

# Lesson 6

## God Gives Understanding

**Bible Lesson:** I Kings 3:3-28

**Memory Verse:** Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. *Proverbs 9-10*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer. *Psalms 19:14*

**Catechism Memory Work:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul...

### TEACHER PREPARATION

#### Prepare to Teach...

- ✠ That God created us with minds that can learn, think, comprehend, and understand.
- ✠ That the same God Who gave Solomon great wisdom and understanding is our God and He continues to give wisdom and understanding today.

#### Prepare Materials:

*Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:*  
No additional materials needed for this lesson.

### BIBLE BACKGROUND

#### A. Prayer Preparation

As you prepare this lesson on *God Gives Understanding*, pray that God will give you understanding of the material you are to teach and that He would prepare the students' hearts and minds to receive and understand the lesson.

#### B. Bible Study I Kings 3:3-28

#### C. Creed Study

The Christian in this world is often accused of not using their brain. The unbeliever says that we are not thinking when we are proclaiming our faith in God and especially in the works of creation and redemption. In the Apostles' Creed we reject such a comment and declare that our minds and our understanding is a gift from God to be used for His glory and for the benefit of all people. We thank God for the wisdom and knowledge available to us.

In fact, a study of history will find that many of our finest educational institutions were begun by Christians seeking to cultivate the use of their minds and increase their knowledge of creation. This is also true when we examine the founders of many of our modern fields of study. Many of those individuals were Christians seeking to understand more completely the wonderful creation that God has allowed us to enjoy. When we confess in the Creed that He has provided us these things it is no wonder that many believers have made it their profession to explain and teach how this wonderful world works.

We also note that in teaching children to read and write we are doing this so that they might be able to read the Word of God and hear what God has done for them. In teaching them to write, we are providing an avenue that they might communicate the Word of God to their own friends and family. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Article we

are confessing that our reason is to be subject to God's Word and not that the Word of God is subject to our reason.

Luther's meaning to the 1<sup>st</sup> Article points out that God give us "all the powers of my soul." Again when we turn to the Word of God we see that we are created by God with a physical body but also an eternal soul. This reminds us that we are unique in creation. Angels are described as being spirit with no body, animals have bodies but no soul, and people have both body and soul.

Because of sin, our souls are full of corruption and wander along their own paths away from God. As it says in Isaiah 53:6, "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." Our soul has no real power on its own. We are confessing in the 1<sup>st</sup> Article that any power that our soul has comes from God. As Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

There are many who have denied that God is their creator or that He even exists (Psalm 14:1). But rejoice that in the Scripture God has been revealed to us and that in the Creed we are able to confess that we believe that He exists. Indeed, this is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:9-10).

## BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### Welcome

Since this lesson begins with a boy named Sam who is frustrated because he can't remember some dates he'll be tested on in school, greet the children by asking them to recall some dates.

**SAY** *Good morning, (insert child's name), what year were you born?* (Answers will vary)

Or any of the following:

- *What year did the American colonies declare their independence from Great Britain?* (1776)
- *What year are we currently living in?* (Answer will vary)
- *What year did Abraham Lincoln become president of America?* (1861)
- *What year did Canada receive their independence from Great Britain?* (1867)

Some dates are intentionally meant to be easier than others.

### Open with Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father. Thank you for creating us with brains that can think and remember and understand many things about You and Your created world. Help us to remember that there is always something new to learn. We pray that You will help us to understand the new things we learn and use the new information to serve You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

### Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

**From the Bible:** Psalm 32:7

And

**From the Catechism:** *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members,*

### Review

Place the Ship Questions from Lesson 5 in the "Surprise Sack". As a review of Lesson 5, have each student pull a Ship Question from the "Surprise Sack," read it, and give the answer. Fill in any important details the student may have missed.

End by **ASKING:** Who is always with us? (*God*)  
**SAY** Today we will learn that our ever-present God, Who is always there for us, is also willing and able to give us understanding. Before we read the lesson, let's learn some new words.

### Introduce Wall Words

**Organized**—sorting through something and putting it in a logical order

**Discernment**—the ability to grasp or understand something that is not clear or easily seen by the average person; the ability to decide truth from error, right from wrong

**Proverbs**—short saying with deep meanings

**Judgment**—a decision that is made after considering all sides of a situation

**Comprehend**—the ability to grasp or understand what something means

**Observing**—looking at, seeing, or watching someone or something

**Meditate**—Meditating is deeply thinking about or pondering an idea or situation for a long period of time. The writer of Psalm 104:34, reminds himself

and us that our meditations, the things we think about, should be pleasing to the Lord. And, Philippians 4:8 list the things the Christian should let his/her mind dwell on: "...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

## Introduce the Lesson

**SAY** to the students, when you came in to class, I asked you questions. Some of the questions were easier than others. You knew some of the answers, but probably not all of them because you either haven't learned them yet, or you have learned them but no longer remember them.

## Teach the Lesson

Let's **READ** about a boy named Sam who was studying for a history test and was having trouble remembering the information he studied. **READ** paragraphs 1-3. **DRAW** the students' attention back to the beginning of paragraph 3 where it says, "God has created people with minds to learn many facts and the wisdom and ability to make connections between those facts." **REMINDE** the students that they do need to study and work hard to learn new things. But, they can do more. They can go to the Source of all truth. They can go to God in prayer and ask Him for help in understanding. See II Timothy 2:7 and James 1:5.

**SAY** The Bible tells us about a man who received great wisdom from God. His name was Solomon. **INTRODUCE** the students to Solomon. **READ** paragraph 4.

**ASK** What did Solomon ask God to give to him? (*wisdom*) **NAME** some of Solomon's accomplishments. (*discernment to rule the people; great knowledge of trees, plants, and animals; composed many songs and proverbs*) **SAY** One day

two women brought a very difficult situation before Solomon. Let's read about the situation and Solomon's very unusual and wise solution. **READ** paragraphs 5-7.

**ASK** What were the two women fighting over? (*a child*) What was Solomon's strange solution to the problem? (*Solomon ordered the child to be cut in half so the two women could share the child.*) [NOTE: Though this account might seem a little graphic for fourth graders, it is a part of the Word of God and, as such, should not be avoided. However, be sensitive to the students' reactions. Try to avoid any distress.]

Though Solomon's solution seems awful, it caused each woman to show her true feelings. **ASK** How did each of the women respond to Solomon's judgment? (*One woman agreed with the judgment and was willing to have the baby divided; one woman, the one who truly loved the child, was unwilling to have the baby divided, but desired to have the baby live even if it couldn't live with her.*)

How did Solomon know which woman to give the baby to? (*He knew the loving mother was the woman who was willing to give up her rights in order to allow the baby to live.*) Where did Solomon's wisdom come from? (*God*)

God continues to give understanding to people today. **READ** paragraphs 8 and 9 for a summary of how God has created us with minds that can learn, think, comprehend, and understand.

**ENCOURAGE** children to ask God to give them understanding of the things they learn. He wants us to use our minds to know Him and His Word. He wants us to learn about and care for His creation. He wants us to use our abilities to serve Him. **THANK** God for the mind and abilities He has given each one of us.

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Memory Work

**BIBLE VERSE**—Proverbs 9:9-10

*Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

**CATECHISM**—Have each student add the next segment of the Meaning to the First Article of The Apostles' Creed:

Add: *my reason and all the powers of my soul,*

Then the student may draw whatever kind of line he wishes to make an edge for the puzzle piece. Cut the piece off along that line.

Allow students time to place all their puzzle pieces together. At this point, the students should have pieces for the following portion of The Apostles' Creed:

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul,*

Then read together all the segments of the Apostles' Creed that the students have.

Students should place the puzzle piece in their envelope.

Send the puzzle home with the students and encourage them to put their puzzle together once a day, read through it, and memorize the new section and any other sections they haven't committed to memory.

See sample puzzle at the front of this Teacher Manual.

## Activity Pages

### Activity 1—Fill-in the Blank

ANSWERS

1. Solomon
2. Solomon, wisdom, discernment
3. World
4. Proverbs
5. Babies
6. Living
7. Mother
8. Comprehend
9. God's Word (the Bible)

### Activity 2—Memory Verse Review

ANSWERS

1. I Thessalonians 5:24
2. II Timothy 3:14
3. Psalm 33:6
4. Psalm 32:7
5. Proverbs 9:9-10
6. Psalm 139:14

## CLOSING THE LESSON

### Closing Prayer

*Dear God,  
We praise You that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We realize that because we are sinners our minds have been darkened by sin so we don't understand everything the way You do. Please give us understanding that we may know You and Your creation more and more. Thank You for the minds and abilities that You have given us. We desire to use them to serve You. We pray that through the understanding You give us, others would be pointed to Jesus. Amen.*

### Assignment

1. Ask students to bring one of their favorite toys to class next week.
2. Remind students to continue memorizing the Apostles' Creed and its meaning
3. Encourage students to take their Activity page home and use it to tell someone what they learned today in class. If there wasn't sufficient time to complete the Activity sheets in class have students finish them at home and bring them to class next week.
4. Remind students to memorize Proverbs 9:9-10.
5. Challenge advanced students to also memorize Psalm 19:14.