

JUNIOR BIBLE TEACHER **+**

For Teachers of Children
Ages 9 Through 11



September
October
November

FALL
2026

Junior Bible Teacher⁺

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2026

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Dear Junior Teacher,

Welcome to *Junior Bible Teacher*! As witnesses for Christ in a changing world, we have to think creatively about how we minister, while still holding firmly to the Word of Truth.

Our Plus Series contains robust Bible lessons and background information that have been clearly crafted to help you excite your students to learn God's Word.

Junior Bible Teacher⁺ features:

- **Introductory pages** for each unit will connect the units to one another and point toward the quarter's major themes.
- The **Big Idea** is the main point of the lesson. This helps you focus your lesson on the one thing you want your students to take away about God and His Word.
- **Prepare Your Mind** and **Prepare Your Heart** will ready you to teach with background information and a short devotional.
- **Supplies** and **Prepare the Room** give you all the practical information you need to prepare for class time.
- The **Conversation Starter** is an interesting question or object lesson that helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson. It will always tie in with the first part of the Bible lesson.
- **Teacher Tips** in the lesson will give you quick tips to involve your students or deal with difficult subject matter.
- **Just Curious** prepares you to respond to questions students might ask about the lesson.
- **Prop Prompt** symbols notify you when to use a prop listed in the supply list at the beginning of the lesson. All props and supplies are in **bold** the first time they appear.
- **Discussion Questions** help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally throughout the lesson. These questions appear in both the class and teacher books.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in the lesson.
- The **Activity** helps juniors get their energy out while thinking about the lesson.
- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears junior students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.
- **Explaining the Memory Verse** explains the Scripture in language familiar to juniors.
- **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives.
- **Prayer Points** give teachers some prompts for ways to pray for the students.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.
- **Bonus pages** for you and your students will be included each quarter as supplements in the back of this book.

KEY:

Teacher Tips



Just Curious



Prop Prompts



Actions



Discussion Questions



Here's a peek at the features of *Junior Bible Class*®:

GOD'S WAY IS WISE Lesson 4
September 27, 2026

Lesson Text: Proverbs 14:1-19

"The house of the wicked shall be overthrown; but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish" (Proverbs 14:11).

BIG IDEA: The fool thinks his ways are better than God's wise ways.

PROVERBS 14:1 Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.
2 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD; but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.
3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride; but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.
4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean; but much increase is by the strength of the ox.
5 A faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies.
6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not; but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.
7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in how the lips of him deceive.
8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way; but the folly of fools is deceit.
9 Fools make a mock at sin; but among the righteous there is favour.
10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.
11 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown; but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.
12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.
14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways; and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.
15 The simple believeth every word; but the prudent man looketh well to his going.
16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; but the fool rageth, and is confident.
17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly; and a man of wicked devices is hated.
18 The simple inherit folly; but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
19 The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

• The **Big Idea** helps the student focus on the main point of the lesson.

BIBLE LESSON

What do you think of a long, confusing pathway that leads nowhere? Is it good and straight or silly and foolish? It is a silly and foolish pathway. Instead of taking a few straight and simple steps to go where you need to, you end up somewhere else! The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. And we are talking about a long one that goes nowhere!

What if I told you that the confusing pathway is the best one to use? I bet you would say, "No way!" Why? Because you could clearly see that it is not the best one.

• **Discussion Questions** are interjected within the Bible lesson to help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally.

The word "path" can mean "a way of life and the choices you make. Make a good path for their lives. Some people think it is OK to do what people believe it is OK to do. Some people who lie, cheat, or steal. The Bible tells us God's way is the way that something seems right, if it is right."

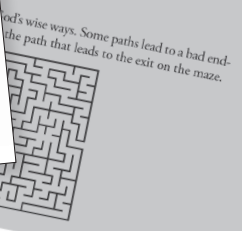
Where can we find true wisdom?
 The book of Proverbs includes many wise sayings that help us to live in a way that pleases God. In chapter 14, we read about wise and foolish choices people make. It is important to think about how to put into action the wisdom of the Bible to our lives. That means you need to put into action the wisdom of the Bible to our lives. From reading the Bible or from being at church, we can see that wise things you learn from reading the Bible or from being at church. As we look at the wise and the foolish choices in Proverbs 14, we can see that bad things often happen to those who make foolish choices. A foolish path to follow would include lying to your parents, siblings, or friends. Cheating in a game or on a test would be another foolish path.

What does the Bible call bad choices we make in our lives?
 Bad choices such as stealing, lying, and cheating are sins. Sin leads to bad things, including death. Wise people will turn away from sin and follow the wise path taught in the Bible. The wise path includes believing in Jesus as Savior and following Him. Doing that has a very happy ending—life forever in heaven with the Lord.

• The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears junior students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.

HOW CAN I KNOW I AM ON THE PATH GOD WANTS FOR MY LIFE?

It is a good thing to be on a life path that pleases God. It can be hard to know what that path is sometimes. The Bible does not tell you exactly what you should do in all parts of your life. Still, the Word of God is the perfect guide for your life. Read Psalm 119:105. Don't listen to people who say it is OK to do wrong things. Don't do what bad people do, and don't go where they go. When you try to do what God wants you to do, you will be able to avoid sin more often. If you are a believer, the Spirit of God lives inside you (1 Corinthians 6:19). If you are about to do something wrong, the Holy Spirit helps you know God wouldn't like it. Read His Word, and try to do the things Jesus taught (1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6).



NEXT STEPS
 This week, focus on saying wise things. Avoid lying and saying bad things about others. Be careful not to trick people into believing lies. Ask God to help you guard your tongue.

CHRIST FOCUS
 Jesus taught wisdom to His followers so that they would do things God's way.

TALK ABOUT IT
 Ask a trusted Christian adult how to follow God's wise way.

• The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.

• **Talk About It** prompts students to engage trusted Christian adults in their life in conversation about God's Word.

UNIT 1:

The Way of the Fool

Lesson 1: Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom Calls

Lesson 2: Psalm 49:1-20

The Foolish Trust Their Riches to Save Them

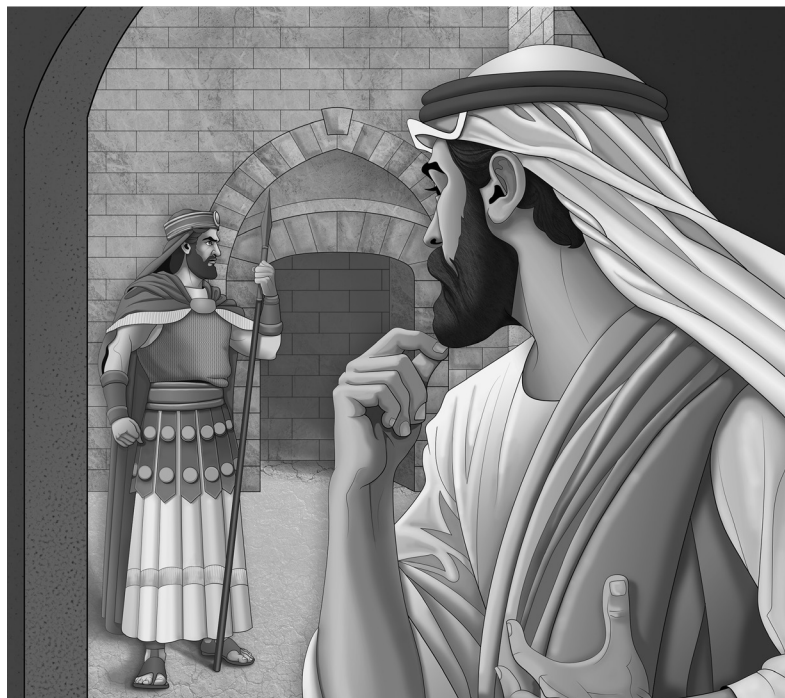
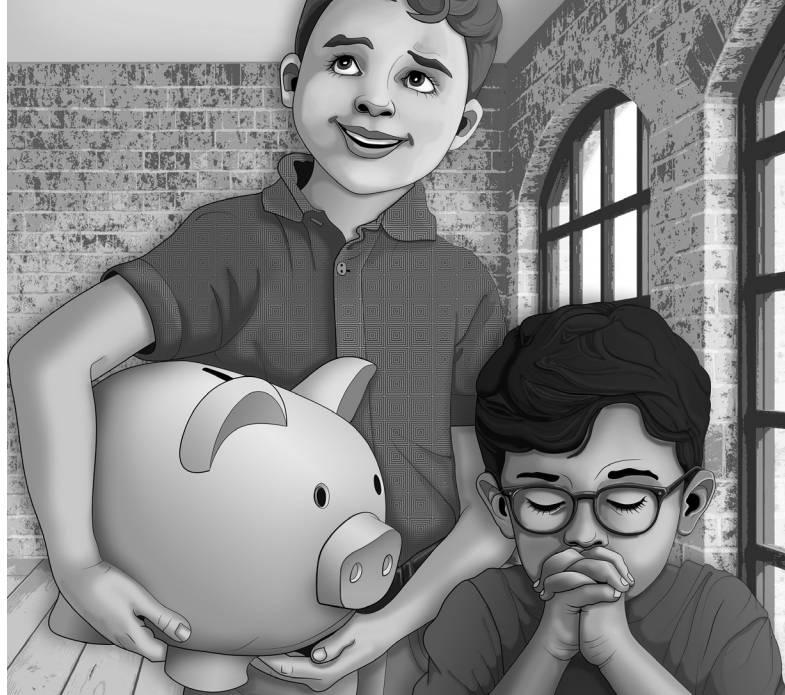
Lesson 3: Proverbs 30:1-14

Humility and Pride

Lesson 4: Proverbs 14:1-19

God's Way Is Wise

Both wisdom and folly call out to people. Before we examine the way of wisdom, we will consider the way of the fool and its disastrous consequences. We face ruin if we refuse the fear of the Lord. It is foolish to live just for this life and for riches, for all people eventually die and face the eternal consequences of their actions. Trusting God's Word and living for Him is far better than arrogantly going our own way. God's way naturally leads to blessings, while sin leads to ruin.





Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets (Proverbs 1:20).



Big Idea: Trouble comes to those who ignore God's wisdom.

PROVERBS 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Prepare Your Mind

While all Scripture should be taken as a whole and there is a danger in taking verses out of context, much of Proverbs has bits of wisdom distilled into short, succinct verses. Some passages build on one another, using multiple verses to enforce the idea that rejecting God's wisdom will lead to destruction.

Although many secular proverbs exist and may even be true, God divinely inspired Proverbs in the Bible. They often contain comparisons to known aspects of life. By comparing wisdom to a woman shouting in the marketplace, Solomon pointed out that wisdom is accessible and actively ignored by those who choose to reject it.



Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- marker
- timer

Prepare Your Heart

It's important to understand that wisdom must be applied, not just learned, to make a difference in our lives and world. Solomon wrote much of Proverbs, yet it is sad to read about Solomon's life. Even with all his wisdom, he allowed his many wives and concubines to lead him into idolatry. After spending seven years building the temple of God, he later built temples to idols.

Teach your students that living in faith, following God, and attaining His wisdom are lifelong pursuits. We should never grow weary in doing good. Nor should we rely solely on our own wisdom and knowledge. No matter how long we are believers or how long we seek to grow our faith and wisdom, we can never plumb the depths of God's wisdom.



Conversation Starter

What would you do if you saw someone stepping into the street into the path of an oncoming car? Would you *whisper*, "Look out!"? Would you just *wave* at the person? (👋 Dramatize with a small, half-hearted wave.)

Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min



Would anyone just whisper when seeing someone in danger of being hit by a car? No! We'd shout, "Look out!" We want the person to hear our warning and heed it. We might grab and pull the person away from the street. It's the same for other dangers. The greater the danger, the louder we shout a warning.

Have you ever been to a busy store? Stores are sometimes called markets. In Bible times, the market would have been one of the busiest, crowded places a person could visit. Imagine walking with your family or friends on a bustling street with stores on both sides. Crowds of people are everywhere along the street. Suddenly, a woman starts shouting. She is warning people to get wisdom.

In Proverbs 1, God compared two things to make us use our imaginations to understand something important. He compared wisdom to a woman calling out to people on the street. She was calling for people to learn wisdom. Was she quiet? No, she was shouting. Wisdom was not sitting quietly in the corner, making people look all over the place for her. She was out in the middle of everything, shouting!

God wants people to seek wisdom. He wants them to learn all about Him. (📖 Hold up **Bible**.) People can learn all about God and His wisdom in the Bible.

Anyone can hear wisdom's voice and obey her warnings. If people listen, they will learn how to make good choices. They will learn to live for God. Sadly, not many people will listen to her warning because they want to keep sinning. Foolish people hate the wisdom God can give them.

💬 What is the wisest choice a person can make?

The wisest choice anyone can make is to trust in Jesus for salvation. When you choose to trust in Jesus, He forgive your sins, then the Holy Spirit will come to live inside you. The Holy Spirit will give you wisdom to live for God. He will help you make good choices.

💬 What do many people think about God and the Bible?

Not everyone trusts God and the Bible. Many think the Bible is foolish, and they don't want the wisdom that is in it. The woman in Proverbs 1 warned everyone that it is foolish *not* to listen to God's wisdom. One day, it will be too late for anyone who does not heed His wisdom *now*.

Do you remember the story about Noah and the ark? (!) It took Noah over one hundred years to build the ark. While Noah built the ark, he warned about the coming flood (2 Pet. 2:5). But the people did not listen. Then the day came that God shut the door of the ark. It began to rain, and water began to cover the earth. Do you think those people wanted to get on the ark then? Of course they did. Only it was too late. The time to listen to wisdom ran out. Wisdom was saying that people today will run out of time too.

Right now, we can listen to God's warnings in the Bible. We can begin to get wisdom from God by praying for forgiveness for our sins and trusting in Jesus as Savior.



Summarize the story of Noah and the ark, if needed, from Genesis 5:32 through 10:1.

💬 What will happen if we do not listen to God's warnings about sin?

What is the only way to escape punishment for our sins against God? What has God done for everyone? Only those who trust in Jesus will not be punished for their sins. Jesus already took the punishment for the sins of everyone, but people must trust in Him.

Explaining the Memory Verse

The wisdom the verse talks about is wisdom that comes from God. He made wisdom seem like a person calling out in the streets to people to find her. Anyone can find God's wisdom. True wisdom can be found in the Bible.



Activity: Time for Wisdom ⌚ 5-10 min

Divide your students into teams. Set the **timer** for ten seconds. On your signal, one child from each team should race to the pieces of paper around the room. They should pick one up and decide whether to keep it or try another piece. When time ends, they should return to their team with one piece of paper. Each team should hold up the word they brought back. If it's not part of the verse, the team must sit out the next sprint. Those teams with correct words can have another teammate run in the next sprint. Continue until one team completes the verse.

SUPPLIES:

- paper
- marker
- timer

PREP: Print one word of the memory verse on a piece of **paper**. Repeat for each word. Make a copy for each team. Print one word that is *not* part of the verse on some pieces of paper. Place all papers face down around the room.

Big Question: Is the world's wisdom really that bad?

Sometimes the world's wisdom may not seem that bad. It may even sound right. For example, someone might say that telling a "little white lie" is OK or that cheating on a test isn't that bad. However, God doesn't like cheating or lying. He decides what is good or bad. Proverbs 14:12 tells us that our bad choices can lead to death! Read

1 Corinthians 3:18-21. No matter how good something might sound to us, if God does not agree, it is wrong. Everything God says is true. Not everything humans say is true. The only true wisdom belongs to God alone. His wisdom is the greatest! He created everything and is wiser than anyone else.

Next Steps

This week, focus on doing things that are wise. When you need to make a decision, pray for God's help. Look in the Bible for wisdom. Always consider what God wants you to do.

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the Bible that teaches us wisdom and how to live for God. •
 - Ask God to give your students wisdom for making right choices. •
 - Praise God for the wisdom that He freely offers to all. •

Christ Focus

Jesus taught His followers to trust God for wisdom when life is hard.