

Lesson 1 / September 6, 2020

Wise Up!

By Kelsey Grulke

for use as

STEP 1



Lesson 1

Focus:

Be wise in God's eyes.

Lesson 1

Bible Basis:

Proverbs 1:1-7

Lesson 1

Memory Verse:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. —Proverbs 1:7

Students will review a recent news story and discuss the wisdom (or lack thereof) in the decisions that followed as they discover what it means to be wise in God's eyes.

Materials:
 Internet access

As teens enter, ask them to name their best subject in school. Where do they feel the smartest and most capable? Once everyone is settled ask:

➤ **Do you feel pressure to be “smart”? From whom? Why do you think that is?** (Accept all reasonable answers.)

➤ **What if I were to ask the same question, but replace “smart” with “wise”? Would your answer be the same? Why or why not?** (Answers will vary.)

➤ **What does it mean to be wise?** (Accept all reasonable answers.)

Our culture certainly values being smart, but wisdom is something we look for too, especially from our community leaders. Recently, an unarmed woman was shot and killed by police. There are many questions surrounding the shooting. Many people are questioning the police officers' wisdom. Other community leaders have had some big decisions to make in the wake of this shooting as well. See how many different people you notice that needed wisdom to make decisions either before, during, or after this incident occurred.

Share the following video [stop at 1:55]:

Title: Police officer involved in the shooting of Breonna Taylor will be fired

Source: YouTube.com

URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4pNN_8_C5c

Short Description: Louisville, Kentucky, has begun the process of terminating one of the three officers involved in the deadly shooting of Breonna Taylor.

➤ **What decisions did the officers have to make before, during, and after the shooting that required wisdom?** (Answers might include: Whether to turn on their body cams, what to do

when the loud noise startled them, what to report after the shooting happened, whether or not to make a statement to the media, etc.)

➤ **The officers were suspended after this incident. People are also calling for them to be fired and prosecuted. What will the leaders need wisdom for?** (They will need to decide whether or not to fire the police officers, whether or not to prosecute them for their actions, etc.)

➤ **What possible sources could other police officers, or other public leaders in this situation, look to for wisdom to make their decisions?** (Answers will vary; might include: better training of police officers, input from other police departments, etc.; accept all reasonable answers.)

There are lots of places the public leaders in this situation could turn to for wisdom, but true wisdom comes only from God. In today's study, we'll see what true wisdom really is and how we can be wise in God's eyes.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Wise Up!

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 1**Focus:**

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Lesson 1**Bible Basis:**

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Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and marker
- Paper
- Pens/pencils

As your students are working on their Step 3 activities, recreate on the whiteboard the *Blueprint* list of the eight reasons Solomon wrote the Book of Proverbs.

If your class is meeting online, copy and paste the following list into a document. Then, you can share your screen. You can also invite teens to collect a piece of paper and a writing utensil before your meeting.

1. For attaining wisdom and discipline.
2. To understand insightful ideas.
3. To obtain a disciplined life.
4. For doing what is right, just, and fair.
5. For making simple-minded people wise.
6. For giving knowledge to young people.
7. To add to the learning of the wise.
8. To give guidance to the discerning person.

➤ **Which of these reasons for wisdom do you connect with the most deeply? Why?**
(Accept all reasonable answers.)

In a minute, we're going to look at an action you can take to help you pursue wisdom more deeply. First, let's look at an example of one teen's action step as she pursues wisdom.

Share the following video [start at 0:06; pause at 2:05]:

Title: Local teen writes book about quitting social media

Source: YouTube.com

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1i3bhNR22I>

Short Description: Teenager decides social media is not healthy for her

➤ **Do you think this teen's decision to quit social media was wise? Why or why not?**

(Accept all reasonable answers.)

➤ **Does this mean every teen who's serious about pursuing God's wisdom should quit social media? Why or why not?** (No, this teen discovered that social was not healthy for her, so she cut it out of her life. Not everyone will have that same reaction.)

Pass out a piece of paper and pens/pencils and ask each student to write down their reason for pursuing wisdom. Ask your students to consider ways that they can pursue that particular reason for wisdom. Encourage them to think of a real-life example of a way they can put their pursuit of wisdom into action this week and write that down as well. For example, a student that wants to work on being more right, just, and fair might commit to examining the way they deal with their siblings. Are they trying to be fair and just? Or if they are feeling the need for guidance as to their future, they could set up a meeting with a guidance counselor or trusted adult to talk about it. Once they've had time to write down their idea, ask them to share it with a partner.

➤ **How can you be sure the wisdom you are gaining is pleasing to God?** (Make sure it lines up with His Word.)

Ask teens to get back with their partner and pray for the action step each one of them will take this week. End by praying together in the large group for God's wisdom to become more real in each of your lives.

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