisdom leads to life and favor from God, but foolishness leads to death and destruction.

MEMORY VERSE

Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

(Proverbs 10:23)

TWO COMPETING CALLS

Instructions: Fill in the blanks using the word bank at the bottom of the page, using each word only once.

- **Wisdom and foolishness**
_____ to us.
- **We can't listen to both**
_____ and _____.
- **What we listen to and do comes**
from what we _____.
- **Wisdom is loving what _____**
says is _____ and right.
- **Foolishness is loving what God**
says is _____ and _____.
- **Foolishness leads to _____.**
- **Wisdom leads to _____.**

WORD BANK

bad	call	death	life
God	good	foolishness	love
wisdom	wrong		