
Wisdom Workshop

WELCOME:

(5 min)

- Welcome all participants and introduce yourself.
- Explain the format of the day and any housekeeping or safety announcements.
- Begin by outlining the Learning Intentions. You may like to display these so that you can refer back to them throughout the session.

LEARNING INTENTIONS:

1. Begin to understand that God gives us wisdom so that we may live full lives, in right relationship with ourselves, others, the world and God.
2. Develop an understanding that *Fear of the Lord* means having a healthy respect for God's definition of good and evil.
3. Explore the idea that wisdom is accessible to everyone and can be used to build a better life.
4. Understand that wisdom is about applying knowledge so that we can live well.
5. Seeing through the eyes of God not just our own lens.
6. God's wisdom is modelled in the life and teachings of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

(15 minutes)

Seeing through the eyes of God not just our own lens.

(Material Needed: Screen and internet connection to play the video clip)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AbT1t7Bu8>

- Think about a situation in your life that is causing you frustration or anger. Is there a different way that you could look at it? OR Think about someone who you get frustrated with.
- Is there another way of viewing your relationship with that person that allows you to see them differently?
- This is what wisdom can help us to do.
- It can help us to see things through God's eyes not our own.

Develop an understanding that *Fear of the Lord* means having a healthy respect for God's definition of good and evil.

(Material Needed: Chalk or masking tape, a copy of the Proverbs quote and a list of the scenarios below)

Proverbs 3:13-14 (NRSVCE)

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding,
for their income is better than silver, and their revenue better than gold.

Wise-not wise:

- This is a quick game that helps the young people start to consider the concept of wisdom.
 - Draw a line down the centre of the room with chalk or place some masking tape down the centre.
 - Ask the participants to stand on the line and indicate with a jump to the left if wisdom is used and a jump to the right if the decision is unwise.
1. Rose was at a Jack's house and they were using their devices to watch YouTube clips. Jack's mum left the room and he started to show Rose videos that he knew were inappropriate. Rose knew it was not OK so she got up and left the room.
WISE/NOT WISE?
 2. Rose had worked hard to prepare for a maths test at school, but she was running out of time to finish it. She thought she deserved a good mark because all of her hard work and knew that she could copy answers without getting caught. She did.
WISE/NOT WISE?
 3. Jack had lots of friends at school, he got along with most groups but decided to hang out with the kids who sometimes made bad choices because he thought that they had more fun.
WISE/NOT WISE?
 4. Jack took some money from Rose and she didn't realise. Jack felt bad about it and so returned the money and apologised.
WISE/NOT WISE?
 5. Rose was sick of listening to Jack skate about always winning tag at playtime. She told Jack how bad it made her feel. Jack didn't realise that his words had such a big impact. He apologised and choose to not go on about it so much.
WISE/NOT WISE?
 6. One of Rose's friends sent a message to a group chat teasing one of their classmates about being stupid. Rose choose not to do anything about it.
WISE/NOT WISE?

7. Jack was angry with Freddie so he told his friends not to talk to him, and to ignore him. Rose was worried that she might be left out if she didn't do what Jack said so went along with it.

WISE/NOT WISE

8. Rose loved being the centre of attention and she found that when she was teasing others her friends would encourage her and laugh, so she keeps doing it.

WISE/NOT WISE

9. Jack and Rose are on their way home from school and pass an old building site that has a "No Trespassing" sign up on the fence. They are keen to go and check it out, so they can tell their friends at school. No one is around to see them and they go in.

WISE/NOT WISE

This game is a fun way to show us that the **first step** towards wisdom is understanding the difference between right and wrong and acting on it ...but wisdom is so much more than that.

GROUP WORK:

(90 min)

Explore the idea that wisdom is accessible to everyone
and can help us build a better life.

CHALLENGE: Build a bridge

(30 min)

(Material needed: newspapers and masking tape and 2 chairs per group, cans of drink/food about 6-10)

- Move into small groups and set up 2 chairs 1 meter apart.
- Using the material provided build a bridge from one chair to the other chair. The winning team is the team that has the strongest bridge. Stack cans of drink/food on the bridge to see how many they can hold.
- Allow about 10 minutes to complete
- Discuss how God gives us all the tools we need to grow a strong foundation of wisdom in our lives – the bridge.
- These tools are scripture, the example of Jesus, life experiences and wise people.
- We can choose to use these tools to build strong relationships and integrity in our lives. We may not always get it right but God encourages us to keep trying, to think about our mistakes and work with God to rebuild and try again.
- Allow the groups another 10 minutes to try again and see if with the knowledge they have gained they can rebuild their bridges to be stronger!



Game: (Would you rather)?

(20 min)

Understand that wisdom is about applying knowledge so that we can live well.
Wisdom is seeing through the eyes of God not just our own lens.

(Material needed: Copies of the 'would you rather' cards. Then copies of some life scenarios where the young people make up their own would you rather questions.)

We have all played the game 'would you rather'. Here are a few scenarios to try with your group now.

- Would you rather have no teeth or no hair?
- Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible?
- Would you rather eat a small can of cat food or 7 lemons?
- Would you rather live life in a small spaceship in outer space or a small submarine under the ocean?
- Would you rather go without devices for the rest of your life or go without junk food?
- Would you rather listen to music or read a book?
- Would you rather work in a group or work alone?
- Would you rather kiss a snake or kiss a spider?

Wisdom is a little bit like this game of would you rather, but instead of considering what **you** would rather do it is about looking at the situation through God's eyes and considering what **God** would rather you do.

- Here are some situations that may come up in everyday life. Consider some possible ways to act and then come up with your own would you rather questions for the situation. (Please make sure the scenarios you choose are age appropriate)
 - Make sure to include a **wise** option for each scenario.
1. You have been put into a group project and have to work with someone you have never worked with before and you don't think they'll be very good.
Would you rather or
 2. You and your friend have an argument and have stopped speaking to each other.
Would you rather or
 3. You hear someone in the school playground making fun of your family.
Would you rather or
 4. You are part of a group that is teasing someone because of what they are wearing.
Would you rather or
 5. Your friend who has been acting a little weird lately is at your house and leaves their phone on the bed while they go to the toilet – an alert pings through.
Would you rather or

6. You really like your friend's partner but choose not to say anything to them because you respect your friendship. Later the partner tells you that they like you more than they like your friend.

Would you rather or

7. You have almost won a video game you are playing but your parent has asked you to turn off the computer. The volume is up loud and you could pretend you didn't hear so you could quickly finish the game.

Would you rather or

8. You feel like your teaching is picking on you lately and they are heading in your direction. You decide that you are going to react angrily before they have even said anything.

Would you rather or

9. There is a student at school that isn't liked by too many people but you really enjoy their company. You are nervous that if you befriend them the others might not like you anymore.

Would you rather or

10. There has been a fight at home between you and your brother/sister. You get punished but they don't. You don't think that is fair.

Would you rather or

11. Someone in your class cheated on a test, and you have proof.

Would you rather or

12. You have a date with someone you have liked for a really long time. That afternoon your best friend rings you and tells you that they have bought you tickets for a concert that same night.

Would you rather or

13. You want to try out for the school play, but the auditions are on at the same time as your sports game.

Would you rather or

14. You have been watching a show on Netflix and duck off to go to the toilet. When you come back your brother/sister has changed the channel.

Would you rather or

Offer the young people the opportunity to create their own scenarios or bring one to the table that they are struggling with.

Finish up by highlighting that when we use **wisdom** in our decisions there may not be ONE clear way to go forward. Life isn't always as simple as right and wrong! There may be a few options and we need to spend time in prayer, thinking about what the right one is for us at that time. This is called discernment.

Activity: (Changing our view)

(30 min)

Wisdom is seeing through the eyes of God not just our own lens.

Begin to understand that God gives us wisdom so that we may live full lives, in right relationship with ourselves, others, the world and God.

Wisdom is knowing life has meaning even when we can't make sense of it.

Flies:

(Material needed: Enlarged copy of Pope Francis quote in resources, photocopied page for each participant with glasses, black crayons/pencils/pens and coloured crayons/pencils/pens, large copy of poem The Fly, Fly Fact Cards, coloured images of flies up close for each participant)

This is wisdom: it is the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. It is simply this: Seeing the world, situations, conjunctures, problems, everything with God's eyes. This is wisdom. Often, we see things as we want to see them or according to our heart, with love, with hate, with envy. No, this is not God's eyes. Wisdom is what the Holy Spirit does within us so that we can see everything with God's eyes. This is the gift of wisdom (Pope Francis, 2014)

1. Flies:

- Take a moment to write down some words about the common house fly.
- Describe how they make you feel, what you think about them.
- When do you notice them the most – how annoying are they?
- In the first lens of your glasses paper, draw a fly with black pen and write around it some of the words that you would use to describe flies:
Dirty, annoying, pesky, gross, fat, little, furious, ugly, poo eaters, darting, hovering, disturbing, bothersome, plaguy, irritating, nasty, grimy, attack, unsanitary, messy, filthy, black, foul, grubby, yucky, foul, unclean. maggots, crawly, loathsome, parasitic, disease

2. Poem

- Have this poem available on a large piece of paper, a power point or individual copies.
- Take time to read it out and allow space for the children to picture the images created.
- You may like to read it out a couple of times – you may like to encourage the young people to close their eyes for the second reading to really get their imaginations going.

The Fly

by *Walter de la Mare*

How large unto the tiny fly

Must little things appear!-

A rosebud like a feather bed,

Its prickle like a spear;

A dewdrop like a looking-glass,

A hair like golden wire;

The smallest grain of mustard-see

As fierce as coals of fire;

A loaf of bread, a lofty hill;

A wasp, a cruel leopard;

And specks of sale as bright to see

As lambkins to a shepherd.

3. Fly Art

Watch this clip showing some art created by John Knuth. He uses over 250,000 common house flies to create these images. He allows the flies to live out their life cycles from maggots to adult flies inside canvas walled rooms. To add colour and interest to these creations he feeds them sugar, water and food colouring.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=202&v=jHEXAsflhbA&feature=emb_logo

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4. Fly Facts

- Place the facts about flies all around the room.
- Walk around the facts and read what makes the humble fly amazing
(from Bryan Lessard <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUrv57P0VAg>)
- Then return to your place and spend some time looking at the amazing images of flies.

Without flies we wouldn't have chocolate! There is only one known pollinator of the cocoa plants which produces chocolate and that is a tiny little midge fly.

Flies contribute billions of dollars into the worldwide economy just through pollination of plants!

Flies can travel up to 80km/hr



Flies could be a future sustainable source of protein. Currently the black soldier fly larvae which is 45 percent protein is used as a suitable feed for chickens, pigs, and fish. Its production is much easier on the environment and could allow our land to regenerate.

Maggots can be used to heal. They can be used to treat rotting flesh wounds instead of expensive surgery. They only eat the rotting flesh and leave the living tissue alone. The maggots also have antibacterial saliva and their wriggling movements encourages wound healing. This therapy is used in US, Europe and Australia and saves up to \$1.9 billion US dollars a year!

Maggots are amazing composters because they love to eat organic waste and recycle it into essential nutrients which help to reduce landfill and improves the quality of our soil. If we didn't have flies we'd be surrounded by piles and piles of rubbish!

One day flies may power our cars. The oil from a black soldier fly can be extracted to produce biodiesel.

Did you know there was a fly named after Beyonce? It is called *Plinthina beyonceae* and has a bright yellow abdomen. (Image Credit CSIRO)



159,000 species of flies in the world and they represent 10-15% of all living life.

Most flying insects have 4 wings but flies only have two which allows them to fly up, down, side to side and even backwards. Their second pair of 'wings' has reduced in size to look like little drumsticks called halteres. They use them to help balance.

Flies don't have teeth. Flies suck their food up like a straw through their proboscis (nose). Typically, they vomit onto their food and the acid dissolves it making it easy to suck up!

Flies taste with their feet!

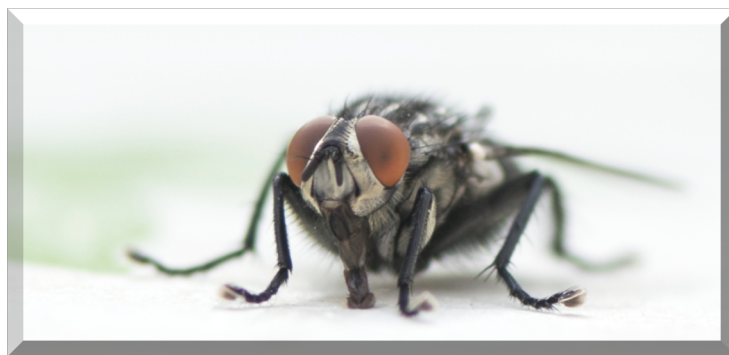
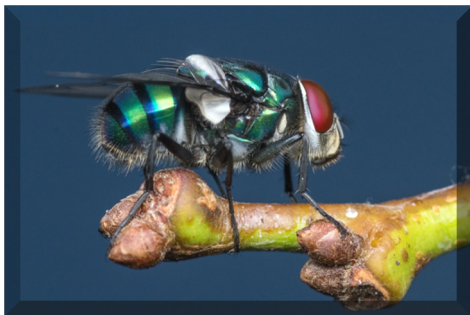
Flies can see nearly 360° around them because of their compound eyes!

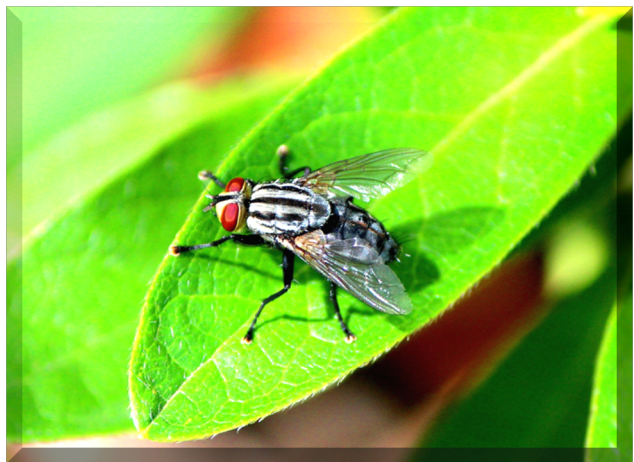


Flies have amazing reaction times. On average a human brain processes at 60 images in a second while a common household fly can process up to 250 images a second! No wonder it's so hard to catch them.

- Once they have read the facts return to their seats to look at the close-up images.
- Spend some time studying the images of these flies.
- Look at their colours, their designs and their complex shapes and patterns.
- Notice how the body parts are held together, the angles the patterns of the wings and the size of their proboscis!
- Can you see the tiny hairs all over their bodies?
- Can you spot the little sticky pads on the end of their feet that they use to taste and to stick to things?







- As a large group, create a new list of words that can be used to describe the fly using the new information that you have been working with:

Compound eyes, 360 vision, speedsters, agile, pollinators, colourful, complex, delicate, useful, necessary, alien like, resourceful, climbers, artists, quick, lively, healing, money savers, environmental warriors, repairs, restores, rehabilitate, customise, adaptable, food produces, food source, diverse

- On the other lens of your glasses use colours to draw an image of a fly that highlights something amazing, beautiful or unique about the fly.
- Write some of the words around the picture that describe for you what this image tells us about the fly.

Conclude by asking them if after spending time looking at the common fly through different eyes, their relationship with a fly shifted at all?

Can they see some beauty in the fly?

Can they see the usefulness of the fly?

Can they see that there is another way to view to common household fly?

Sometimes to access the wisdom of God we need to spend time trying to see things from a different point of view.

DISCUSSION:

(5-10 min)

To encourage a deeper understanding of wisdom, spend some time discussing these questions in groups or pairs.

Prompt questions:

- Is wisdom the same as knowledge? Why/why not?
- Do you have to know what is right and wrong to be wise?
- Who are some wise people you know? What makes them wise?
- Do you have to be smart to be wise?
- Is wisdom always about right and wrong?
- What difference does it make to life and relationships if you are wise?

(allow time for discussion between families/groups before sharing some responses)

SHARE THE GOSPEL:

(10- 15 min)

(Material needed: Bible)

God's wisdom is offered to us all, but not all of us choose to trust it and live it.

MATTHEW 7:24-27

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

This is the Word of the Lord.

- Read this gospel slowly out loud.
- Ask each of the young people to share a phrase or a word that stood out for them.
- Read this gospel out slowly again.
- Allow a time of silence.
- Ask them to share with the person beside them what they think the gospel is saying.
- Invite them to share what they think some of the 'words/teachings' are that Jesus is asking us to put into practice?

(love, care for the environment, forgiveness, understanding, patience, joy, peace, gentleness, self-control, solidarity, pray, wisdom, courage, inclusion, welcome, respect, hope, trust ...)



PRAYER SESSION:

(10-15min)

Begin to understand that God gives us wisdom so that we may live full lives, in right relationship with ourselves, others, the world and God.

Develop an understanding that Fear of the Lord means having a healthy respect for God's definition of good and evil.

Explore the idea that wisdom is accessible to everyone and can be used to build a better life.

Understand that wisdom is about applying knowledge so that we can live well.

Wisdom is seeing through the eyes of God not just our own lens.

God's wisdom is modelled in the life and teachings of Jesus.

(Materials needed: computer with song and sound system, prayer table, prayer cloth, candle and matches, globe, and magnifying glass,)

- Begin this session by setting up a focus table with a globe, and a magnifying glass, candle and matches.
- This represents our world and the invitation to see it through God's eyes. The focus also represents the idea that wisdom is a quality of God used to create our world.
- Sit in a circle around the table and to quieten the group play "Words of Wisdom" quietly inviting them to consider what words of wisdom God is sharing with them today.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju9eLGWxgg0&feature=emb_rel_end

- Hand out the prayer cards around the group.
- Play some background reflective music – explain that after the 3rd reading you will increase the music to allow time to think about the statement, and when you turn the volume down it is the cue for the next reader to begin.
- To help the young people see the connections and the flow of the prayer, explain that these reflections are in 3 parts.
The first is a piece of wisdom from the old testament the second as example of how Jesus lived this wisdom out, and the third is how we might use this wisdom in our lives.



1. Proverbs 3:3

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you.

PAUSE for 5 seconds

2. Matthew 4:10

“And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”

PAUSE for 5 seconds

3. Where in my life can I be more loyal to God’s plan for my life?

PAUSE for 10 seconds

(slightly increase the background music and allow time for the young people to consider the questions. When you lower the music it is the cue for the next reader to begin.)

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

4. Proverbs 11: 25

A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.

PAUSE for 5 seconds

5. Matthew 14:19-20

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

PAUSE for 5 seconds

6. Where in my life do I notice people who are generous?

PAUSE for 10 seconds

(slightly increase the background music and allow time for the young people to consider the questions. When you lower the music, it is the cue for the next reader to begin)

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

7. Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously defend the rights of the poor and needy.

PAUSE for 5 seconds

8. Luke 7:36-39

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them



with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.”

PAUSE for 5 seconds

9. Who in my life needs someone to stand up for them and support them?

PAUSE for 10 seconds

(slightly increase the background music and allow time for the young people to consider the questions. When you lower the music it is the cue for the next reader to begin)

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

10. Proverbs 17:9

One who forgives a wrong fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend.

PAUSE for 5 seconds

11. Luke 19:5-7

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.”

PAUSE for 5 seconds

12. Who is the someone in my life I need to work at forgiving?

PAUSE for 10 seconds

(slightly increase the background music and allow time for the young people to consider the questions)

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

13. LEADER: As our time of prayer draws to an end let us remember the quote from Pope Francis:

ALL: This is wisdom: it is the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. It is simply this: Seeing the world, situations, conjunctures, problems, everything with God's eyes. This is wisdom. Often we see things as we want to see them or according to our heart, with love, with hate, with envy. No, this is not God's eyes. Wisdom is what the Holy Spirit does within us so that we can see everything with God's eyes. This is the gift of wisdom (Pope Francis, 2014)

- Finish with the sign of the cross.



Conclusion: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

(10 min)

(Materials needed: Chairs for everyone)

To complete the workshop, finish off with this game. Introduce it by explaining that God's wisdom is modelled in the life and teachings of Jesus and that our main source for this information is in the Gospels –Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Game: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Each person has a chair.

- Put 4 chairs in a row at the top of the circle then place the rest of the chairs around to complete the circle.
- The four people at the top of the circle number off as, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and then number the other players from 1,2,3,4 until everyone has a number.
- Go around the circle checking that everyone knows their number.

(Once they get really good at this, I like to challenge them when they recite their numbers, to say it like an animal noise, or with an action, or lower in tone than the last person etc)

- The basic action for everyone to repeat is:
slap their knees then
clap their hands together,
then click right hand fingers,
then click left hand fingers,
SLAP, CLAP, RIGHT, LEFT and get a rhythm going.
- Matthew always starts and says "ready" and all start SLAP CLAP RIGHT LEFT 2 or 3 times until all are in rhythm.
- *Matthew* says when **slapping** "Mathew"
Matthew says when **clapping** "to"
Matthew says when **right click** "7" (or any number)
Player 7 only has the **left click** to react.
Player 7 then says when **slapping** "7"
Player 7 says when **clapping** "to"
Player 7 says when **right click** "Luke" or any number or name
- If you don't react fast enough you are out.
- Stop the action and if you are out, move to the last place number. Everyone else shuffles up to fill the gap.
- *The number stays with the seat not the player.*
- Name and numbers off again with the new seats.
- Matthew starts again. The aim is to end up on the top 4 chairs!
- A lot easier to play than describe
A great game when you are filling an unknown period of time as you can just call LAST Round when it suits you.



EXTRA MATERIAL:

TAKE HOME:

Give each family a copy of this prayer from the American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr.

Encourage the families to use this as part of their regular prayer:

God, give me grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.



RESOURCES:

Wisdom

LEARNING INTENTIONS

1. Begin to understand that God gives us wisdom so that we may live full lives, in right relationship with ourselves, others, the world and God.

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Wisdom

LEARNING INTENTIONS

4. Understand that wisdom is about applying knowledge so that we can live well.

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6. God's wisdom is modelled in the life and teachings of Jesus.





KNOWING GOD'S DEFINITION OF RIGHT AND WRONG AND ACTING ON IT.

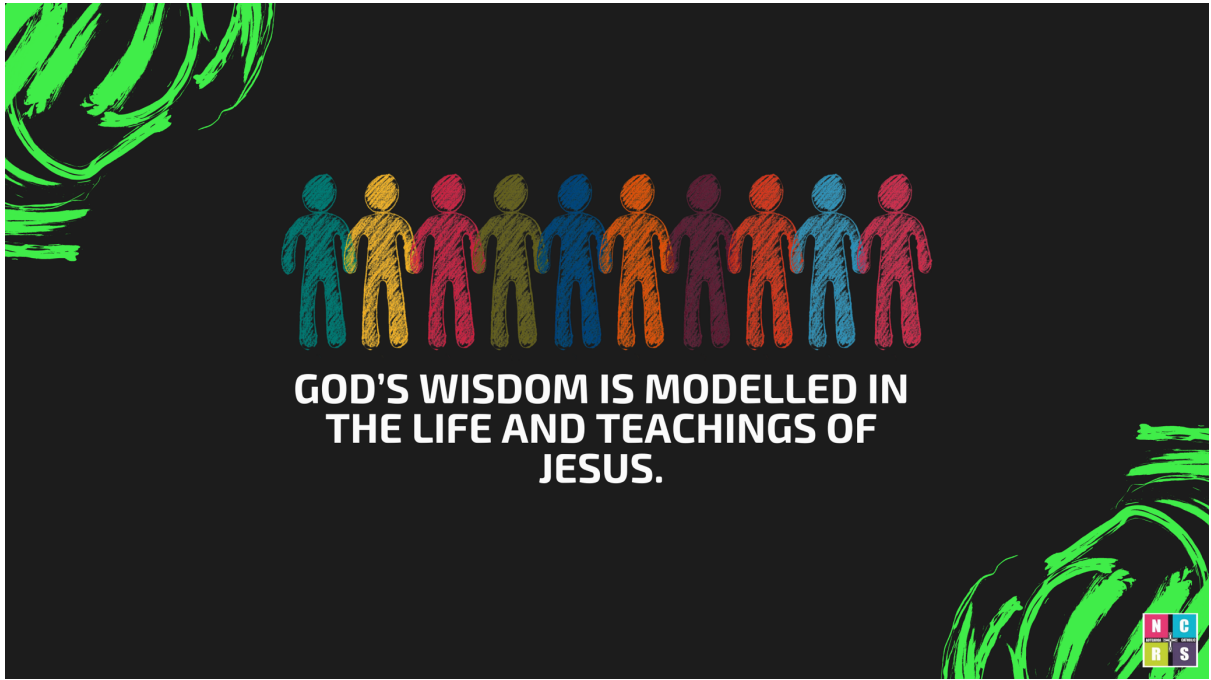


WISDOM

Accessible by anyone
TO BE USED TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE!







PROVERBS 3:13-14

Happy

ARE THOSE WHO FIND

wisdom

AND THOSE WHO GET

understanding

FOR THEIR INCOME IS

BETTER THAN

silver

AND THEIR REVENUE

BETTER THAN

gold



WOULD YOU RATHER...

Seeing the situation
through God's eyes.
Using wisdom in our
lives.

1

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Would you rather ... or ...

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You and your friend have an argument and have stopped speaking to each other.

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You hear someone in the school playground making fun of your family.

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Someone in your class cheated on a test, and you have proof.

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12

You have a date with someone you have liked for a really long time. That afternoon your best friend rings you and tells you that they have bought you tickets for a concert that same night.

Would you rather ... or ...

13

You want to try out for the school play, but the auditions are on at the same time as your sports game.

Would you rather ... or ...

14

You have been watching a show on Netflix and duck off to go to the toilet. When you come back your brother/sister has changed the channel.

Would you rather ... or ...

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Would you rather ... or ...

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Would you rather ... or ...

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Would you rather ... or ...

18

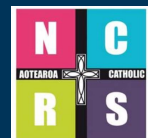
Would you rather ... or ...





*This is **wisdom**: it is the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. It is simply this: Seeing the world, situations, conjunctures, problems, everything with God's eyes. This is **wisdom**. Often, we see things as we want to see them or according to our heart, with love, with hate, with envy. No, this is not God's eyes. **Wisdom** is what the Holy Spirit does within us so that we can see everything with God's eyes. This is the gift of **wisdom***

**POPE FRANCIS
2014**



#THE FLY

How large unto the tiny fly
Must little things appear!-
A rosebud like a feather bed,
Its prickle like a spear;

A dewdrop like a looking-glass,
A hair like golden wire;
The smallest grain of mustard-see
As fierce as coals of fire;

A loaf of bread, a lofty hill;
A wasp, a cruel leopard;
And specks of sale as bright to see
As lambkins to a shepherd.

BY WALTER DE LA MARE



Maggots can be used to heal. They can be used to treat rotting flesh wounds instead of expensive surgery. They only eat the rotting flesh and leave the living tissue alone. The maggots also have antibacterial saliva and their wriggling movements encourages wound healing. This therapy is used in US, Europe and Australia and saves up to \$1.9 billion US dollars a year!

Flies can travel up to 80km/hr

Did you know there was a fly names after Beyonce? It is called *Plinthina beyonceae* and has a bright yellow abdomen.

(Image Credit CSIRO)



Flies contribute billions of dollars into the worldwide economy just through pollination of plants!

Maggots are amazing composters because they love to eat organic waste and recycle it into essential nutrients which help to reduce landfill and improves the quality of our soil. If we didn't have flies we'd be surround by piles and piles on rubbish!

Flies could be a future sustainable source of protein. Currently the black soldier fly larvae which is 45 percent protein is used as a suitable feed for chickens, pigs, and fish. Its production is much easier on the environment and could allow our land to regenerate.

159,000 species of flies in the world and they represent 10-15% of all living life.

One day flies may power our cars.
The oil from a black soldier fly can be extracted to produce biodiesel.

Most flying insects have 4 wings, but flies only have two which allows them to fly up, down, side to side and even backwards. Their second pair of 'wings' has reduced in size to look like little drumsticks called halteres. They use them to help balance.

Flies can see nearly 360o around them because of their compound eyes!



Flies have amazing reaction times. On average a human brain processes at 60 images in a second while a common household fly can process up to 250 images a second! No wonder it's so hard to catch them.

Flies taste with their feet!



Without flies we wouldn't have chocolate!

There is only one known pollinator of the cocoa plants which produces chocolate and that is a tiny little midge fly.

Flies don't have teeth. Flies suck their food up like a straw through their proboscis (nose). Typically, they vomit onto their food and the acid dissolves it making it easy to suck up!



Prayer Cards:

1. Proverbs 3:3
Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you.
PAUSE for 5 seconds

2. Matthew 4:10
“And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”
PAUSE for 5 seconds

3. Where in my life can I be more loyal to God’s plan for my life?
PAUSE for 10 seconds

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

4. Proverbs 11:25
A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.
PAUSE for 5 seconds

5. Matthew 14:19-20
Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.
PAUSE for 5 seconds

6. Where in my life do I notice people who are generous?
PAUSE for 10 seconds

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

7. Proverbs 31:8-9
Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously defend the rights of the poor and needy.
PAUSE for 5 seconds

8. Luke 7:36-39

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner."

PAUSE for 5 seconds

9. Who in my life needs someone to stand up for them and support them?

PAUSE for 10 seconds

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

10. Proverbs 17:9

One who forgives a wrong fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend.

PAUSE for 5 seconds

11. Luke 19:5-7

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner."

PAUSE for 5 seconds

12. Who is the someone in my life I need to work at forgiving?

PAUSE for 10 seconds

RESPONSE: Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. (James 3:13)

13. LEADER: As our time of prayer draws to an end let us remember the quote from Pope Francis:

ALL: This is wisdom: it is the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. It is simply this: Seeing the world, situations, conjunctures, problems, everything with God's eyes. This is wisdom. Often we see things as we want to see them or according to our heart, with love, with hate, with envy. No, this is not God's eyes. Wisdom is what the Holy Spirit does within us so that we can see everything with God's eyes. This is the gift of wisdom (Pope Francis, 2014)



