

Lesson 6: God's Wisdom and God's Power

Part 1: Introduction

Imagine you had just been elected as the leader of your community and asked to oversee the project of changing your community into a model community for your area. (A model community is an example of what a perfect community would be like so everyone can learn from you.)

- What are some of the resources that you would need? Try to think about everything including experts, money, new roads, etc.

REPORT BACK

Facilitator Instructions: *As you listen to the reports, thank everyone for their efforts. Make a note of any groups that mention ideas like prayer, God's power, God's wisdom, etc. If no groups mention any of these topics, then ask the class if they can think of anything they may have forgotten.*

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14.

- What do we need to do to see our land healed?
- Who needs to do these things?
- As we do these things what will God do?

Part 2: God's Wisdom

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Facilitator Instructions: *Assign each group a passage and questions to discuss or write each passage and its questions on separate papers. Then give each group one paper to read and discuss. If some groups finish early, have them trade sheets with each other.*

Read 1 Kings 3:7-14.

- What did Solomon ask for?
- What was God's reaction?

Read James 1:5.

- What does James tell us to ask for?
- How does God respond according to James?

Read Psalm 81:11-16.

- What did the people of Israel fail to do?
- What would God have done if they had listened

Read Isaiah 55:8-9.

- How does God describe His ways and His thoughts?

REPORT BACK

- What can we learn from all of these verses?

Read a story of how God gave wisdom in one community.

In one community their dream was to have a tractor. They had drawn it in their plan, but it seemed impossible that they would ever have enough money to buy one. Each month as they gathered, they would pray and ask God what they could do next to see their community become more like God intended.

One time as they were gathered, they felt like God spoke to them and said, 'If you widen the walking track to the crop area, then I will give you a tractor.' The church immediately responded and widened the 3-kilometre road so that it would fit a cart.

That year everyone could grow so much more, since they didn't have to carry the harvest out on their backs. And with the crops on carts, they were able to transport it more quickly. They took more to the market to sell, and it was much fresher when it got there, so they were able to get a better price. The villagers were so grateful to the church they brought them some of the extra profit. It was a large sum of money!

The church prayed and asked God how they should use the money, and He reminded them that He had promised them a tractor. The money was to buy that tractor.

- How did the church know what to do?
- What was the church's response to what God was showing them to do?
- What happened in the end?

Part 3: God's Multiplication

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

David & Goliath

The Philistine and Israelites were at battle. The Philistines sent a giant named Goliath into battle and declared that the Israelites had to send someone to fight him. If that person won, then the Philistines would lose the war and leave Israel. If Goliath won, then the Israelites would lose the war and become slaves to the Philistines. David was too young to go to battle, but when he heard Goliath mocking God he volunteered to fight.

Read 1 Samuel 17:32-49.

- What did David do?
- Why did David do it?
- What was the result?
- Do you think this would have happened if David hadn't gone to fight?

Elisha and the Widow

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7.

- What was the situation of the widow?
- What did she do?
- What did God do?
- What was the result?

Jericho

Read Joshua 6:1-5, 12-14, 15-17, 20.

- What did God show them to do?
- What did they do?
- What was the result?

Naaman

This is the story of Naaman. He was the commander of the army of Syria—a very powerful man. However, he had leprosy and heard that in Israel there was a prophet that could heal him. So he went to meet Elisha the prophet.

Read 2 Kings 5:9-14.

- What did Elisha tell him to do?
- What was Naaman's reaction?
- What happened when Naaman obeyed?

REPORT BACK

Part 4: Building Materials

In one TCT community, the church felt God challenging them to build stable homes for everyone in the community. They did a survey of the area and decided there were 35 houses that were about to fall down and needed to be rebuilt or repaired. Over time, the church members collected resources and volunteered their time to complete the work. They were able to finish 17 of the 35 homes. However, after completing the 17th house, they realized they had no resources left to rebuild the remaining 18 houses. Rather than becoming discouraged and giving up on the task they had set out to complete, the church members decided to get together to pray and fast one night to ask God to help them finish the project.

The next morning as they left the church, large trucks filled with building materials pulled up outside the church and started dumping their loads. Confused, the church members rushed to tell the truck drivers that they had the wrong address. No one had ordered any building materials, and no one there was able to pay for all these supplies. The truck drivers quickly responded that the materials were the church's responsibility now, and if they didn't want the materials, they would have to move them. Further discussion revealed that the materials were surplus from a nearby warehouse, and they were being disposed of to make space for new materials. When the church leaders asked the truck drivers why they had dumped the materials there in front of the church, the drivers simply replied, "We were tired of driving, and just felt like dumping the materials so we could get back to the warehouse."

So the church received all these building materials for free. It miraculously turned out to be enough to finish the rest of the houses for the community.

- Why did the church want to build a house for everyone?
- What did the church do?
- What did God do?
- Do you think that God would have provided the materials if the church hadn't done what they were able to (building 17 houses) first?