

# Rooted in Godly Values

## Lesson 1: “A Foolish Kind of Wisdom”

(Christian Character Trait: *Wisdom*)

### Objectives

Students will:

- articulate the similarities between life in Corinth and their lives today
- identify thinking that reflects godly wisdom

### Materials Needed

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Lesson 1 handout (“Life in the Party Town of Corinth”) (one per student or pair of students)
- ☐ Highlighter and pen or pencil per student
- ☐ Chalk board or newsprint/markers
- ☐ Bag of quotes (Lesson 1 handout “Pearls of Wisdom”)
- ☐ Bag with various items selected by you (try to have a big variety – you can use children’s toys, a book, items of food, tools, photos of someone you all know, etc.)

## **Minds On**

Give each student (or pair of students if you have a large group) a copy of the Lesson 1 handout “Life in the Party Town of Corinth.” Invite them to read through it once, underlining ways they see that life in Corinth is like life in their world today.

When everyone is finished give each person/pair a chance to share one of their answers, and write it on the chalk board or newsprint. From what they have read, see if they have anything else to add that they inferred but may not be directly from the handout.

Explain that we will be starting a series that will use the book of First Corinthians, a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the new Christians in the ancient town of Corinth. Paul had started the church in Corinth, but now the Christians there were struggling to live as God wanted (we can see how it would be hard!). Even in this crazy environment, however, Paul told them to live “Rooted in Christian Values”. We can learn to do the same thing!

Each week we will look at one character trait Paul taught Christians to develop. This week we are looking at wisdom.

## **Action**

### Part One: Dig Into Scripture

Ask the students to consider what it means to be wise (they may share or just think about their answers). Then explain: At the time this letter was written, one of the greatest values in the culture was the search for wisdom. This was the time of great philosophers like Plato and Socrates. Everyone wanted to be wise. Read together 1 Corinthians 1: 18-21; 25-30.

Ask: What is unusual about Paul’s teaching? (In a culture focussed on wisdom, he says what makes the Christian faith so FOOLISH)

What makes Christianity so “foolish” to the world around them? (they served a God who had been crucified (an embarrassing and “low class” death), the faith makes space for “foolish” people who may not be seen as the smartest or most important in society (a contrast to the teachings in Greek philosophy)).

### Part Two: Apply It

On the chalk board or newsprint create two columns, one titled “God’s Wisdom,” and the other “the world’s wisdom.”

God’s Wisdom	The World’s Wisdom

Invite students one at a time to draw a slip from a bag or hat containing the pre-cut slips of paper from the Lesson 1 handout “Pearls of Wisdom”. When they have drawn them, allow them to decide if it is “God’s wisdom” or the “world’s wisdom.” Invite them to share why they have decided what they did. Allow the other students to share if they agree or disagree. The student can change his or her mind about where it should go after hearing the discussion, or may even say it fits in both.

When all the slips are gone, see if any of the students have any other “tidbits” to share that may be worldly or godly wisdom. This could be a phrase or teaching they heard, commercials or TV, a piece of Scripture, etc. Repeat the procedure as before.

### **Consolidate/Debrief**

Take out the bag or box you have prepared with various household items. Give students each a turn to draw out an item (they can do this “blind” or look and choose one they like). When everyone has one, get them to complete the sentence. “This item is like God’s wisdom

because...” or “This item is like worldly wisdom because...” (for example, this hammer is like God’s wisdom because it can drive things in place; this toy is like the world’s wisdom because it is silly). If you have a big group you may just ask for a few volunteers to do this, or get them to do it in groups.

When they are finished, say something like: “As Christians, what we do may seem foolish to others. Yet, we want to have godly wisdom – this is wisdom that puts our faith in Christ, even if that seems weird.”

Pray together that the students would have godly wisdom.

As you are studying 1 Corinthians for the next few weeks, you may want to encourage the students to use the book in their devotional time. There are 15 chapters in First Corinthians, so they could read one chapter a day, five days a week and finish the book in three weeks.