

GUIDELINES FOR LIFE

Lesson 1 - WISDOM [[Worksheets 1A, 1B & 1C](#)]

Wisdom is seeing life from God's point of view, so that the choices I make will be based on His knowledge and understanding. The only way I can have wisdom is to ask God for it and spend time in His Word and in praying with Him. (All Memory Verses have been taken from the New Living Translation).

Memory Verses to Learn:

James 1:5 *If you need wisdom--if you want to know what God wants you to do--ask him, and he will gladly tell you.* (Answer to Worksheet 1A & 1B)

Job 12:13 *"But true wisdom and power are with God; counsel and understanding are His.* (Answers to Worksheet 1C)

Proverbs 9:10 *Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding.* (Answers to Worksheet 1C)

Proverbs 4:7 *Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do, get good judgment.* (Answers to Worksheet 1C)

Extra Verses:

Psalms 111:10 *Reverence for the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. The rewards of wisdom come to all who obey him. Praise his name forever!*

1 Corinthians 1:30 *God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and he gave himself to purchase our freedom.*

James 3:17 *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere.*

This year we will look at the seven guidelines for a life of purpose in order to build us into a dwelling house for God. (**Proverbs 9:1** *Wisdom has built her spacious house with seven pillars.*)

1. **Accepting God's design** and how He has made us as persons of value and worth.
2. Honoring and **respecting the authorities** God places over us so that we have inward peace.
 - a. Government
 - b. Teachers/Employers
 - c. Church leaders
 - d. Parents (material for both Mother's and Father's Days)
3. Being **responsible** for our actions and **asking forgiveness** so that we can live with a clear conscience.
4. Using the **challenges and pain** that we will experience in life as ways of developing our characters and being willing to **offer forgiveness** to those who hurt us so that we can experience true joy.
5. Recognizing that **everything belongs to God** and that we can give up our personal rights and expectations to God and so prevent anger and anxiety.
6. Experience **Godly freedom** - the power to do what we should which will allow us to serve others and have a life of **moral purity**, staying away from those things that are evil.

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7. Experience **victory and success** as we memorize and **meditate on Scripture**. Allowing Jesus to live in us and His resurrection power to be at work in us.

We will also consider the birth and death of Jesus and our commitment to Him.

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Lesson 2 - DESIGN - THANKING GOD BRINGS SELF ACCEPTANCE [[Worksheets 2A & 2B](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

Psalms 139:14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous--and how well I know it.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.

1 Samuel 16:7 The LORD doesn't make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at a person's thoughts and intentions.

This unit is to help the children accept themselves as children of God and people of worth and value. Help them to understand that there are some things in life that we cannot change but God can use these things to help us to have a life message when we accept them in our lives.

The ten unchangeable things are:

1. Physical Features
2. Parents
3. Siblings
4. Race
5. Mental Ability
6. Time in History
7. Gender
8. Birth Order
9. Aging
10. Death.

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Lesson 3 - AUTHORITY - HONORING MY AUTHORITIES BRINGS INWARD PEACE [[Worksheets 3A, 3B & 3C](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Titus 3:1 Remind your people to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good.

Colossians 3:22 Obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Obey them willingly because of your reverent fear of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong.

This unit is intended to help children understand that they need to respect and honor the authorities that God has placed over them. God is our ultimate authority but He has given us four areas where we need to place ourselves under authority and be submissive and not rebellious:

1. Government
2. Employers/School Teachers
3. Church leaders
4. Parents (This will be dealt with in the next unit)

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Lesson 4 - HONORING MY AUTHORITIES (PARENTS) BRINGS INWARD PEACE [[Worksheets 4A, 4B, 4C & 4D](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching.

Hebrews 12:9-10 Since we respect our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not all the more cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always right and good for us because it means we will share in his holiness.

Proverbs 23:25 So give your parents joy! May she who gave you birth be happy!

This unit can be split into 2 different time periods -

Worksheets A & B in the month when Father's Day is celebrated in your country;

Worksheets C & D in the month when Mother's Day is celebrated.

Information on FASD can be shared with the children on how both men and women's reproductive systems are affected by drinking alcohol.

Message for Mothers - Worksheet C - Mothers should not drink alcohol or use other drugs which may damage a baby's brain.

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Lesson 5 - RESPONSIBILITY - ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS BRINGS A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

[[Worksheets 5A, 5B & 5C](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Acts 24:16 I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and everyone else.

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

This unit is designed to look at the issue of taking responsibility for our actions and being prepared to ask forgiveness when we do wrong.

You can look at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 for an understanding of the right attitudes that we should develop in having a clear conscience.

Steps to Gaining a Clear Conscience

1. List other people's offenses to you. This helps us to deal with the issue of blaming others when it comes to why we act wrongly and then we can deal with this by offering forgiveness instead of blame (See Lesson 6)
2. List your offenses - What have you done that caused hurt. What were the attitudes that caused your wrong words or actions?
3. Purpose to ask forgiveness. Think how your actions would have felt to them. Be humble.
4. How can you make things right?

Worksheet 5A	Worksheet 5B & C
A S K F O R G I V E N E S S	<i>Search heart with magnifying glass:</i> Lying Not caring for my body temple Disobeying Wanting things that others have Swearing Being jealous Fighting Disrespect Stealing Bullying <i>Pasted message:</i> JESUS SAVES

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Lesson 6 - SUFFERING/CHALLENGES - FORGIVING OFFENDERS BRINGS GENUINE JOY [[Worksheet 6](#)]

Memory Verse to Learn:

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Extra Verses:

Matthew 6:12 Forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.

Psalms 119:71 The suffering you sent was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your principles.

1 Peter 4:1 So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you are willing to suffer for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning.

James 1:2, 3,12 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

This unit looks at the issue of forgiveness - us forgiving others.

During your life, you will find that people can hurt you in different ways. The use of alcohol and other drugs can cause families many trials and sadness. Just as you need to ask for forgiveness when you hurt others, so you must also be prepared to offer forgiveness to those who wrong you. Otherwise, you will find that bitterness will grow in your life towards those who offend you. A lack of forgiveness can also cause physical illness, emotional disorders and spiritual deception and bondage.

God can use the trials that you suffer to help you to understand more about Him and to forgive as He forgives you. Even though you may have to suffer the consequences of the other person's wrong actions against you, when you offer forgiveness to them, you will know joy and freedom. God will give you His grace, because you were humble and forgiving.

It is intended particularly for working with children who are victims of abuse and helping them to understand how they can live free from bitterness when they know how to forgive.

Steps to Offering Forgiveness

1. Make sure that you are not looking for temporal values and allowing bitterness to develop because you are not receiving what you are placing your heart on. Look to the Godly character qualities that God wants to produce in you instead and repent of wrong values.
2. Thank God for the suffering that you have experienced. This is not saying that God is responsible for the hurt but that He will use it to benefit your life in some way.
3. View the person who caused the hurt as God's agent to bring about good. (See Joseph's story - Genesis 50:20)
4. Learn God's Purposes in the suffering - Look for what He will do through the experience.
5. Compare what you owe God with what your offender owes you.

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6. Distinguish between forgiveness and pardon. (If a person has broken a law, you can forgive but you cannot pardon them - they may still need to face the penalty for their actions)
7. Voluntarily invest in the life of your offender. (See Matthew 5:41 on the second mile principle) Going the second mile made it possible for the door to be opened for Christian witness that would not have occurred in the first mile as it was demanded, whereas the second mile was voluntarily offered.

Worksheet 6 - Biblical People who Forgave Their Offenders

Joseph to Egypt

David to King Saul and Nabal

Jesus to Roman Soldiers

Stephen to Stoners

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Lesson 7 - OWNERSHIP - YIELDING MY RIGHTS TO GOD BRINGS TRUE SECURITY [[Worksheet 7](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

James 1:19, 20 My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Your anger can never make things right in God's sight.

Extra Verses:

Psalms 37:8 Stop your anger! Turn from your rage! Do not envy others--it only leads to harm.

Proverbs 22:24, 25 Keep away from angry, short-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.

Ephesians 4:26 And "don't sin by letting anger gain control over you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry,

Ephesians 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior.

Philippians 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.

This unit looks at the issue of anger management. Most anger comes from a person feeling that their rights have been violated. Help the children to see that if we give our rights to God then we don't need to get angry as God owns our rights and not us. Anger is a warning signal that there is something in our life that we have not given up to God. Help children to understand the difference between rights, expectations and responsibilities. The secret is to give God our rights and expectations and focus on our responsibilities to others.

Use the example of Christ as to how He gave up His rights and focussed on His responsibility to bring salvation to us. He gave up the following rights:

1. Wealth
2. Reputation
3. To be served
4. Physical comforts
5. To make his own decisions

When you feel angry:

- A. Transfer your rights and expectations to God
- B. Work on your responsibilities to others
- C. Thank God for the irritations that will help to develop your character.

Worksheet 7 - Yielding Rights - Volcano coloring.

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Lesson 8 - FREEDOM - REGAINING SURRENDERED GROUND BRINGS MORAL PURITY [[Worksheets 8A & 8B](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Romans 13:14 But let the Lord Jesus Christ take control of you, and don't think of ways to indulge your evil desires.

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.

Extra Verse:

Matthew 5:8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

The principle of Freedom is based on having your life under the control of the Holy Spirit so that you have the power to live as you should.

We have three basic drives - Spiritual, Psychological and Physical. The Spiritual drive should be the dominant drive with the physical drive under control and the psychological drive (mind, will and emotions) in harmony with the Spiritual drive. That is our decisions (mind, will and emotions) should be based on spiritual data from the Word of God. We become slaves of sin when the physical drive takes over and decisions are based on our physical senses and we disregard the spiritual drive.

Moral Purity comes as we:

1. Engraft God's Word into our lives - memorize scripture (especially Romans 6 & 8)
2. Meditate on Scripture
3. Picture ourselves as dead (unresponsive) to sin and its power.
4. Make no provision for sinful habits.
5. Compare the law of sin to the law of gravity - law of sin is always in operation like the law of gravity but a bird overcomes gravity by stretching out its wings so that the law of lift overcomes the law of gravity. We can claim Christ's victory and this law of life, overcomes the law of sin.
6. Be accountable to our authorities for victory. Have someone that you can be accountable to for how you are walking in the Christian life.
7. Have a positive focus on what you can be and do for God in His power - a life purpose.

Worksheet 8A Answers

1. Alcohol
2. LSD
3. Drugs
4. Smoking
5. Gambling
6. GHB
7. Beer
8. Rum
9. Marijuana

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Lesson 9 - SUCCESS - MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE BRINGS LIFE PURPOSE [[Worksheet 9](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Joshua 1:8 Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed.

Psalms 1:2-3 But they delight in doing everything the LORD wants; day and night they think about his law. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper.

*Psalms 119:97-100 Oh, how I love your law! I think about it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my **enemies**, for your commands are my constant guide. Yes, I have more insight than my **teachers**, for I am always thinking of your decrees. I am even wiser than my **elders**, for I have kept your commandments.*

Extra Verses:

Psalms 119:9 How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word and following its rules.

Psalms 119: 11 I have hidden Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Proverbs 22:17-18 Listen to the words of the wise; apply your heart to my instruction. For it is good to keep these sayings deep within yourself, always ready on your lips.

2 Timothy 2:15 Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

How to Put God's Word in your heart

1. Receive Jesus as your Savior and read God's Word every day.
2. Memorize Scripture - write out the verse, say it to someone.
3. Study the passage of Scripture and ask what it means in your life. Do word studies and use cross references.
4. Meditate - Make the passage into a prayer and think about it and what it means - turn it into a picture so that you can visualize it.
5. Obey the Scripture - Write out what you need to do about the verse. Check that the ideas you think of are true and Biblical. (Satan can give us wrong ideas) Test the outcome of your obedience. Does it make you more like Jesus? Does it last?

Results of Meditating on God's Word

1. Success
2. Wisdom
3. Joy
4. Victory

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Lesson 10 - EASTER [[Worksheet 10](#)]

Memory Verse to Learn:

1 Corinthians 15:20 But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again.

This unit is designed to be used in the month of Easter and can be used at any time in this lesson sequence. Tell the Easter story.

Worksheet 10 - Answer to Rebus

Jesus died on the cross for the sins of all men.

He rose from the grave showing that He has power over death.

Jesus is alive today.

When I ask Him to come into my heart I am given power to live for Him.

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Lesson 11 - CHRISTMAS [[Worksheet 11](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Matthew 1:21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

*Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. (Answer to Worksheet dot color)*

Extra Verse:

Luke 2:7 She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

This unit is designed to be used in the month of December and can be used at any time in this lesson sequence. Tell the Christmas story.

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Lesson 12 - COMMITMENT [[Worksheet 12](#)]

Memory Verses to Learn:

Joshua 24:15b But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.

Ruth 1:16 I will go wherever you go and live wherever you live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Luke 19:8 I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!

Esther 4:16 Though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I am willing to die.

Acts 4:20 We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.

Talk about commitments, resolutions or promises. This unit could be used in conjunction with New Year Resolutions. Give illustrations of people who made promises and broke them. e.g. Peter - Matthew 26:35. Emphasize the need to be dependent on God to keep our promises and to think through what the promise really means.

Worksheet 12 matching and unscramble

Ruth 1:16 - Ruth

Luke 19:8 - Zacchaeus

Esther 4:16 - Esther

Acts 4:20 - Peter & John

1 Corinthians 2:2 - Paul

Joshua 24:15b - Joshua

References Used:

How to Apply Basic Life Principles - Institute in Basic Life Conflicts; USA. 1987

Children's Bulletin Idea Book - Baker Book House; Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1987