

life in the **VERBS**

Nine sessions on wise living from Proverbs



**Secondary
School**



Lunchtime Group Resource

life in the **VERBS**

Nine sessions on wise living from Proverbs



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

Although all pages from **life in the VERBS** may be photocopied for use in Christian groups, Crusaders request that each school purchase at least one original. However, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, recording, or any other – except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

All rights reserved.

Scriptures marked as '(NCV)' are taken from the New Century Version. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise stated, Scripture taken from the Holy Bible New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 8 sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- 1 set of leader's notes for an outreach meeting.
- 7 student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passages (NIV) and questions. Note there is no student page for Week 2 or Week 5.
- 2 colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage Independent schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital before each meeting to read the Bible passages and adapt the questions to the specific needs of your group.
- A variety of video clips and other resources are used in this series. These can be accessed from the Web Extras section of the Crusaders website:

www.crusaders.edu.au/ministry/resourcewebextras

- Note that the outreach session (Week 2) needs a bit more planning than other sessions. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs doing.
- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:28–29*

life in the VERBS

Week	Title	Key Passage	Main Idea
1	Choose Your Own Adventure	Proverbs 8:11	Desire wisdom Wisdom is the one thing that can lead us to a life that works.
2	Outreach Week	Proverbs 3:5-8, 19:3	An opportunity to bring friends so that they hear the gospel and experience the group.
3	Golden Oldies	Proverbs 4:10-13	Love advice The wise person embraces advice from older people who have already walked the path of life.
4	Think Before You Leap	Proverbs 14:15	Think ahead The wise person takes time to think about where a path will lead before taking it.
5	My Proverb		An opportunity to ponder some proverbs and express your own favourites.
6	Words That Work	Proverbs 18:21a	Watch your words The wise person seeks to use words that bring life to others, not death.
7	Sex That Works	Proverbs 5:3-8, 15-21 Proverbs 7 & 31	Pursue purity The wise person flees lust and pursues sexual purity.
8	Friendships That Work	Proverbs 12:26	Consider your companions The wise person builds close friendships, especially with people who will help them live for God.
9	Work That Works	Proverbs 23:4-5	Work responsibly The wise person works hard but does not wear themselves out to get rich.

Choose Your Own Proverbs 8:11

AIM

For students to desire wisdom above other things so they can make good choices in life.

PREPARE

- ❑ Familiarise yourself with the content and context of Proverbs 8:1-3, 11, and 33-36. Pray that students will grow in their desire for wisdom.
- ❑ Photocopy the Week 1 student page (page 24) for everyone.
- ❑ Fun Activity A - Ensure you have facilities to show the Web Extras video clip 'The Time Machine: An Interactive Adventure'. You will need 'live' internet.
- ❑ Optional - create invites for next week's outreach.

Advertising your group....

- A.** 'The Time Machine: An Interactive Adventure' video clips provide a great avenue for advertising your group to the whole school. You could...
- play the initial one or two clips at assembly and tell students the mission will continue at the group (where you will also be talking about how to make choices in life that work).
 - play a single clip each week at assembly and get the entire school to vote on which path to take next week. Each week advertise the group.
- B.** Web Extras also contains several other video clips you could use to promote this Proverbs series each week at assembly.

FUN ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to get students thinking about choices and their outcomes.

Choose Your Own Adventure - watch the clip 'The Time Machine: An Interactive Adventure'. At the end of the clip you will be presented with two paths to choose between. One path leads to failure, the other takes you a step closer to completing the mission. Get the group to vote on which path to take.

Click on the corresponding link and you will be taken to the next part of the story. If you have chosen correctly the mission will continue and you will be presented with another choice. Whenever you choose incorrectly your path will lead to failure. The goal is to keep choosing the correct paths until the mission is achieved.

Note: It takes 4 correct guesses to complete the mission. The minimum amount of time you can complete the mission in is 12 mins (add another minute for each incorrect choice you make). If you don't have this long, you could ...

- show the first couple of clips at assembly/chapel
- leave them hanging & finish the mission next week
- spread the mission out across the whole term by just making a single choice each week.

INTRODUCE

Introduce this series by highlighting that life is like a 'choose your own adventure'. We are all walking the path of life and each day have choices to make - these take us down paths that are either fruitful or empty. Proverbs is a book about how to make choices in life that work.

It is important to acknowledge there are many things in life we don't get to choose (e.g. family, illness) - some of these can be painful. Proverbs promises to help us with the things we can choose.

Adventure



DISCUSS

1. Get students to answer Q1 in pairs.

What is the most recent choice you have made? most stupid choice? most significant choice?

2. **Have you ever taken a path you thought would work out well but it didn't? What went wrong?**

Today we have more options than ever - many paths promise to lead us to the good life, but they don't all deliver. Some students may already have tasted the truth of Proverbs 14:12 - "there is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."

This is why choosing which paths to take in life is so hard - they don't always lead where we think they will. Many voices call out to us and we must choose which ones we listen to. Such choices can shape the rest of our life.

3. The great message of Proverbs is that there is one voice who can steer us to a life that works. Get students to listen for whose voice this is from Proverbs 8:1-3.

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'wisdom'?

We often think wisdom = intellect. In Proverbs though, wisdom is a skill (see the student page quote for an example of the difference). Wisdom is the practical skill of being able to make choices that work and avoid choices that fail. Wisdom stands where the paths meet (verse 2) like a GPS navigator, ready to show us which way to go when it comes to things like friends, sex, money and words.

Many intelligent people are fools - they head down paths that wreck their life because they don't get wisdom. Many not so intelligent people are wise - they head down paths that work because they get wisdom.

4. Read Proverbs 8:33-36, where wisdom is personified.

What promises does wisdom make to you?

- 'I can be yours' (verses 33-34): *wisdom promises if you listen to her daily, you will become wise.*
- 'If you find me, you will find life' (verses 34-35): *wisdom promises she can show you which paths lead to happiness, wholeness and life.*
- 'If you don't find me, you will find death' (verse 36): *wisdom promises that if you ignore her you will take paths that lead to disaster, harm & death.*

APPLY & PRAY

Read out Proverbs 8:11.

Which of these would you give up if it meant you could have wisdom (i.e. you could make choices in life that work well)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> looks | <input type="checkbox"/> popularity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> money | <input type="checkbox"/> brains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> girl/boyfriend | <input type="checkbox"/> sex |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sport | <input type="checkbox"/> friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> internet | <input type="checkbox"/> brand name stuff |

In small groups, share from your list one thing you would struggle to give up for wisdom and why. Ask God to help you desire wisdom even more than these things.

FINISH

Get students to think of two friends they can invite to the outreach next week. Emphasise that the outreach (and the rest of these sessions on Proverbs) will be all about how we get this wisdom that is so good.

Week 1

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Proverbs 8:1-3, 33-36

¹ Does not wisdom call out?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

² On the heights along the way,

where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

³ beside the gates leading into the city,

at the entrances, she cries aloud...

³³ "Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.

³⁴ Blessed is the man who listens to me,

watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life

and receives favor from the LORD.

³⁶ But whoever fails to find me harms himself;

all who hate me love death."



knowledge is knowing that a
tomato is a fruit. wisdom is not
putting it in a fruit salad.

BRIAN O'DRISCOLL, IRISH RUGBY UNION CAPTAIN

1 What is the most recent choice you have made? most stupid choice? most significant choice?

2 Have you ever taken a path you thought would work out well but it didn't? What went wrong?

3 What comes to mind when you hear the word 'wisdom'?

4 What promises does wisdom make to you (verses 33-36)?

Apply: "For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her." Proverbs 8:11

Which of these would you give up if it meant you could have wisdom (i.e. you could make choices in life that work)?

looks

popularity

money

brains

girl/boyfriend

sex

sport

friends

internet

brand name stuff