

Wisdom

Aim: to reflect on a story of Jesus that helps us understand what it might mean to be a person full of wisdom. To consider some of Jesus' wise sayings and think about how we might be able to put them into practice and be wise people.

Gathering:

Light candle & say:

Father God, thank you that you are a wise and loving God and you are with us as we worship.

Response: Thank you Father God

Sing: An appropriate song would be 'The wise man built his house upon the rock'

Engaging:

1. Have ready to share a few well known proverbs. Explain that a proverb is thought to be a clever saying – something that when you understand what it is about, might be a good thing to do. Explain one of the proverbs you have in this kind of way.
2. Proverbs are wise sayings – but what does it mean to be wise? What does it mean to have our school filled with wise people?
3. Using the visual aids of lego houses – one on a rock and one on a pile of sand – tell the story of the wise and foolish builders. (The Lion Storyteller Bible has a very accessible version of the story for children). As you tell the story pour water from the can onto the 2 houses. Be prepared for a reaction!
4. Ask 'I wonder why Jesus said the man who built his house on the rock was wise?' – take suggestions from the children. Draw out that what Jesus was saying is that following him and doing the things he says is a wise way to live and that if we do that we will be very wise people.
5. Have some sayings of Jesus on pieces of paper and invite children to come out to read them. (see resources section below for ideas of what sayings)
6. Point out that these sayings are not easy to follow – they are not telling us to do things that are easy. Perhaps draw out one you find especially hard yourself, to illustrate to children that adults find these things difficult too. However, Jesus was saying that these are actually always the right things to do and that if we can do them then we are wise people. Wise people are not always the clever people, because everyone can be wise if they choose to be.

Responding

Read out the wise sayings from Jesus once again. Allow a short pause after each is read.

Invite everyone to think about which of these wise sayings they want to think about more through the day.

Ask the following 'I wonder' questions for quiet reflection:

I wonder how following that wise saying of Jesus can help you build your life a bit more today in the way He wants you to?

I wonder how you can be like the wise man in the story and build your life more on the solid rock of Jesus teachings?

Prayer

Dear God. Thank you for the wise words Jesus said. Help us to use them as we build firm foundations for our lives. Amen

Sending

As everyone returns to the classroom ask them to think about how they are going to put the wise saying from Jesus they have thought about today into practice. Perhaps in collective worship tomorrow some people could be asked how they put the wise saying into practice.

Resources needed:

- Two lego houses on a tray – one on a pile of sand, the other on a rock
- A watering can
- A suitable version of the story of the 2 house builders from Luke 6 v 46 – 49
- Some wise sayings of Jesus written on pieces of paper e.g.
 - Matthew 5 v 42 Don't just love your friends, but love your enemies too
 - Matthew 6 v14 Forgive other people and then you will be forgiven
 - John 13 v 34 Always try to love other people in the way that I love you
 - Matthew 5 v9 Happy are you if you can make peace with others
 - Matthew 7 v 1-2 Do not judge other people, otherwise you will be judged in the same way
- A collection of simple proverbs

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