Words of Wisdom
Theme: O.W.L. Sanctuary
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Editorial by Joni Owens

About Psalms and Proverbs

As we take our five children’s levels of Word Aflame curriculum through the Bible, you can imagine the struggle trying to determine what is age appropriate for each level while still keeping all the levels aligned. Psalms and Proverbs offer some amazing passages for memorization and discussion . . . but they offer no Bible narratives. I confess the words of wisdom this quarter brought a bit of a challenge. Thankfully God gave us wisdom and showed us some wonderful narratives from throughout His Word that could easily correlate and support the wise words we wanted to share each week.

Our Bible stories do not simply share facts, but they tell God’s story, what He has done and continues to do in the lives of His creation. Through them, we help our students apply elements of God’s wisdom, just as Noah and Abigail did when they made right choices. The stories open discussions about key attributes of God, such as the mercy David found. These true accounts of praise and thanks, such as Miriam’s dance and Paul’s thankful letter, promote spiritual growth in our young students.

As you study these lessons focusing on God’s words of wisdom, take time to reflect on how they affect your Christian walk. Ask God to help you share it on the level your children best comprehend. They are not too young to hear and apply His words of wisdom as they grow in relationship with Him.

CUSTOMIZE THE CURRICULUM
Teacher Manual Downloadable Resources
The Beginner Teacher’s Manual is available as PDF and DOC documents that can be customized to fit your teaching style, classroom setting, and schedule. Cut and paste, edit material out of or into the lesson, and make it your own using the following instructions.

Downloadable resources for both the teacher’s manual and the teacher’s resource packet (TRP) are available through access codes.

1. Visit www.pentecostalpublishing.com to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click sign in to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click create an account to open an account for the site.
3. Hover over the view cart menu link and click the view cart button.
4. Enter code in the Coupon Code box on the screen and click update cart. (The file should display on the screen and reflect that the download comes at no charge.)
5. Click continue and then submit order. You will see a button with the name of the zip file. Click on this button to download the resource.
6. This coupon code will be valid for one year from the date of the first lesson.

Teacher’s Resource Packet Downloadable Resources
To access the reproducible items from the resource packet (TRP), see the resource packet instruction sheet.

If you have not purchased a packet, you can do so by going to www.pentecostalpublishing.com or calling 866-819-7667.

NOTE: Not all lessons offer downloadable resources.
Reproduction of these resources is granted for local church use only, and only to those who have purchased the appropriate Word Aflame materials.

Our archive of teacher training articles is available online without access codes. Click the “Teacher Training” link at the bottom of the Pentecostal Publishing website home page. Other resources at this link include a classroom Standard Supply List, Childhood Characteristics, and Student Information Form.
Theme Development

Owls have long been associated with wisdom, so what better theme development for a series on Psalms and Proverbs than our wise old friend, Mr. Owl. Our décor focus will be the Owl Sanctuary, where owls can be treated for injuries, can be fed, and receive any needed special care. Sanctuaries provide owl hospitals for injured birds (owls are often hit by vehicles). There are owl incubators to raise baby owls so their breed can continue. Some sanctuaries help create special nesting boxes so owls can live in areas becoming urbanized.

That sounds much like our O.W.L. (Our Wise Lord) Sanctuary, which serves as a hospital for the sick and hurting, be it spiritually or emotionally. Scripture and the body of Christ are responsible for the feeding and care of hungry humans, though anyone at any age can realize the primary source of spiritual food will always be the Word of God, be it in devotions or through the preaching of the Word. The church is our spiritual home. Plus, both the Owl Sanctuary and O.W.L. Sanctuary need the generous donations of outsiders.

After reading thorough our ideas, take time to search sites such as Pinterest and teacher supply stores for ready-made décor pieces and ideas. The owl theme is a popular school décor theme, so there is no shortage of options. All five children’s levels feature this theme, so brainstorm with the rest of the staff to coordinate best usage of theme art and still make each room unique. When your room is complete, take pictures and share on our Facebook page.

Walls

Three walls will be devoted to the sanctuary theme, while the teaching wall will focus on the O.W.L. Sanctuary. The teaching wall has the writing board, Kids in Missions map (TRP), memory charts (AP), and weekly teaching props. Above the writing board, add the title banner, O.W.L. Sanctuary (TRP).

Use bright fall colors everywhere to create a cheerful sanctuary—perches, water bowls, food bowls, supply cabinets, birdcages, and so on. If you have a 3-D tree in your room, add bright fall leaves to the tree. Secure an owl or two to its branches.

Use the theme art (TRP) to create extra owls from posterboard. Children will not mind if the owls are not realistic; use bright oranges, reds, golds, greens, and purples. Let this be a fun room students enjoy.

Be sure to keep most items at children’s eye level so they don’t have to constantly look up to enjoy their room décor. An empty upper third wall will not bother a child; his focus is on
things at his level. Nothing should be higher than the teacher’s head, and those items should be minimal, such as letters or banners that title a wall.

**Wise Owls**

Use colorful painter’s tape to vertically divide the wall in two segments: one for owls, one for Christians. At adult height where the vertical tape ends, add colorful block letters spelling *WHOOO DO YOU SEE?*

On the left half of the wall, create the following three scenes and mount at children’s level.

- Add a green hillside against a medium blue sky with an orange sun setting behind the hill, all cut from construction paper. Mount the Eagle Owl (*TRP*) on a brown paper post. The eagle owl hunts at dusk and dawn.
- Add a green hillside against a light blue sky with a yellow sun high in the sky. Mount the Snowy Owl (*TRP*) on a brown paper post. The snowy owl hunts during the day.
- Add a green hillside against a dark sky with a moon overhead. Mount the Barn Owl (*TRP*) on a brown paper post. The barn owl hunts at night.

In the center of the right half of the wall, mount the unit 1 memory poster (*TRP*) at children’s level. Children will go to this wall to study the verse during unit 1. Surround the poster with theme art that is part of a Christian’s life: a Bible, a church, a smiley face, a heart, and Jesus. Mount pictures of your students around this collage.

**The Sanctuary**

As owls find help at their sanctuary, we find help at our sanctuary—the church. At adult height, add colorful letters that spell OWL SANCTUARY. Mount the unit 2 memory poster (*TRP*) in the center of this wall at children’s height. Make this wall an interactive wall that children access all quarter.

Create a wooden post for each student, or let two students share a post that has multiple arms. The first Sunday students cut out their attendance chart owls and mount them to the posts. Students write their names on tags and add a tag to one of their owl’s legs. Each week students will add a 1-inch circle sticker “feather” to their owls. Provide a variety of colorful stickers so students can choose their color.

Be sure the perches are of varying heights and lengths. Perches can be dowel rods secured to the wall, or posts with horizontal extensions made from brown paper or posterboard.
**Hospital Room**

God's words of wisdom are life to those who hear them; we hear and study them in His sanctuary. An owl sanctuary offers help to owls who have physical struggles in life. Mount the unit 3 memory poster (TRP) that focuses on life at children's height. Each week of unit 3, travel to this wall to study the verse.

On the center of the wall, just above children's height, add block letters spelling OWL HOSPITAL. Add a large red medical cross next to it. Create a colorful owl from the theme art and perch the owl on the cross. Add gauze to the owl's feet or over one wing.

At one end, add a small set of shelves against the wall to hold gauze bandages, toy medical kits, and anything medical-looking such as bowls and basins, bottles and dispensers, empty pill bottles, and empty clean alcohol and peroxide bottles.

On the other end, add a table (real for a 3-D look, or cut from paper and secured to the wall). Place a birdcage on the table. Inside the cage, add an owl cut from colorful posterboard or scrapbook paper, using the owl theme art (TRP). Add gauze to one wing. Beside the cage, add a roll of gauze and one or two medical items, as though the vet is preparing to work on the owl.

Create several birdcages from chicken wire and wooden frames. If you have access to wood pallets, remove the inside slats so you are left with a frame. Staple chicken wire to the back. Secure a dowel rod or stripped tree branch to fit across the pallet behind the chicken wire. If you do not have access to wood pallets, cut out the inside of a colorful piece of posterboard and secure the wire to the back. Mount several birdcages of various sizes on the wall at children's heights, on the floor, or on tables (tables could be cut from butcher paper and mounted on the wall). Create owls from the theme art (TRP), add gauze bandages to wings or feet, and place one owl in each cage. Secure some bird feathers to the bottom of the cage as though the owl is molting.

**Bulletin Boards**

If you cannot decorate entire walls, any of the wall décor ideas can be used on bulletin boards. If you decorate entire walls but also have bulletin boards, simply integrate them into the wall's design.

**Owl Items**

Create an owl puppet (TRP) or two, your choice of colors. Use the owl theme art (TRP) to create owl notes for sending notes home, or for children to color during free time. Provide colorful mixed patterns of scrapbook paper and let students create owls using the owl pieces from the puppet. Use the reproducible theme art (TRP) as you choose: flying owls, owls perching on doorknobs, critters scurrying along the baseboards or climbing trees or furniture, more critters hiding in the hallway outside your door, and so on. Create triangle banners using the theme art.

**Door Poster**

Mount the door poster (TRP) welcoming students to the room.

**Salvation Poster**

Mount the salvation poster (TRP) where children can visit it regularly, such as on the inside of your classroom door (assuming you close your door) or on a closet door.
Truth about God
While the Bible is filled with narratives that we teach our children, it is God's story. It is all about Him, not the characters. Each lesson focuses on a truth about God, an attribute or principle that helps define or characterize God. While students do not memorize this statement, the lesson segments will support it.

Home Connection
On the bottom of each activity paper is a URL address for parents to take advantage of our Home Connection. Review questions, activities, and memory work are provided for at-home discussion. Be sure to show this to parents when they pick up their children. Or, each week copy the Home Connection master (TRP) for each student to take home.

Offering
Use a cute owl knick-knack (such an owl bowl or dish) that is large enough to collect the offering. Or, obtain a round fish bowl that has flat sides. Cover one side with a colorful owl, using a pattern from the theme art.

Volunteers
Write each child’s name on a paper owl (use the owl theme art) and place the owls inside a wooden box or metal bucket. (Owls will nest wherever they find a ready-made container, be it a bowl or another bird’s nest.) Each time a volunteer is needed, select an owl to see who will help. Return owls to the nest at the end of class, or after every volunteer has had a turn.

Bible Points
Every week students learn a short take-home phrase summarizing the lesson objectives. Say the Bible point frequently to help children lock this important life application into their hearts and minds. Create an owl puppet (TRP) to interact with students each time you need them to say the point. Or simply say, “Whooo, whooo” each time.

Bible Verses
A unit Bible verse is studied each unit. The multi-week study will explain the verse as well as encourage memorization. Each week, gather students at the appropriate poster to study the verse. An additional Bible lesson verse that connects to the Bible lesson is mentioned and is included in the activity paper.

Attendance and Memory Charts
Tear out the charts from the activity paper sets. Follow the instructions for the Sanctuary wall. Give each student an attendance chart and let him write his name on the line. Each week a student attends, the student adds a 1-inch circle sticker “feather” to the front of the owl.

On the first Sunday, also give each student a memory chart and let him write his name on the line. Each week as the student studies the memory work in class, he colors an owl on his chart. Mount these on the teaching wall for easy access each week.
**Kids in Missions**
The focus this quarter is Africa. Ideas and information are included on page 8. Mount the map showing Africa and our list of missionaries (TRP) on the teaching wall as a reminder to pray for this region.

**Bible Art Pictures**
Each week the Life Application supply list includes a Bible art picture (TRP). Use this at your discretion if you feel your students could relate to a visual of biblical times. For added stability, mount the week's picture in a frame and display for the day.

**Teacher Training Helps**
Our website offers several teacher training articles as well as other items to enhance your teaching experience, such as a child information form, childhood characteristics, how to build a tree, and how to make sock puppets. A standard supply list details items that should be regularly available.

pentecostalpublishing.com/t-teacherstraining1.aspx

A teacher training article is included in the resource packet. This piece is 3-hole punched for placement in your personal or classroom resource notebook.

**Music**
Worship is an important part of each lesson. Several children's CDs are available at www.pentecostalpublishing.com, including Word Aflame's *Kids in Praise* volumes 1 and 2. Many children's worship CDs include today's choruses that are popular in church and are usually sung by children. Let students help lead worship time by using inflatable mics and musical instruments.

**Facebook**
Join us on Facebook and share exciting news, ask questions, offer suggestions, and most importantly, post those room décor pics! Your pictures inspire others as well as offer options for turning rooms into WOW! rooms. Search for “Word Aflame Beginner Curriculum Teachers.”

Note: Before posting pictures of children, be sure to get parental permission. The teacher training link from our website offers a model release form.
Missionary Facts
• 24 missionary families or units residing or working in 22 countries/ministries
• 40 nations
• 4,965 + churches and preaching points
• 720,472 + constituents
• 1,033 billion + souls

Fundraising Payment
Global Missions, 36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304
Training Manuals project account number GMGP.137168.2601
Tract project account number GMGP.137168.2301

MK Fun
www.upwithmks.com/profilesheets.html
Download missionary kid profile pages, complete with their picture, hands-on information regarding their nation, guidelines to pray specifically for each MK, and an activity corner for children.
Thank you for praying for our MKs and learning more about their nations. If you would like to become a prayer pal with our MKs, please contact Cylinda Nickel at cylindanickel@gmail.com.

Pray 4 Africa
On the fourth day of every month, pray for Africa.

Resources
Check out these sites for additional facts and figures.
• kids.nationalgeographic.com
• www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/index.html
• www.geographia.com
• www.factmonster.com/world.html
Visit these sites for prayer tools and resources to help your students become missions minded.
• www.kidsprayer.com
• www.prayerpublications.com
Contact Global Missions for ideas for a missions conference, media presentations, or to see if any missionaries from the Africa region are in your state this quarter; perhaps they could speak to your children. Contact Jason Crumpacker at 636.229.7930. Visit their website: www.globalmissions.com.

Key Project
Children make up the majority of Africa’s population. Sunday school is still a new concept on this continent and training is needed. The average class in this region has twenty students. For $2 a teacher can receive a teacher’s training book. This means you are reaching twenty children in Africa by providing their teacher with a $2 manual. If each student in a class of twenty donates $2, the class would provide manuals for twenty teachers! Twenty teachers can reach a lot of students!

Create a large outline map of Africa (use the Pray 4 Africa 4) to mount on the wall at children’s height so they can access it. This could go in the hallway for all classes to use, or consider making one for each classroom. As students bring in dollars, they pin them to the map. Pin the two dollars together to represent one training manual; this will allow for easier counting as students watch the map become covered.

Make an African spear with a broom handle and Styrofoam (for the spear head). Use foam board to create a shield. Let students decorate the pieces with assorted duct tape, making a colorful African tribal look. Place the items on the wall by the map. African warriors set their spear outside of their huts to signify their territory. As we raise funds for teacher training across Africa, we are marking Africa as God’s territory. Set a deadline for this project and upon completion, let the students send a card with their signatures, letting the Africa missionary team know they are prayed for and supported by your children. Send the card and check to Rev. Randy Adams, Global Mission, 36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304. Make the church check payable to “Global Missions,” and in the memo portion list project number GMGP.137168.2601.

Pray
• Protection for the missionaries, local pastors, and the church members. The area is troubled with political unrest, rebel armies, and the threat of Muslim attacks in the Christian church.
• God to give the missionaries and church leaders favor with the leadership and government in their nation.
• Doors to open to the gospel—superstition, witchcraft, and voodoo present challenges, but God will overcome!
• Good health and strength for the missionaries—AIDS, Ebola, and several other diseases are still all over the country of Africa. Pray for health of the missionaries and local church members.
• The Bible to be translated into all of the languages and dialects of the continent. There are still 250 languages that need the Bible translated.
• Revival to flourish in Africa.

Special Focus
Across Africa tracts can be printed for a penny. Imagine the power of one penny—it can change a soul. Ask your church office for some tracts, at least one per child. After explaining the tract, tell students they will race to see who can fill both sides of their tract with taped-on pennies the fastest. Form two or three teams to compete rather than individuals. Set a time frame (such as four weeks) for students to fill as many tracts as possible for their team. They must use pennies. Provide a prize for the winning team.

Each week pray for the new souls that God wants to touch in Africa. At the end of the contest, let students help remove the pennies for you to submit to your church office. (We recommend rolling them in fifty-cent penny holders before giving them to the office.) Make your church check payable to Global Missions; in the memo portion please include project number GMGP.137168.2301.
God Loves His People

Welcome to the Word
Welcome Attendance charts (AP), purchased 1-inch circle stickers, offering container, BP signal
Activity Activity papers, colored pencils, paper
Worship
Prayer Legos

Open the Word
Memory Work Bibles, unit 1 MV poster (TRP), memory charts (AP), markers or crayons

Reveal the Word
Bible Lesson Bible

Do the Word
Life Application Bible art: God Saves Noah (TRP), blindfold, paper, masking tape
Activity Paper Activity papers, markers or crayons

Optional Activities and Ideas
Option 1 Cut white construction paper into cloud shapes (1 per student). Cut 1” x 6” strips of assorted colors of paper (6 per student). Cotton balls, glue, pencils
Option 2 Play-Doh
Option 3 Kids in Missions map (TRP), juvenile library books about Africa

Unit 1
God’s Words of Wisdom
Unit Bible Verse
Job 28:28

Scripture Texts
Proverbs 2:1–15
Genesis 6:9–17
II Peter 2:5
Hebrews 11:7

Truth about God
God cares for His people.

Bible Lesson Verse
Proverbs 2:8

Bible Point
I will love God.

Students will:
» Examine and apply elements of God’s wisdom.
» Point out evidence of God’s love toward His followers.