middle school

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Lesson 5 / October 4, 2026

Seek

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as STEP 1

Lesson 5
Focus:
Wisdom is better than money or power.

Lesson 5
Bible Basis:
1 Kings 3:5-14

Lesson 5
Memory Verse:
If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.
—James 1:5

Students will discuss the value of wisdom as they explore God's desire to generously give wisdom to all who ask Him for it.

Materials:
- Internet access

As your students enter, ask them in which area of school or life they feel the smartest. It could be a school subject, a musical instrument, an athletic skill, an artistic skill, or something else. Share your own area of expertise as well.

For some of us, school comes easier than for others. For some, sports or art comes easily. There are a few people out there who are exceptionally gifted. Check out this video of a five-year-old with an incredible photographic memory.

Play the following video [6:31; start at 0:42; stop at 1:20]:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SS1w_UKMUOw
Is this kid smarter than you? 5-Year-Old Raphael with a photographic memory!

➢ **In addition to his photographic memory, Raphael is also learning French, Spanish, Korean, and Japanese at just five years old! Would you want to be that smart?** (Answers will vary and could include things such as yes, school would be easy and I could help a lot of people; or no, that would be a lot of pressure or I wouldn't want to spend my childhood learning a bunch of things, etc.)

➢ **Why do you think Raphael is so smart?** (Answers might include: genetics, just born that way, gift from God, spends lots of time studying, etc.)

➢ **If you could ask God for anything in the world, would you ask to be smart Raphael? If not, what would you ask for?** (Encourage real, feasible answers, not superpowers like flying or being invisible such as: Yes, you could do anything if you were that smart or no I'd ask to win the lottery/be in the NBA, etc.)

➢ **How are being smart and being wise two different things?** (Encourage discussion. Your students may recognize that testing high in school subjects does not necessarily mean someone is wise. Being smart—having knowledge—is about knowing facts and ideas whereas wisdom is the ability to discern and judge whether those facts are true and applicable to your life.)

➢ **Can you think of some examples of being smart but not wise?** (Allow students to speculate. If no one can answer, you can share Psalm 14:1—"the fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Someone who studies science might decide to be an atheist—they know a lot of information, but are foolish, not wise.)

Being as smart as Raphael doesn't happen to many people. Our Bible story for today tells of someone who had a rare amount of something even better than being smart—wisdom. Let's see how his story plays out.

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

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Seek Wisdom

for use as STEP 4

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Lesson 5
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—James 1:5

Materials:
- Index cards or pieces of paper (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite your students to bring supplies with them to class.

Read the memory verse (James 1:5) together with your students. **Our memory verse reminds us that God is more than willing to give us wisdom when we ask for it. Solomon asked for wisdom and got it—and so much more! Solomon didn't keep his wisdom to himself though. He shared it with the people he ruled. In fact, it's still being shared with us today. Much of the book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon. God gives each of us wisdom and asks us to share it.**

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have supplies ready at home). Let them know that you'll be asking them to write one thing on each side of the card or paper. On the first side, ask them to write down one area of wisdom that they already have and a way they can share with others. Then, on the other side, ask each student to write down one area in which they'd like to ask for more wisdom. If they need help getting started, you might suggest things like: wisdom in peer pressure situations, wisdom in relationships, wisdom in interacting with siblings, etc.

Once they're finished, ask the students to pair up and share what they wrote on both sides with a partner. If your class is meeting online, invite a few volunteers to share with the class.

Ask your students to keep their cards or papers somewhere visible for the week so that they can remember to share their wisdom and remember to pray for wisdom in the area they are lacking.

End in prayer, asking God to grant each student's request for wisdom.

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