

1 Wisdom

• **Proverbs 8:10**

Wisdom says: 'Choose my teaching instead of silver, my knowledge rather than pure gold.'

People young and old – even small children – want to know how to make the right choices in life.

• **CHILDREN SOMETIMES SAY**

- When I grow up, I want to make a lot of money.

• **WHAT DO WE ANSWER?**

- We need money to live, but it is much more important to be happy.

• **A FEW MINUTES TO THINK**

Life is full of choices.

The virtue of wisdom helps us to make the right choices and do the right things.



Let's listen to a story about a wise King

THE STORY

First book of Kings 3:16-28

One day two women went to see King Solomon. One of them said: "I gave birth to a child while this woman was in my house and three days later she also had a child. One night, this woman's child died and, in the middle of the night, she got up, took my child and laid her dead son beside me. I woke up in the middle of the night to feed my child and saw the child was dead, but I realised it was not my own."

The other woman shouted: "That's a lie! The dead child was yours; the live child is mine!" The king ordered: "Bring me a sword." When they brought it, he said: "Cut the child in half and give a half to each of the women."

The mother of the live child begged the king:

"Please don't kill the child, my lord! Keep the child alive and give him to her!"

The other woman, on the contrary, said: "The child cannot be for you or for me. Let them cut the child up!"

Then the king gave his verdict: "Do not kill the child; give him to the first woman. She is the mother."

The people of Israel heard about the king's sentence and they thanked God for giving them a king who was wise and good.



What do you think?

REFLECTION

- Do you think the King would have allowed the child to be cut in half?
 - Why did the child's real mother want to give her child to the other woman?
 - If you had been the child's mother, what would you have done?
- King Solomon showed he was wise. How would you describe wisdom?

This week...

I will do my best to make right choices and help others do the same.

2 Joy

• Psalm 122.1

I was full of joy when they said to me: 'Let's go up to God's house'.

It is good to go to church; it is a place where we meet people, share our faith and think about what is happening in our lives.

• CHILDREN SOMETIMES SAY

- I get bored in church because I have to keep quiet and it all takes too long.

• WHAT DO WE ANSWER?

- We go to church to praise God and to listen to Jesus' Word. We ought to be quiet.

• A FEW MINUTES TO THINK

This is a common complaint from our children; but, if you get them to participate in the liturgy – getting them to read or sing, helping them to give thanks and helping them to understand what is happening - then they are happier about going to church.



LISTEN

Being quiet helps us learn how to listen and how to take time to think.



A listening game

GAME

1. Find three people to play this game.
2. One person is a speaker, one is a listener and one is an observer.
3. The speaker tells a story for two minutes and the listener listens.
4. The listener cannot speak; but can only say "mmm" or "oh" or "ahh".
5. The observer makes sure that the speaker and the listener do what they are supposed to and keeps track of the time.
6. This is repeated three times so that each child gets to be a speaker, a listener and an observer. At the end, the children should talk about what it was like to play each of these parts.

It is not as hard as you think!

REFLECTION

- Just before lunch or supper if at home, or during a break at school, get everyone in the group to be absolutely quiet for a couple of minutes, thinking about something each one wants.
- When time is up, each person, child or adult, gets the chance to tell the others what he or she was thinking about; and everyone should listen to them. We all need to listen to others and we all want to be listened to.

This week...

I will notice the joy I experience when I listen to someone or when someone listens to me.



3 Friendship

• John 15:15

Jesus said: 'I do not call you servants any more because a servant does not know what his master is doing. I speak to you as friends because I have told you everything that my Father has told me.'

God wants to be your friend, give you good advice, and to be close to you when you need him.

• CHILDREN SOMETIMES SAY

- When we were playing football in the park, we had an argument because one of the boys said he scored a goal; but he was off side. He said it was valid. I am not his friend any more. He cheats!

• WHAT DO WE ANSWER?

- You should have helped that boy realise what he had done, and still be a good friend to him.

• A FEW MINUTES TO THINK

When something like this happens, the natural reaction for children is to say they don't want to be friends any more. It is important to help them think about the value of friendship.



My friends

LET'S CHAT

- Do you have friends?
- Why are they your friends?
- What do you know about them?
- What do they do for you; and what do you do for them?
- Talk about the importance of looking after your friends.

This week...

I will thank God for the gift of friendship and I will be a good friend to...

The gift of friendship

GAME

Material

Some cards with some unfinished sentences on them, like:

- I like being with my friends and...
- I tried to be a good friend to someone when I...
- I listened to my friend when...
- I like it when my friend shares...

Get everyone to sit in a circle. The pack of cards is passed from one child to the next. Each child will finish the sentence on the top card of the pack and place it at the bottom of the pack. Those who cannot think of anything to finish the sentence, are "out" and the game continues until there is only one child left and that child is the winner.

