

Share Wisdom

2

DEUTERONOMY 6:4–9; ACTS 18:24–28



GOAL

Youth recognize the wisdom they hold and feel empowered and equipped to speak up and receive and share wisdom.

- A Art
- AM Active/Movement
- AT Abstract Thinking
- C Conversation
- CT Concrete Thinking
- D Drama
- G Game
- M Music
- QC Quiet/Contemplative
- S Service
- T Technology
- X Extra Prep

Note: bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.



PRAYER

Let my ears listen to the wisdom of others.
Let my mouth speak my own wisdom.
Let my body act according to your wisdom.

THIS SESSION

Besides sharing resources, we practice gratitude when we share what we know with others. Think of baptism. The congregation commits to sharing wisdom with every person baptized in order that they grow in faith. No one is born wise. Instead, one collects wisdom through life experiences and the teachings of others. Wisdom is learned. Without holistic wisdom, one is misinformed and acts in ignorance and can therefore cause pain and suffering to God's creation. This session reminds and inspires us to speak up when we witness ignorance. It empowers us to recognize and trust the wisdom in ourselves. It reminds us to truly listen to the wisdom of others—even when their knowledge, teachings, and life experiences diverge from what is familiar and comfortable to us.

THE BIBLE STORY

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 contains the words practicing Jews recite every day as a reminder to love God with their entire self. The verses also instruct us to teach the faith to our children. Sharing wisdom happens when we share what we know about the faith with others and listen to others share what they know with us.

In Acts 18:24–28, Apollos, a well-known leader in the Corinthian church, was publicly sharing inaccurate teachings that confused Jesus' teachings and John the Baptist's. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they engaged and corrected him so that he might share true wisdom. They did not ridicule him, but they had a respectful conversation with him. And it worked. He began to teach according to what they taught him.

CONNECTIONS WITH YOUTH

When youth learn that their ideas, opinions, and voice matter, they will feel encouraged to speak up and advocate for justice in their personal lives and communities. They will connect that God is with them and encouraging them to faithfully act in moments when it is necessary to share their wisdom.

SESSION PREPARATION

- “Giving and Receiving” (p. 16): Be prepared to teach and lead youth in the second verse of the song “When We Are Living,” using American Sign Language as in the first session (see p. 5, “Session Preparation”).

Depending on the options you choose:

- “Infographic Poster” (p. 16): Obtain the *Practice Generosity* infographic poster (bit.ly/FMInfographicPosters, Year 2 Set).

GETTING STARTED

- ☐ Newsprint
- ☐ Markers



Learn the signs by watching the YouTube videos “ASL Signs for When We Are Living, Verse 2” (bit.ly/FMSignsForVerse, 0:50) and “ASL Signs with When We Are Living Verse 2” (bit.ly/FMSignsWithVerse, 0:28).

GATHERING ACTIVITY

CT C

As youth gather, invite them to write on the newsprint one thing they learned this past week and to cite where they learned this new thing.

Gather as one group and invite volunteers to tell about what they wrote. Tell them that today’s aspect of practicing generosity is about sharing wisdom and how we receive and give it to one another graciously.

GIVING AND RECEIVING

AM

Remind youth of this activity done at the beginning of session 1. You will say and do the motions for the second verse of the song “When We Are Living,”¹ using American Sign Language. Rehearse it with the group, teaching any newcomers and reminding others. When ready, go through it once as a group together.

Through all our **living**, (*both hands in fists with thumbs up, move from waist up to shoulders*) /

we our fruits [**work**] must **give**. (*move both hands, palms down and slightly cupped, back and forth in front of you; thumb in palm facing up on right hand moving away from you to another*) /

Good works of **service** (*move right flat palm from chin to left palm facing up; both palms facing up and alternate hands moving in and out from chest*) /

are for **offering**. (*right finger hooked and move hand away from you to another*) /

When we are **giving**, (*thumb in palm facing up on right hand moving away from you to another*) /

or when **receiving**, (*right fist on top of left fist held out at arm’s length, pretend to grasp rope and move hands toward self*) /

we **belong to God**; (*interlock thumb and index finger of both hands as a chain; then move open right palm facing left from above head to center of face*) /

we **belong to God**. (*repeat above action*) /



INTRODUCING THE PRACTICE

Choose one or more options.

- ☐ Practice Generosity infographic poster

INFOGRAPHIC POSTER

AT

Gather youth around the *Practice Generosity* infographic poster. Wonder with participants what sorts of wisdom need to be shared to encourage generosity among the people in the infographic poster.



Pretend to be a newscaster or podcast host as you invite youth to introduce themselves as the expert. Encourage them to get into character and show their passion.

THE EXPERTS SPEAK

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Invite youth to think about a topic, subject, or activity they are passionate about. Explain that they will introduce themselves as an expert on this topic, subject, or activity. Allow a brief time for them to think about what and how they will present.

1. Writer Credits: St. 1 anon., sts. 2, 3, 4 Roberto Escamilla, trans. by Deborah L. Alvarez; Copyright: © 1994 Abingdon Press (BMI) (Administered by Music Services). All Rights Reserved.

Have volunteers come to the front of the space to introduce themselves and their expertise. When all have introduced themselves and their expertise, ask youth what they learned from the various experts.

LISTING GAME

G

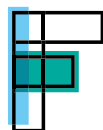
Form three groups. Distribute a piece of paper and a pen to each group. Have each group select a person who will write for the group.

Explain that this game consists of three rounds. Each time they will total their score and see who won the round. You will ask a question and their group will have 90 seconds to write as many responses as they can. They will receive five points for each response their group has that no one else has (as long as it is legitimate and not just silly). If two groups have the same response, they will receive ten points for that response. And if all three groups have the same response, they will receive fifteen points for that response.

Facilitate the game according to the above instructions and with the following prompts:

- ➡ What are all the ways people learn?
- ➡ Who are people we learn from (no proper names)?
- ➡ Where do people learn?

After all three rounds have concluded, talk briefly about which groups got more points and which received fewer points. If they did not think to work as just one big group, ask how they could have all received more points and point out that they could have worked as one big group.



FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

Choose one or more options.

- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Timer



For youth to truly maximize the amount of points their group receives, they would need to work with the other groups to make their lists. If youth ask, you can tell them that they are allowed to work with the other groups. This is also a great teaching moment for how wisdom is shared.



The *Shema* (pronounced sheh-máh) is discussed in various practices due to the fact that it is so foundational to our faith. In this practice of generosity, the focus is on the importance of teaching others to love, which is sharing wisdom.

SHEMA

AT C

Distribute copies of Resource Page 1 and walk through the page together as a group, pausing when questions are asked and discussing as a group. If you have mostly older teens, they may read through this in silence and then discuss their responses with the whole group.

Show the YouTube video “*Shema—Listen*” (bit.ly/FMShema, 3:25) and discuss what youth learn from it.

- ☐ Internet-connected device
- ☐ Copies of Resource Page 1
- ☐ Pens

DISCUSSION

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Jesus was baptized by John who taught people to repent and prepare for the Messiah’s coming. When John baptized Jesus, who was the Messiah, the meaning of baptism changed. Early Christians believed Jesus’ baptism marked the beginning of his ministry of healing and mercy and grace. For them, baptism includes repentance but is, more importantly, the initiation of a life of discipleship where Christians share love and mercy.

Distribute Bibles. Go around the group, taking turns reading Acts 18:24–28 verse by verse with all youth following along in their Bibles.

Form pairs. Ask youth the following questions, pausing about a minute after each one to allow youth time to discuss the answer with their partners:



The point of the Bible story is simply that we all need to share wisdom with one another so that Jesus’ true message of love can be shared with others.

- ☐ Bibles

- ➔ How would you summarize this story to retell a friend?
- ➔ Who shares wisdom in this Scripture reading?
- ➔ What happened after the wisdom was shared?

It is important to nuance the praise Apollos receives in verse 28 for refuting other Jews. Similar to the ways Priscilla and Aquila corrected Apollos, Apollos—a Jew who now recognizes Jesus (a fellow Jew) as the Messiah promised in the Scriptures—is correcting those in his Jewish community who do not yet believe Jesus to be the Messiah.

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- ☐ Bibles
 - ☐ Copies of Resource Page 2
 - ☐ Pens

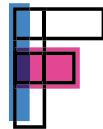
MIDRASH OF ACTS

QC

Read Acts 18:24–28 and explain the baptism of John as explained in the previous activity option.

Distribute copies of Resource Page 2 and pens. Explain that *midrash* is an ancient, imaginative Jewish practice of interpreting Scripture by looking at the significance of every word and adding possible meanings to complement Scripture; it is a little like fan fiction. On Resource Page 2, the text in regular print is from Acts 18:24–28, and the text in italics is added to imagine a more robust interpretation of the text.

Instruct youth to write in the blanks to add to the text. After several minutes, invite several volunteers to read their *midrash* aloud to the group.



FINDING THE PRACTICE THEN AND NOW

Choose one or more options.

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- ☐ Internet-connected device

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL MOVEMENT

T C

Show the YouTube video “Book Minute: Sarah Trimmer and the Sunday School Movement” (bit.ly/FMSundaySchool, 1:00) and discuss:

- ➔ How has Sunday school changed, and how is it the same today? (*We have public schools that teach reading and writing, but we still learn about the Bible at church.*)
- ➔ What is one thing you have learned from other people sharing wisdom with you by coming to this group and others in church?
- ➔ What other ways do we share wisdom at church?

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- ☐ Newsprint and marker

SHARING WISDOM AT CHURCH

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Invite youth to call out ways wisdom is shared in your worshiping community and write them on the newsprint. Younger youth may identify Sunday school, vacation Bible school, sermons, and so forth. Challenge older youth to think about nonverbal ways wisdom is shared, such as volunteer service.

Then ask youth to identify ways they share wisdom in your church. Help them see that part of the sharing wisdom process is listening and asking questions and engaging others who try to teach and mentor, because that also increases their wisdom, and they often learn from other’s questions.

Encourage youth to keep thinking about all the ways wisdom is shared in worship and church life, to thank others who share wisdom with them, and to remember they are part of the wisdom process as they learn and engage others.

WISDOM WITH ACTIONS

C A T

☐ Internet-connected device

Show the YouTube video “Sometimes Use Words” (bit.ly/FMSometimesUseWords, 2:36).

Explain that the quotation, “Preach the Gospel every day and use words when necessary,” is often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, an Italian Catholic priest from the twelfth century. There is no record of St. Francis actually saying this, but it is clear by his actions of loving his neighbors and caring for creation that he exemplified this teaching. Explain that sharing wisdom is something the church does not just with our words but with our actions. Discuss:

- ➔ What are some actions the church does to share wisdom that don’t involve words?
- ➔ What are actions you do to share wisdom?



PRACTICING THE PRACTICE

Choose one or both options.

OUR WISDOM

A C

Distribute paper and colored pencils to youth and invite them to think about a piece of wisdom that they find insightful and helpful. This might be a quotation to live by, a motto, inspiring advice someone once told them, and so forth. Ask them to write that down on the piece of paper and draw a picture that illustrates the importance of the piece of wisdom they find important.

Have youth share their wisdom with the group and discuss ways of sharing it more widely. If youth agree, display the pictures in a prominent place in your church so others can learn from the youths’ wisdom.

- ☐ Paper
☐ Colored pencils

THANK-YOU NOTE

CT

Prompt youth to think of a person who has shared wisdom with them that has impacted their life. Distribute stationery or paper and writing supplies to youth and invite them to write a note to the person, thanking them for their generosity. Encourage them to describe the impact the teaching has had on them and how they share that wisdom with others.

- ☐ Stationery or paper
☐ Pens



FOLLOWING JESUS

SUMMARY

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Invite youth to call out one thing they learned about sharing wisdom in today’s session.

CLOSING BLESSING

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Form a circle and invite youth to first receive a blessing from the person on their right and then turn and bless the person on their left with the same blessing. Begin by blessing the person on your left, saying,

[Name], child of God, may you continue to grow in wisdom and share it with others.

Shema—Deuteronomy 6:4–5

Practicing Jews recite these two verses found in Deuteronomy 6:4–5 every day as part of their devotions. Jesus did this too.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

➔ Besides your feelings of love for God, what are actions we do to show our love of God? Can you list some here?

Immediately following these verses are some very concrete instructions. Read the following verses and circle all the imperative verbs, such as “Keep.”

⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

These are all ways of sharing wisdom with one another. We teach others about God’s love, we discuss ways to love God, we think about this all the time, we make signs and symbols to remind us of this as well.

➔ How is sharing wisdom an act of generosity?

List here some ways you share wisdom with others, including listening to others teach you.

Midrash of Acts 18:24–28

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. *He learned the scriptures in/at/by* _____ *Everyone knew he was eloquent because* _____. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord, *meaning he* _____; and he spoke to _____ with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. *For example, he was teaching that* _____.

He began to speak boldly *and* _____ in the synagogue to _____; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him say _____, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. *When Apollos heard these things, he* _____.

And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him, *saying* _____ and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. *In their letter, Priscilla and Aquila said* _____.

On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers; for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

