



Wisdom from Above

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

God's wisdom is different from the world's wisdom! God's wisdom helps us love, choose peace, and do what is right. That's why King Solomon asked God for His wisdom to rule Israel and why God was so pleased with him.

Bible Lesson: Solomon Asks for God's Wisdom

Bible References: James 3:13-18; 1 Kings 1 & 2; 3:1-15;
1 Chronicles 1:7-12; Proverbs 3

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Owl wearing glasses
2. Collage of worldly wisdom
3. Collage of Godly wisdom
4. Solomon anointed King of Israel
5. Solomon dreams
6. Two women in front of King Solomon
7. A soldier, a sword and the baby
8. Real mother and baby united
9. The Book of Proverbs and
 - a. Heart
 - b. Ear listening
 - c. Mouth bragging
 - d. Hands doing
 - e. Eye crying
 - f. Treasure chest
 - g. Feet walking
10. Child praying

Words:

1. Do you know what wisdom is?
It's more than being smart.
It's using knowledge, experience and good judgement when you have to make decisions throughout life.
Wisdom is very important.
But there are two kinds.

2. First, let's talk about worldly wisdom.

This is the wisdom that the world wants you to use for your life.

Worldly wisdom is:

- Jealous
- Boastful
- Selfish
- Causes fights
- Leads to confusion and trouble

If you use worldly wisdom, you'll live your life saying,

'Me first! I want to win! I want to look good!'

The Bible says, 'where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.'

Using worldly wisdom will lead to tragedy.

3. Let's talk about wisdom from above...God's wisdom.

God's wisdom is:

- Pure
- Peace-loving
- Gentle
- Willing to listen
- Full of mercy
- Fair
- Sincere
- Helps make peace.

If you use God's wisdom, you'll live your life saying,

'How can I love others? How can I bring peace?

How can I do what is right?'

4. When King David was old and weak, he asked Zadok the priest to take a horn of anointing oil and anoint his son Solomon as King.

The trumpet sounded, and everyone shouted, 'Long live King Solomon!'

When King David was close to death, he told Solomon,

'Be strong and obey God.

If you obey His laws, you will prosper.'

It was wise advice.

5. After becoming King, Solomon went to the most important high place at Gibeon and offered a sacrifice to God.

That night, in a dream, God said,

'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'

Solomon replied, 'You made me servant king in place of my father, David.

But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties to the people you have chosen.

So give your servant wisdom to distinguish between right and wrong.

For who can govern this great people of yours?'

God told Solomon, 'Since you have asked for wisdom in making good decisions and not for long life or wealth, nor have you asked me for the death of your enemies, I will do what you have asked.'

I will give you a wise and discerning heart, more than anyone else before you or anyone else to come.

As you did not ask for riches and honour, I will give these to you, too.

More than any other king in your lifetime,

And if you obey Me, you will have a long life.'

6. Sometime later, two women came to King Solomon to make a ruling. One of the women explained that they both lived alone in the same house and they had both given birth to a baby. But one baby died. Both of the women refused to believe it was their baby that had died, and so they were fighting over the baby that was alive.
7. King Solomon ordered for a sword to be brought in. He said, 'Cut the baby in two and give half to one woman, and half to another.'
The woman whose baby was alive begged Solomon, 'Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!'
The other woman said, 'Cut the baby in two so neither of us shall have him!'
8. King Solomon gave his ruling: 'Give the baby to the first woman. Do not kill him, she is his mother.'
When the people of Israel heard the verdict, they held the king in awe. They saw he had the wisdom of God to administer justice.
9. The Book of Proverbs in the Bible is all about wisdom. Proverbs Chapter 3 teaches that wisdom is not just knowing things, it's choosing what is right, kind and good because you can trust God.
 - **Trust God with your whole heart:**
Trust God completely because He sees the whole picture.
 - **Listen to God's ways:**
Follow God's instructions, and your life will become straighter and smoother, like a clear path with no tripping hazards.
 - **Don't think you know everything:**
Stay humble and don't brag or act like you're always right.
 - **Be kind and do good:**
Wisdom shows in how you treat people. Help others and share what you have, and look for ways to bring peace.
 - **Accept correction:**
Sometimes grown-ups correct us because they love us. God does the same. He teaches us and helps us grow.
 - **Wisdom is better than treasure:**
Wisdom is more precious than silver, gold, or jewels because it helps us make good choices every day.
 - **Wisdom brings peace:**
Following God's wisdom, you will feel calmer, safer and more confident. God is a loving Father who guides every step.

10. James 1:5 says, 'If anyone lacks wisdom, they should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to them.'
Ask God for wisdom.
He is ready to give wisdom to you generously!

Ministry to the Children:

The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (*Proverbs 9:10*) That means you respect Him and are in awe of Him. He wants to bless you and give you His wisdom, but sin separates you from Him. (*Isaiah 59:2*) That's why God sent His Son, Jesus, who took your sin on Himself and died on the Cross. God raised Jesus from the dead. You must repent (be sincerely sorry about sin and turn away from it) and receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. There will be no more separation. You will belong to God. It will be your best and wisest decision ever! Read the Book of Proverbs for yourself. It offers practical wisdom for daily life, and so much more.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will direct your paths.

Make a maze, or a trail around your room or outdoor space. Children must follow directions (arrows and signs) along the trail to collect the words of the Memory Verse. At the end of the trail, they arrange the words into the correct order to recite the verse aloud to learn it. Add actions to help memorization. Or use a song.

Older children: team up with a leader who has a Bible. Pre-organise codes along the trail, e.g. page 125, line 6, word 19. The leader and the children must look up page 125, and count down to the 6th line and count along to the 19th word. It will be a word to collect for the Memory Verse!

Game: Pass the Crown

You will need:

- Children in teams
- A crown for each team
- A peg for each team member

What to do:

- Each team lines up in a single-file row. Each child gets a peg and holds it in one hand.
- The other hand cannot touch the peg or the crown during play.

- When play begins, each team picks up and passes a crown down its row, using only the pegs.
- When the crown reaches the end of the row, the player on the end must put on the crown and run to the end of their line, and pass the crown down the line again.

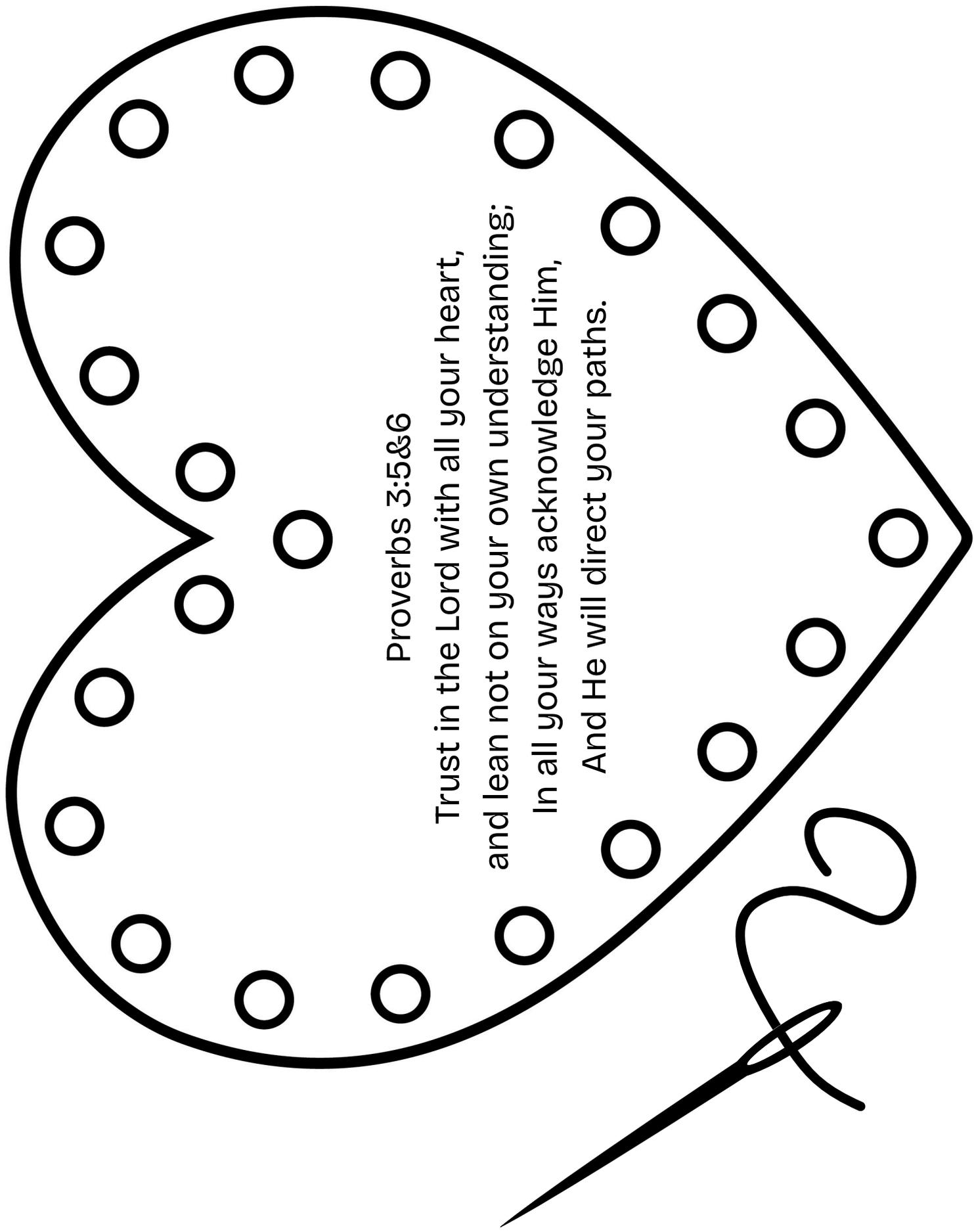
Craft: Heart Lacing/Sewing

You will need:

- Photocopy of heart on page 6 onto card (pre-hole punch for younger children)
- Felt pens
- Scissors
- Hole punches
- Ribbons, wool, lace, shoelaces
- Children's plastic sewing needles (optional)
- Decorative stickers, sequins, jewels, etc. (optional)

What to do:

- Children cut out the heart shape
- Use the hole punch to make the holes for the ribbon
- Colour and decorate the heart and verse
- Select ribbon to lace or sew around the heart



Proverbs 3:5&6

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