

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2016
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults for Session 8

Introduction: *Help the group analyze worldly perspectives.*

Write the following quote, attributed to Aristotle, on a board or large piece of paper: “Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.”

Engage learners in discussing the quote by asking, “Is this quote true? Why or why not? What words could you replace to make it true?”

Ask, “What does the Bible define as the beginning of all wisdom?” Enlist three volunteers to read Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7, and Proverbs 9:10. Say something along the lines of the following statement: “The Bible is clear on the source of wisdom. Today we’ll look at how wisdom affects our daily lives.”

Point 1: *Perform an object lesson.*

Bring items from home that many people in society would consider to make one intelligent: a thick non-fiction book, an electronic tablet, a diploma or graduation cap, a scholarly magazine, and a piece of equipment from a job that requires higher education (such as a stethoscope or graphing calculator). Display the different items, asking volunteers to consider other things they thought would make them wise but gave only learning.

Read aloud the first paragraph under Point 1 on page 75 in the Personal Study Guide. Hold up your Bible. Say something like, “We can get learning from many places. But only knowledge of God—found in His holy Word—can take our knowledge and make us wise.”

Point 3: *Analyze obedience.*

Read the proverbs aloud and encourage learners to guess the current saying that corresponds with each verse (listed in parentheses).

- “The mind of the righteous person thinks before answering, but the mouth of the wicked blurts out evil things” (Prov. 15:28). (*Think before you speak.*)
- “Seldom set foot in your neighbor’s house; otherwise, he’ll get sick of you and hate you” (25:17). (*Don’t wear out your welcome.*)

- “Without wood, fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down” (26:20). (*It takes two to tango.*)
- “A slacker’s craving will kill him because his hands refuse to work” (21:25). (*All talk and no action.*)
- “Complete your outdoor work, and prepare your field; afterward, build your house” (24:27). (*First things first.*)
- “A person who is passing by and meddles in a quarrel that’s not his is like one who grabs a dog by the ears” (26:17). (*Mind your own business.*)

[Source: Roy Demarest, “Proverbs,” Life Hope & Truth [online], 2016 [5 July 2016]. Available from the Internet: [http://lifehopeandtruth.com/bible/holy-bible/old-testament/the-writings/proverbs/.](http://lifehopeandtruth.com/bible/holy-bible/old-testament/the-writings/proverbs/)]

Assign learners the task of flipping through the Book of Proverbs and finding a wise instruction they can do this week. Challenge them to write it down on something and put it in a conspicuous place so they will choose to obey God’s wisdom daily.

Conclusion: *Close with a missionary story.*

If you are familiar with some missionaries and their stories, share it with the class. If not, you may want to share this one, “My Roommate, Jim Elliot”: <https://urbana.org/blog/my-roommate-jim-elliott>.

Point out that many people find wisdom from God to be unwise; however, only when we are willing to believe fully that Christ is all we need are we able to know true wisdom.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Make the wisdom of Proverbs part of your meeting area. Invite some volunteers with artistic flair to paint some simple canvases with proverbs and hang them up in the room where your group meets. The canvases will be a lasting reminder of today’s important lesson.