

Grade 6 - Chapter 8

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Solomon

Solomon is remembered for his great wisdom and for building the Temple that became the center of Israel's religious life. God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom after a dream (see 1 Kings 3).

- Solomon is the author of many proverbs and songs.
- Solomon built a large palace, the Temple, and a wall around Jerusalem. This complex lasted until 587 B.C., when the Babylonians destroyed it.

Catechist Tips: Challenged Students

Some children may be intimidated by other children who consistently achieve very high grades.

- Emphasize the point made in the story: that wisdom is not necessarily linked to academic credentials.
- Children who have difficulty in school may be encouraged by knowing that wisdom is a lived faith, not a straight-A report card.

Catechist Tips: Visual Learners

Many children need help understanding the concept of wisdom. By setting two options before them, you can help them grasp the concept of wise choices.

- Distribute magazines, and direct the children to look for advertisements that emphasize wealth and material possessions.
- Discuss with the children the contrast between growing in wisdom and attaining wealth.

Catechist Tips: Wisdom

Much of folk literature concerns itself with wisdom. You may wish to provide copies of wise sayings from other sources as well as from Christian sources. (See *Poor Richard's Almanack*, by Benjamin Franklin, Peter Pauper Press, 1983.)

- Search the Internet for famous proverbs or collections of proverbs.
- The writings of the Church fathers and Saints are also sources of wisdom.

Catechist Tips: The Letter of James

This New Testament letter is often compared to the wisdom literature of the Old Testament.

- The letter is straightforward and pragmatic, but it also includes rich imagery.
- This letter is one of the origins of the Christian custom of healing prayer, carried out in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Glossary Activity: Wisdom

Ask the children to pay attention to advertisements that they see or hear and prepare to discuss them in their next session. Ask the following questions.

- Which ads claim to offer wisdom? How is wisdom shown in these ads?
- Compare and contrast some of the ads with biblical wisdom.

Additional Activity: Role-Play

Have the children work in small groups to develop role-plays based on the photograph in "Our Catholic Life". Ask groups to dramatize:

- the choice the father and son are trying to make.
- the steps for good decision making.
- the consequences of the decision.

Additional Activity: Wisdom Literature

Have the children research wisdom literature from other cultures and sources.

- Ask them to find examples of writing that offer wise advice.
- Suggest that the children search Aesop's fables, Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*, and advice columns in the daily newspaper.

Additional Activity: Wisdom in Psalms

Supplies:

- Bibles

Distribute Bibles. Introduce the activity: **Besides Proverbs, Psalms also gives us a look into wisdom. Read Psalm 73 and on a separate piece of paper, jot down any wise dos or don'ts that are given for wise Godly living. Be sure to note the verse number.** [Responses may include: Don't Envy (v. 1, 16) (v. 2); Don't Worry (v. 1, 8); Don't be persistently angry (v. 8); Do place yourself in God's hands (v. 3, 5, 7, 23, 28, 33, 34); Do delight in God (v. 4); Do good where you are (v.

3, 21, 27).]

When the children have finished, ask volunteers to share their responses.

Additional Activity: Making Wise Choices

Supplies:

- paper
- pencils

Create and print some everyday scenarios that give options to make wise or unwise decisions.

Some suggestions:

- Jeremy broke his leg playing soccer. Now he has to stay inside for two weeks. Jeremy's mom invites you to help him with some new math homework. But you want to go to Aaron's house to play his new video game.
- Maria wants to take care of her health. She just finished a class on healthy eating and exercise. She's just not sure she wants to make changes.
- James is very busy with sports and video games. He wants to improve his grades but just does not have time.

Write each scenario on a different piece of paper.

Begin the activity by *saying*: **The gift of wisdom is very important to make good decisions. Sometimes we all struggle with how to make right and good choices. Let's look at some ways we might help others make wise choices.**

Organize the group into teams of two or three. Spread out the scenarios, writing side down, on a table. Have a member from each team select one.

Assign each team a space where they can work on its scenario and wise advice.

When all teams seem ready, have them present their scenario and response. Then discuss why other choices may be unwise.

Parish Video Connection: O Strength of Wisdom

Play this video after completing the Catechist Edition instruction on page 132 through Saint Hildegard of Bingen to expand on Saint Hildegard's work of poetry and music and how she honored God through it.

Say: You saw in the video that Saint Hildegard's poetry has been translated in several languages. She wrote originally in Latin, but in every language her meaning comes through: that God's wisdom deserves our praise, and we should give thanks for the wisdom he gives us.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/4BEGgUZBP2w>