

LESSON 2 SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Don't waste words on people who won't listen.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn "I can thoughtfully share God's wisdom with those who will listen!"

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 7:6, Pigs and Pearls

MEMORY VERSE:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3

SUMMARY:

When we carefully and prayerfully share God's wisdom with others sometimes they will listen and sometimes they won't. This is because they don't recognize the value of your words. You shouldn't waste time on people who won't listen and aren't open to hearing God's word.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to share your wisdom with others and if they won't listen, pray for their hearts to be softened.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“My goal is that their hearts may be encouraged and strengthened. I want them to be joined together in love. Then their understanding will be rich and complete. They will know the mystery of God. That mystery is Christ. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIRV)

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

“I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NLT)

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Say, “Can anyone remember where we find all wisdom? All wisdom can be found in Jesus Christ!” Read the verse. Then say, “If wisdom is hidden in Jesus, then the only way we can live wisely is by learning from Him. What is one way you can share that wisdom with others? We can bring them to church with us, we can share a verse with them to help them with a problem they are having, and we can encourage them to pray to God in times of trouble. But beware! Not everyone will be open to God’s wisdom. Sometimes what you share will go in one ear and out the other.”

Tell the kids to cover their ears as you read the verse. Then gesture and tell kids to remove their hands from their heads and listen to the verse with open ears and an open heart.

SMALL GROUP:

Ahead of time gather red construction paper and scissors.

Ask for a volunteer to read the memory verse from the Bible. Say, “When we hear God’s word our hearts can be encouraged and strengthened! But that is only if we are willing to listen and take what God says to heart.” Instruct kids to fold their page in half and draw half a heart along the crease of the page. Then ask them to cut their heart out and open it up. Say, “Just like this heart was folded in half and then opened up, we can open our hearts to what God is teaching us and gain so much wisdom!”

SKIT

Okay, That's Funny!

ITEMS NEEDED:

Bird Seed
Fake pearl necklace
Bird feeder

CHARACTERS:

Scott
Bill

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Wilderness expert – Scott
Wilderness expert – Bill

Begin with Scott and Bill standing center stage. Scott is holding a bird feeder and Bill is holding a fake pearl necklace. There is a bag of birdseed nearby.

SCOTT: Welcome campers! I'm Scott.

BILL: And I'm Bill. And we are so glad you came back to another session of our wilderness class.

SCOTT: Today we are learning about how we can see nature up close.

BILL: It's really fun to be able to see animals out in nature, take a picture, or even collect things like feathers that fell from a bird, honeycomb from bees, or see mammal tracks in the mud.

SCOTT: Speaking of bird feathers, today we are going to teach you how to get beautiful birds to come to your own backyard!

BILL: You can get some very interesting birds in your yard that way, such as cardinals, woodpeckers, and chickadees.

SCOTT: My personal favorite is the Baltimore oriole! It is beautifully orange.

BILL: I am a real fan of bluebirds and goldfinch!

SCOTT: So, first thing is first, you will need a bird feeder.

SKIT

BILL: And if you want to attract birds, put this pearl necklace out for them!

SCOTT: What? A pearl necklace? Now that's just funny!

BILL: What? A pearl necklace is valuable.

SCOTT: Yes, a pearl necklace is very valuable, but a bird's brain doesn't know that.

BILL: Are you saying birds aren't smart?

SCOTT: Not in the way that you and I are.

BILL: Well maybe I'll give this to my aunt instead, it's almost her birthday.

SCOTT: Good idea, I hope she appreciates it.

BILL: If she doesn't, she doesn't know what she's missing. It is worth a lot of money.

SCOTT: ANYWAY...Let's get back on track. What you will need for the birds is a bag of birdseed like that one over there.

BILL: There are many kinds of birdseed. They will even tell you which birds like to eat them, so you can pick out the kind based on which birds you'd like to see.

SCOTT: And once you fill your birdfeeder with this, hang it outside for them to enjoy!

BILL: I still say they would like this pearl necklace.

SCOTT: If they can't eat it, they won't see it's worth, unfortunately.

BILL: Oh well! I'm off to wrap it up for my aunt.

SCOTT: Thanks for joining us for another wilderness class. We hope to see you next week where we will be learning about how to stay sanitary even out in the great outdoors. See you soon!

End Scene

OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Fake Pearl Necklace

A pearl necklace is worth a lot. Most people recognize this. But when you hand it to a bird or a pig, they won't see its value because it's not something they can eat. People can be similar when it comes to wisdom. When we hear wisdom, we either see its value and it can help us, or we don't recognize it for what it is and we don't take the good advice we are given. Have you ever made the mistake of ignoring wisdom? I think we all have at one time or another.

Some examples of this could be if your parents tell you to wear a coat but you decide not to and catch a cold. Or when you're a parent and you warn a toddler not to touch a hot stove and they do and burn their finger. We often learn the hard way, don't we? But we don't have to go through life learning the hard way. We can listen to our parents the first time they give us wise advice. The same is true of God's word. When He teaches us how to live and what to avoid, we can listen because all wisdom comes from God! If we follow what God's word says, we are wise. Wisdom begins when we realize that God is great and we respect and trust Him! When we do this, we will make wise decisions because we are following Jesus.

Next time someone offers you wise advice, don't just run the other way. Think about it. It is like them offering you this pearl necklace and you leave it behind. That would be foolish. When we are offered wise advice, we would be wise to take it!

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise." Proverbs 19:20 (NIV)

LARGE GROUP GAME

Balloon Toss

ITEMS NEEDED:

Balloons for each kid, Balloon Pump, and Background Music

INSTRUCTIONS:

Pump up balloons for this game ahead of time.

Begin by having kids get into pairs. Each pair will receive one balloon. It's good to have a few extra on hand in case one pops. Start the music and instruct kids to bounce the balloon back and forth. Next, challenge them to try to keep the balloon from hitting the floor. After a few minutes, advise them to stand close to one another and try it again. Next, hand each pair another balloon. Challenge them to each hold a balloon and then simultaneously pass their balloons at the same time and see if they can catch their partner's balloon. Give them a few minutes to try this. Then give them advice to have one kid pass the balloon up high and the partner to pass it down low so they don't run into each other. Finally, challenge kids to bounce their balloons off the floor and catch it in the air! After a few minutes, advise them to spread out from your partner so they don't run into one another. Give them a few more minutes to try it.

VARIATIONS:

N/A

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Sometimes we can come up with good ideas and problem-solve on our own. Other times we need some wise advice. When we are willing to take advice and try it out, often we find that the advice is helpful. There is nothing wrong with taking wise advice, we were not meant to figure everything out on our own. We need God's wisdom to live wisely, and we should never be too proud to take it!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

TAGLINE:

Don't waste words on people who won't listen.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn "I can thoughtfully share God's wisdom with those who will listen!"

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 7:6, Pigs and Pearls

INTRO:

What would happen if you gave a girl pig pearls? Do you think they would get all dressed up in their finest dress, feather hat, white gloves, and high-heeled shoes and wear their string of pearls to go dancing at the ball? Maybe not. But it's funny to think about! Why on earth would we give a pig pearls anyway? They wouldn't know what to do with them if we did.

Today we are going to read another pretty funny thing that Jesus said. Even though it sounds funny, it is full of amazing wisdom for us. But we can't deny that it makes us laugh a bit. Are you ready to laugh? Let's read what he said.

READ MATTHEW 7:6**MAIN POINT:**

What on earth? I can imagine the people were thinking...why would we give pigs pearls! But Jesus didn't really mean to give pearls to pigs. He was using it as an example to teach us something. When we give pigs pearls, they trample on them because they are pretty angry that we haven't given them food. What a waste! The very same thing happens when we give fools wise advice. They trample on it, they turn on you and yell, and they don't listen to it. Jesus also used the example of not giving dogs what is holy. Would you give a dog a Bible? They wouldn't know what to do with it and they certainly wouldn't read it.

Who are these dogs and pigs that Jesus is referring to? How can we know who to give wise advice to and who not to? Jesus is actually talking about people. Some people are open to hearing God's word, wise advice, and will accept help. Other people are closed off, foolish, and will get angry with you when you try to help. When you try to give advice and someone lashes out at you or doesn't listen, Jesus is saying that it is okay to walk away.

In this life, we will meet people who have hardened hearts. Their hearts are not open to hearing about Jesus. When this happens, we can continue to pray for them. God can work amazing miracles and soften their hearts. But what we **SHOULDN'T DO** is stand there and argue with people who aren't willing to hear us out. We can share God's wisdom with them but if they are closed off to it and don't want to hear it, nothing we say

LARGE GROUP LESSON

is going to change their minds. It is a matter of the heart and only the Holy Spirit can change their heart.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Next time you give advice and someone shouts at you or doesn't want to hear it, it is time to walk away. Never stop praying for their heart to be softened. But it is time to walk away and give it to God. Even the most lovingly and thoughtfully communicated words will be attacked by some people because they are foolish. They don't recognize the value in wisdom. Just like the pigs don't recognize the value in pearls.

DON'T WASTE WORDS ON PEOPLE WHO WON'T LISTEN. There is no point in arguing. Instead, pray for them and wait for a time when they are ready to listen. And in the meantime, we can thoughtfully share wisdom with those who will listen! Great ways to share wisdom are by sharing a verse from the Bible, encouraging someone to go to church to learn about Jesus, and sharing your testimony of how God has helped you. **DON'T WASTE WORDS ON PEOPLE WHO WON'T LISTEN.** But never stop praying for them! Let's pray now!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to share your wisdom with others and if they won't listen, pray for their hearts to be softened.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION K-2ND

ICEBREAKER:

Would you rather be given a string of pearls, a chest of gold, or a ruby?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

(Ahead of time gather red construction paper and scissors. Fold the construction paper and draw half of a heart along the fold for each kid.)

Ask for a volunteer to read the memory verse from the Bible. Say, "When we hear God's word our hearts can be encouraged and strengthened! But that is only if we are willing to listen and take what God says to heart." Instruct kids to cut their hearts out and open them up. Say, "Just like this heart was folded in half and then opened up, we can open our hearts to what God is teaching us and gain so much wisdom!"

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play "Angry Pig" like you would Duck, Duck, Goose. Instead of saying "Duck" say "Wise pig" and instead of saying "Goose" say "Angry Pig". Then the angry pig will have to chase them and try to tag them just like in Duck, Duck, Goose.

Ask, "Has anyone ever gotten angry with you when you tried to share advice? Sometimes people can get so angry that they yell or attack you. It's best to walk away in these situations."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:6

How would a dog react to something holy, or a pig react to pearls?

How is this similar to how a fool acts after being given advice?

What can we do for them instead of arguing with them?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for not always taking wise advice. Help us to always look to Jesus for wisdom!

In Jesus' name,
Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 3RD-5TH

ICEBREAKER:

Would you rather be given a string of pearls, a chest of gold, or a ruby?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

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Ask for a volunteer to read the memory verse from the Bible. Say, "When we hear God's word our hearts can be encouraged and strengthened! But that is only if we are willing to listen and take what God says to heart." Instruct kids to fold their page in half and draw half a heart along the crease of the page. Then ask them to cut their hearts out and open them up. Say, "Just like this heart was folded in half and then opened up, we can open our hearts to what God is teaching us and gain so much wisdom!"

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Ask, "Has anyone ever gotten angry with you when you tried to share advice? Sometimes people can get so angry that they yell or attack you. It's best to walk away in these situations."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:6

How would a dog react to something holy, or a pig react to pearls?

How is this similar to how a fool acts after being given advice?

What is one way to tell if someone is not interested in wise advice?

What can we do for them instead of arguing with them?

How does a wise man respond to instruction and advice?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for not always taking wise advice. Help us to always look to Jesus for wisdom!

In Jesus' name, Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

We should keep at it and argue back when someone won't listen to God's word or our wise advice.

FALSE

We shouldn't waste our words if someone is not willing to listen.

TRUE

If we listen to advice and accept instructions, in the end, we will be wise.

TRUE

If you give a pig a pearl, they will wear it as a necklace and appreciate its value.

FALSE

If you give a dog a holy Bible, they won't know what to do with it or what value it has.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

OKAY, THAT'S FUNNY LESSON 2

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



IN THE CAR:

It might sound funny but, why shouldn't we give a pig pearls? Why shouldn't we argue or keep talking to someone who isn't willing to listen and have an open heart? Our time is better spent praying for someone when they have a hardened heart! We shouldn't waste our words on someone who won't listen. Matthew 7:6, Pigs and Pearls



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kid if they have ever regretted not taking wise instruction or advice.
Ask your kid if anyone has ever not listened to them.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

Where does all wisdom come from? Hint: Memory verse.

What are some ways we can share wisdom with others?

What are some ways we can pray for those who won't listen to wisdom?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3



PARENT TIME:

People don't always want to listen to wise advice. Sometimes our kids fall into this category. When our children don't listen to our instructions and they have a natural consequence, they're forced to learn the hard way. It's helpful to use these circumstances as examples of why it's good to listen to instruction and wisdom. That way our kids can see that there is a way to avoid making certain mistakes and dealing with consequences from poor decisions. Encourage your child by sharing some verses that will help them to hear wisdom about their situation and how they can choose to live wisely by following Jesus.

TAKE HOME

Supplies: Pastels and Craft Paper

Give each kid a piece of paper and pastels. Instruct them to turn their paper horizontally and draw a line down the center of their page. On the left have them draw a picture of a pig trampling pearls and on the right have them draw a picture of a person wearing pearls.

Remind them that, “We can be like the person wearing pearls when we are wise enough to listen to God’s word! Let’s be careful not to be like the pig who doesn’t see the value in the pearls and can’t take wise advice.”