

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 6 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 10 GOD'S WISDOM

Objectives

- Examine the role of clowns and comedians in society.
- Describe the true meaning of wisdom.
- Examine the wisdom tradition of Israel.
- Explore the difference between human wisdom and divine wisdom.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), pages 74–75

Begin with the **Activity** on page 74.

Then pray together the opening **Prayer** which introduces the chapter content on **God's Wisdom**.

Read the text on page 74 and the first paragraph on page 75. Ask: What can we learn from clowns and comedians? (Possible responses: how absurd people can be; how to laugh at ourselves.) How does it feel to be laughed at by others? (If your child shares an ongoing experience of being laughed at, be sure to pursue the topic and do what you can to change the situation. This type of harassment ought to be addressed and ended.)

Continue reading the text on page 75: **Who Is Wise?** Ask: What does it mean to be wise? (Answers might include recognizing cause-and-effect relationships, telling the difference between good and evil, seeing beyond appearances, learning from experience, and exercising good judgment.) Why does every age and culture need wise people? (For its survival each community needs people who have the abilities listed above.)

Invite your child to name people he or she considers wise and to explain what abilities they have. Then ask your child to imagine himself or herself as a wise man or woman. Have your child describe things he or she would do if he or she were a medical practitioner, a religious leader, a prophet, or a storyteller.

Read aloud the caption question and have your child respond to it. (Guide your child to see that people share wisdom at home, in school, and in the faith community. Discuss some specific interactions that might occur in these places.)

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 76–79

Read the **Scripture Story on Solomon’s Request**, page 76. Use the **Language of Faith** at the end of the textbook for a fuller definition of the highlighted word. Ask: What challenges did Solomon face when he became king of Israel? (The kingdom was spread out; various groups in society were fighting each other; some people were worshiping idols.) If God said to you, “Ask for something and I will give it to you,” what would you ask for? (Answers will vary.) What did Solomon ask for above all? (an understanding heart)

Read the **Catholics Believe** statement. Explain that Jesus shows us how we should live: committing ourselves to God’s values and dedicating ourselves to loving and serving others.

Read the text on page 77: **A Different Wisdom**. Ask: How was King Solomon’s wisdom different from that of other rulers of his time? (His wisdom was based on his faith in God.) Explain that Solomon was the first king of Israel to worship God in a permanent place, the temple in Jerusalem (the first temple). Through his steadfast faith in God, Solomon governed the people as God wanted.

Read the **Landmark**. Tell your child that only one wall of the second temple remains. It is known as the Western Wall and is a site sacred to Jews.

Read **Saints Walk with Us: Saint Teresa of Ávila**. Teresa was a sixteenth century saint who lived in Spain. Ask: If you had the chance to ask Saint Teresa for some practical advice, what would you ask for? (Answers will vary.)

Read the text on page 78: **Beyond Human Wisdom**. Ask: Which books of the Bible contain the sayings of the wise ones of Israel? (Job, Proverbs, Sirach, Ecclesiastes, and Wisdom) Look for these books in your family Bible.

Remind your child that the Book of Job explores why bad things happen to good people. Invite him or her to think of situations from history, as well as from his or her own life, in which bad things have happened to good people.

Tell your child that the photo is a painting of a scene from the Book of Job. Read aloud the caption question and ask your child to respond to it. (Human nature has remained basically the same for thousands of years.)

Read the text on page 79. Ask: How do Christians understand the words “God’s justice never dies” and “The just will be rewarded after death”? (Possible response: The righteous who suffer in this life will be rewarded in the next with everlasting life with God.)

Read the **Scripture Signpost**. Point out that the verse affirms our belief in the wisdom of God as the guiding light for all people. Discuss the idea that Jesus is wiser than human wisdom and stronger than human strength because he is the Son of God.

Take note of the photo, and read the caption. Explain that the towers at the edges of the building were added by Muslims. The towers are minarets from which Muslims are called to prayer several times each day.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 80

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing sections **Recall**, **Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey**.

Read and discuss **We Live Our Faith: At Home** and **In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of the highlighted word.

Complete pages 19–20 of the **Faith Journal**.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 81

Have your child look at the medieval painting pictured on page 81. Tell him or her that it is called *There Is a Season* and is based on the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Read **Know the Season**, and discuss the importance of knowing the right time for actions and words. Point out that the gift of wisdom is one of the seven gifts of the Spirit. Can you name the other six gifts of the Spirit? (Check page 223 for the answer.)

Using your family Bible, find Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Close the lesson by praying this **Prayer**.