

## GOD'S SPECIAL WISDOM FOR LIFE

### BIG IDEA

Solomon knew God had trusted him to lead Israel. He also knew that he would only succeed with God's wisdom as his guide.

### PREP *(Kids can help!)*

**Find** a cheap pair of glasses/frames to be 'Thought Spectacles' (to be used for next 2 sessions too!)

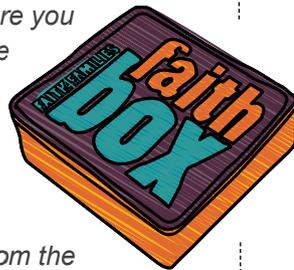
**Buy** a packet of wrapped lollipops or sweets

**Cut** out the 'jewels' from the appendix, and attach a lollipop to each jewel. Hide them in the garden before you begin (put the black and white master sheet in the box)

**Cut** a piece of string (approx. 50cms long) for each family member

**Cut** out the scenario cards from the appendix

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**



### INTRO

Today we are going on a treasure hunt – but a different sort of treasure hunt. We are going to hunt for wisdom.

But first of all we need to find the magnet from the Faith Box which tells us something about a person who asked for wisdom!

You know lots of people in this world have knowledge – but not everyone has wisdom. Because wisdom comes from God and is given to us through the Bible and from wise people who love God. Proverbs tells us that wisdom was there even before God created the world and was the craftsman at God's side. Wisdom was part of God's joy and playfulness when he was making us, the world and everything in it (Proverbs 8).

**PLACE THE MAGNET (Solomon asked for wisdom) ON THE INSIDE LID OF YOUR FAITH BOX TIN**

Solomon was the son of King David. David had been a good king, and because he had a heart after God, God loved him and promised to build a kingdom through him.

But after David died his son King Solomon realised that he was young and inexperienced and he needed special wisdom from God to be a good king for the people of Israel. He asked God for wisdom and especially for a discerning heart to govern the people and to know how to tell the difference between right and wrong.

God was pleased with Solomon's prayer, and promised that he would give him not only wisdom, but because he hadn't asked for them, God would also give him a long life, riches and honour. Solomon became famous throughout the world for his wisdom. He wrote the book of Proverbs to share that wisdom with us.

## GAME

### **HUNT FOR JEWELS**

Today we are going to discover lots of hidden jewels about wisdom from the book of Proverbs.

*TAKE THE LENGTHS OF STRING OUT OF THE BOX. GIVE ONE TO EACH PERSON AND TELL THEM THAT THEY HAVE TO FIND A JEWEL TO PUT ON THEIR STRING.*

The jewels are hidden in the garden so you will have to search hard!

*When everyone has found at least one jewel come back to the table and have them thread it onto their piece of string. Everyone read out their proverb 'jewel' and then tie it around their neck.*

Wisdom is like having a necklace of precious jewels around your neck. The wisdom jewels bring God's energy and goodness into your life and protect you from tripping up. In fact that's exactly what Proverbs tells us to do with wisdom.

Have you noticed that some people wear things around their neck or on their wrists that they say are like a charm to bring them luck? Well that is just a sort of wish. But God says if we go after wisdom and wear it like a necklace or garland around our neck, then we will definitely have a good and godly life. (This means that we don't only know what is the right thing to do, but we actually do it.)

*TAKE THE PAIR OF SPECTACLE FRAMES AND THE THOUGHT CARDS OUT OF THE BOX*

### **THOUGHT SPECTACLES**

We are going to learn how to practice using God's 'thought spectacles'. That means we learn how to see through God's eyes with his wisdom. Then we can decide if something we hear is true and right, what we should do and how we should act. (See note on thought cards.)

*Choose someone who has brown eyes to pick a thought card and put on the 'thought spectacles'. Everyone has a turn at reading out a card and then thinking about what God would want them to do. (For older children, after they have given their answer, see if they can link it to one of the 'jewels' that has been found.)*

## EXPLORE

*Everyone take off their necklace with the proverb jewel on it and put it in the centre of the table.*

“The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom.

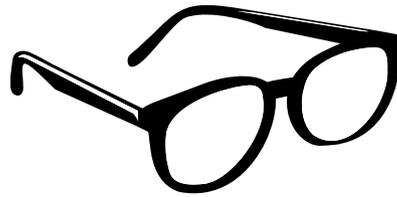
So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!

And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father David did, I will give you a long life.” *1 Kings 3:10-14 NLT* ”

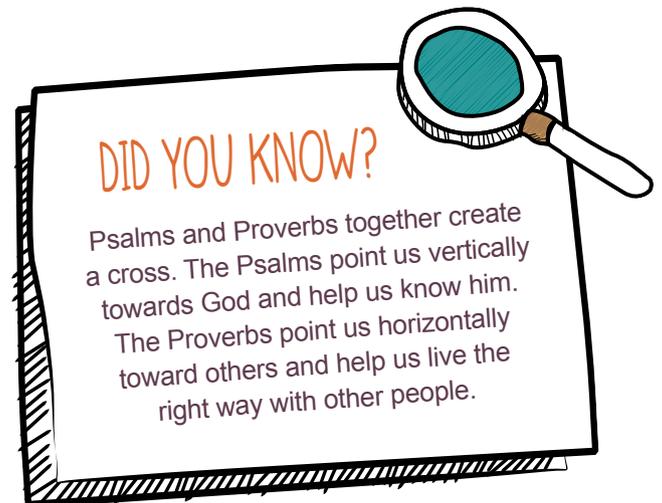
## QUESTIONS

What do you think is a “wise and understanding heart” like the one God promised Solomon?

Why do you think that God gave Solomon all the other things that he hadn’t asked for?



*You can tell whether a man is clever  
by his answers. You can tell whether a  
man is wise by his questions.  
Naguib Mahfouz*



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Psalms and Proverbs together create a cross. The Psalms point us vertically towards God and help us know him. The Proverbs point us horizontally toward others and help us live the right way with other people.

## PRAY

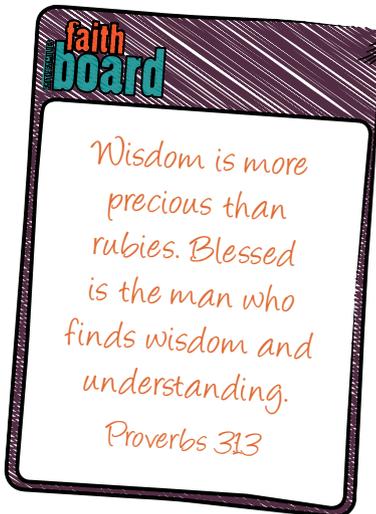
Choose from the table one of the 'jewels' that you particularly need to work on. Put it around your neck and pray for God to help you put this into practice. (e.g. "Please God help me to stay calm and not lose my temper this week.")

Dear God, please give me a "wise and understanding heart" and help me to keep your commandments like an invisible necklace around my neck, so that I always please you and stay out of trouble. Amen.

## LIVE

Each day this week ask everyone in the family to find a new proverb and bring it to the dinner table. Read it out and discuss it as a family. Create your own "wisdom box" with the proverbs you collect.

## FAITH BOARD



## OTHER IDEAS

**1** Go for a picnic tea at the beach. Give everyone a bottle or jar and ask them to fill it with sand.

Make a campfire, wrap bananas in tin foil, make a slit in the side and put in a couple of chocolate pieces. Cook them on your campfire and eat for dessert. (Yum!) Talk about how we can ask God to give us wisdom like the sand on the seashore (the sand in the bottle) and a heart like Solomon (the chocolate in the banana). "And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore." 1 Kings 4:29

**2** Have the children sit in a circle. Give them a bean bag to pass around. You look away and after a minute or so, say, "Stop." Whoever is caught with the bean bag must recite a proverb. For younger children it can be something simple – but as the week goes on you may be surprised what the children remember.

**3** Make your own wisdom tree. You could make a V shaped tree out of trellis or use a branch (or you may even have one you used for Advent). Have the children write proverbs on leaves, and put them on the tree.

### BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Small tube of toothpaste

## SESSION FIVE

### SCRIPTURES FOR JEWELS

CUT OUT THESE PROVERBS AND ATTACH ONE TO EACH LOLLIPOP FOR THE TREASURE HUNT

A wise man is mightier  
than a strong man.  
Wisdom is mightier  
than strength.

**PROVERBS 24:5**  
**TLB**

Don't repay evil for  
evil. Wait for the  
Lord to handle the  
matter. The Lord  
loathes all cheating  
and dishonesty.

**PROVERBS 20:22-23**  
**TLB**

Pride ends in a fall,  
while humility brings  
honour.

**PROVERBS 29:23**  
**TLB**

If you give to the  
poor your needs will  
be supplied! But a  
curse on those who  
close their eyes to  
poverty!

**PROVERBS 28:27-  
28 TLB**

A mirror reflects  
a man's face but  
what he is really  
like is shown by  
the kind of friends  
he chooses.

**PROVERBS 27:19**  
**TLB**

A rebel shouts in  
anger; a wise man  
holds his temper in  
and cools it; but the  
man who doesn't  
care is headed for  
trouble.

**PROVERBS 29:11**  
**TLB**

The lazy man longs  
for many things but  
his hands refuse to  
work. He is greedy to  
get, while the godly  
love to give!

**PROVERBS 21:25-26**  
**TLB**

Don't praise yourself.  
Let others do it.

**PROVERBS 27:2**  
**TLB**

Telling lies about  
someone is as  
harmful as hitting  
with an axe or  
wounding him with  
a sword.

**PROVERBS 25:18**  
**TLB**

Be patient and you  
will finally win, for a  
soft tongue can break  
hard bones.

**PROVERBS 25:15**  
**TLB**

## SESSION FIVE

### SCRIPTURES FOR JEWELS

# MASTER SHEET

A wise man is mightier  
than a strong man.  
Wisdom is mightier  
than strength.

**PROVERBS 24:5**  
**TLB**

Don't repay evil for  
evil. Wait for the  
Lord to handle the  
matter. The Lord  
loathes all cheating  
and dishonesty.

**PROVERBS 20:22-23**  
**TLB**

Pride ends in a fall,  
while humility brings  
honour.

**PROVERBS 29:23**  
**TLB**

If you give to the  
poor your needs will  
be supplied! But a  
curse on those who  
close their eyes to  
poverty!

**PROVERBS 28:27-  
28 TLB**

A mirror reflects  
a man's face but  
what he is really  
like is shown by  
the kind of friends  
he chooses.

**PROVERBS 27:19**  
**TLB**

A rebel shouts in  
anger; a wise man  
holds his temper in  
and cools it; but the  
man who doesn't  
care is headed for  
trouble.

**PROVERBS 29:11**  
**TLB**

The lazy man longs  
for many things but  
his hands refuse to  
work. He is greedy to  
get, while the godly  
love to give!

**PROVERBS 21:25-26**  
**TLB**

Don't praise yourself.  
Let others do it.

**PROVERBS 27:2**  
**TLB**

Telling lies about  
someone is as  
harmful as hitting  
with an axe or  
wounding him with  
a sword.

**PROVERBS 25:18**  
**TLB**

Be patient and you  
will finally win, for a  
soft tongue can break  
hard bones.

**PROVERBS 25:15**  
**TLB**

## SESSION FIVE

### SCENARIO CARDS

The popular kid at school is really mean to others and excludes anyone she doesn't want to play with that day.

*What should you do?*

A boy in your class is always skiting about how good he is at everything. You know that you are better than him at lots of things.

*What should you say?*

You are saving up for a bike but you haven't saved much yet. Your friend suggests you to do a paper round with him and get paid.

*What should you do?*

A boy in your class has got a really bad temper and gets into lots of fights. He hit you because you got to the ball first and he was frustrated. You felt angry when he did that.

*What should you do?*

A girl at school tells mean stories about another girl who wears shoes and clothes that aren't very 'cool.'

*What should you do?*