

=THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 20

Proverbs

Objects to have:

The sign for the new Bible book: PROVERBS
Wise Sayings

The following pictures:

An ear
The word NO
A hand

The following objects:

A shoe
Your Bible with markers at Proverbs 1:8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:11, 21; 21:6, 7
A clock and a calendar
Some coins

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Show the children the next book of the Bible which we are going to study. Tell them that it is named Proverbs. Have them say that name with you. Tell them that Proverbs means, “sayings about how to live right,” or, “wise sayings.” Next have the children repeat the books of the Bible which we have studied thus far, including the name of the book of Proverbs.)

A man by the name of Solomon wrote down the words that are in this book of Proverbs. God the Holy Spirit told him the words to write in this book.

Telling the story:

Solomon was a prince. The king was Solomon’s daddy. Solomon’s daddy’s name was King David. When King David died, Solomon became king. Then Solomon was known as King Solomon.

It was a big job to be king of the Israelites. King Solomon needed to know how to be a good king. He prayed for wisdom. He got wisdom from God.

God blessed King Solomon with many riches! He could have anything he wanted. He owned ships. He built a zoo. He built beautiful parks. He built the most beautiful house for himself that you can imagine. King Solomon’s house had gold dishes, gold on the walls and marble floors. King Solomon had everything and anything that he wanted.

After some years, something bad happened to King Solomon; he stopped wanting to do exactly as God wanted him to do. Solomon made many, many mistakes in his life. Then King Solomon was an old man. As King Solomon’s life was ending, he stopped to think about all that he had done. He learned something when he stopped to think back over his life. He learned that a beautiful home and beautiful clothes and all the good food that he could eat and all the money in the world could not bring him happiness.

King Solomon had a son. King Solomon wanted his son to be happy; he did not want his son to be unhappy as he had become. With God the Holy Spirit telling him what to write, King Solomon wrote down the words that are in the book of Proverbs; he was telling his own son with these words in the book of Proverbs how to behave so that he would be happy. I am going to tell you what King Solomon wrote to his son.

(Pick up your Bible which is open to Proverbs.) I have my Bible open to the book of Proverbs. This is just like opening a letter. The book of Proverbs is like a letter that a father has written to his son. I’m going to tell you

some important things from the letter which King Solomon wrote his son. (Before discussing each one of the following verses, read the verse to the children. Then lay down the Bible, talk about the verse, putting up the picture or holding up the object that will illustrate that verse.)

(Read Proverbs 1:8. Put the ear on the board.) With our ears we listen. Listen to your father and your mother. When they tell you not to do wrong, you obey them. When your daddy or your mommy gives you a job to do, you do it. When your mother or daddy says, "I have learned that it is best to listen to the Preacher," do what your father and your mother say to do. (You might have the class participate by telling you some of the commandments and rules which their parents have laid down for them and which the children ought to obey.)

(Put the word NO on the board. Read Proverbs 1:10. Discuss with the children bad things that other people might try to get us to do. Other people might suggest that we steal, that we cheat, that we stay away from home longer than we are supposed to when we are out playing, etc.) When someone suggests that we do wrong, we should say NO! (Be sure to be very firm in teaching that the children should have the word NO on the tip of their tongues as a reply to a suggestion to do wrong.)

(Put the shoe on the table. Read Proverbs 1:15 to the children.) This shoe makes me think of going places. We all want to do things with people. We all want to play with someone. We all want to go places with someone. We should be very careful to choose the right people with whom we spend our time. One of the Proverbs tells us to be sure not to have bad friends. If someone in your neighborhood uses bad language, you should not be friends with that person. Does that mean that we should be unkind or hateful toward them? No, that does not mean that. We can say, "Hello" to them when we meet them. We could decide a time to go talk with them about being saved. We should not, however, make friends of people who do not love Jesus and who do not want to do what Jesus says to do. Be careful not to be with the wrong crowd. (Perhaps you have an instance which you would like to relate to the children about a "good" youngster's getting into trouble because he has been with the wrong crowd.)

(Read Proverbs 2:1 to the children. Hold up your Bible.) The Bible is the most important book in the whole world. There have been rulers of countries who have tried to destroy the Bible. God has watched over His book so that no one can ever completely destroy all the Bibles in the world. The Bible is a book that never goes out of date. It has meaning for us today just the same as it did for our grandmothers and our grandfathers and our great-grandmothers and our great-grandfathers, and everybody who ever lived. Because the Bible is such an important book, we should know what is in it. We should memorize it. We should want to remember what it says. When I teach you the Bible, you must listen to me. That is how important it is that you know what the Bible says.

(Read Proverbs 3:11 to the children. Hold up the picture of the hand.) This is one verse that is hard to talk about. Mothers and dads have to spank sometimes. Mothers and dads and teachers have to scold sometimes. Nobody likes to be punished. Everybody has to learn to do right, however. When I was a little child, I had to be spanked because I had done wrong things. When I was a child, I had to be scolded sometimes. I had to be taught to do right. Everybody has to be taught to do right. This proverb tells us how to behave when we are punished. I have seen some children who yell back at their parents when their parents scold. I have seen some children hit at their mothers and their fathers whenever the mothers and the fathers punish their children. This verse tells us that that is wrong to do. We are to be thankful for mothers and daddies who spank and who scold and who punish. The scoldings and the punishings and the spankings teach us to do right. God punishes us when we do wrong even when we get older! He wants us all to do right. We should be thankful that He does; that shows that God cares enough about us to want us to do right and to be happy. (Discuss with the children specific times of punishment. Stress the fact that if Mother or Daddy did not love us, he or she would not bother to correct us. Since God loves us, He punishes so that we will do right and be the kind of people we ought to be.)

(Read Proverbs 3:21 to the children. Hold up the clock and the calendar.) The clock tells us what time it is; the calendar tells us what day and month and year it is. There is something that we have to do every day of our lives: we have to decide over and over again what we are going to do; we have to decide what we are going to say. We have to decide what work we need to do. We have to decide to do that work. We have to decide what we want to do for play. We decide what we are going to eat. We decide when we are going to eat. We decide what we want to wear. We decide when to get dressed. We decide to obey. As we get older, we have to make more and more decisions for ourselves.

This proverb, Proverbs 3:21, teaches us to be careful to decide to do only good things and to go in good ways. Be very careful when you decide what you want to be when you grow up. Pray about it everyday. Ask God to lead you in the right way, then you decide to obey God.

(Read Proverbs 21:6, 7 to the children. Pick up your coins.) Here is some money. Use your own money to buy things. Never, never want money that belongs to somebody else. In everything that we do we should be honest. If we buy something, we should pay for it. When we get older, bills come to us in the mail. Whenever the bills come, we should pay them. Always remember that first we must give God the part of our money that is His.

I have told you about only a few of the proverbs that are in this Bible book of Proverbs. It is full of so many things that we should know! It is full of wise sayings. The wise sayings come from God.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Proverbs 1:7, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”