

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

# The Wisdom of God

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Teach us your wisdom, O Lord.

“The LORD gives wisdom,  
from his mouth come knowledge and  
understanding.” **Proverbs 2:6**

**All:** All-knowing God, increase our trust in you, for  
such is the beginning of wisdom. Amen.

## Scripture

[Solomon prayed to God]: “Give me, therefore, wisdom and knowledge to govern this people...” God then replied to Solomon: Because this has been your wish—you did not ask for riches, treasures, and glory, or the life of those who hate you, or even for a long life for yourself, but you have asked for wisdom and knowledge in order to rule my people over whom I have made you king—wisdom and knowledge are given you. **2 Chronicles 1:10–12**

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## What Do You Wonder?

- What can wisdom help you do?
- Why can we call Jesus the wisdom of God?

## God Gives Wisdom

### What is wisdom?

God is the source of all wisdom. **Wisdom** is a gift from God that helps us understand his purpose and plan for our lives. Wisdom helps us know what will make us truly happy. Here is the story of a Saint who showed wisdom.

### *Saint Hildegard of Bingen*

Saint Hildegard is an example of a person who used wisdom in the correct way: to glorify God. When she was very young, Hildegard began having visions of light. These visions helped her understand Scripture and other holy writings. A voice told her to share these insights, but she felt unworthy to do so. Eventually, she did write about the visions as a way to lead others to God.

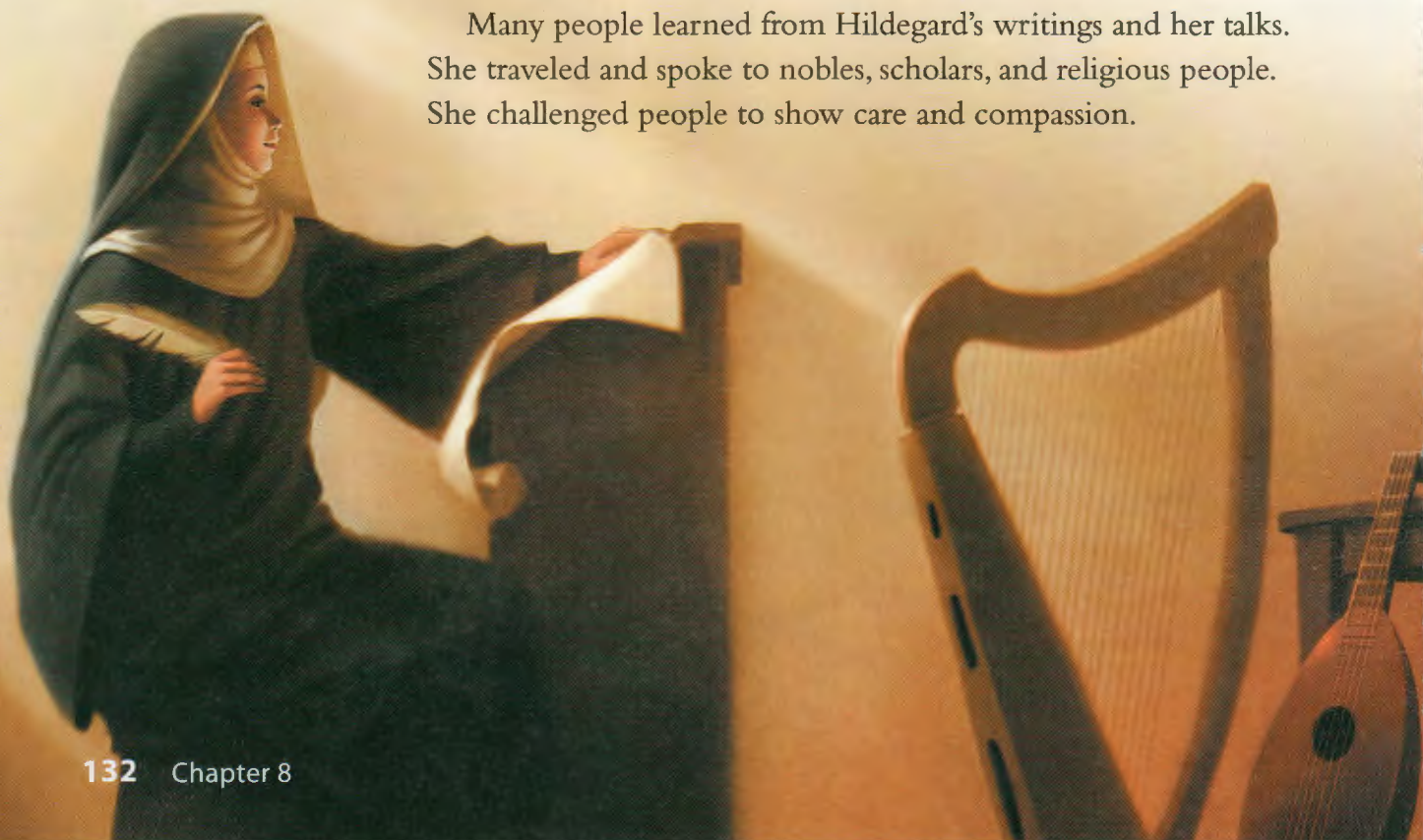
Hildegard was interested in many topics, and she shared her knowledge of them. She wrote about virtues and sins, the nature of the universe, and the history of salvation. She studied the use of plants for medicines and wrote two medical books to share what she had learned.

Hildegard thought music was the best way to honor God, and even better than words for revealing wisdom. She composed over seventy songs, and wrote a play, poems, and letters.

Many people learned from Hildegard's writings and her talks. She traveled and spoke to nobles, scholars, and religious people. She challenged people to show care and compassion.



Underline what Saint Hildegard thought was the best way to honor God.



## Wisdom Writing in the Bible

Wisdom was greatly admired by the people of Israel. They believed that if you did what was right, you would prosper; but if you did what was foolish or evil, you would suffer. Several books of the Old Testament contain wisdom writings of the people of Israel: Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Sirach, Ecclesiastes, and Wisdom.

### Guides for Living

These books in the Bible offer guides for living. The Book of Proverbs is filled with teachings and short sayings that reflect the traditional insights of the people of Israel. You may have heard some of these proverbs.

Whoever meddles in the quarrel of another  
is one who grabs a passing dog by the ears. **Proverbs 26:17**

The way of fools is right in their own eyes,  
but those who listen to advice are the wise. **Proverbs 12:15**

Rich and poor have a common bond:  
the LORD is the maker of them all. **Proverbs 22:2**

Gray hair is a crown of glory;  
it is gained by a life that is just. **Proverbs 16:31**

As face mirrors face in water,  
so the heart reflects the person. **Proverbs 27:19**

➔ Which proverbs have you found to be true  
in your own life?

### Catholic Faith Words

**wisdom** a gift from God that helps us see God's purpose and plan for our lives. Wisdom leads us to see things as God sees so that we might live holy lives.



Circle the proverbs  
that sound  
familiar to you.

### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** Think of someone you know who is wise.

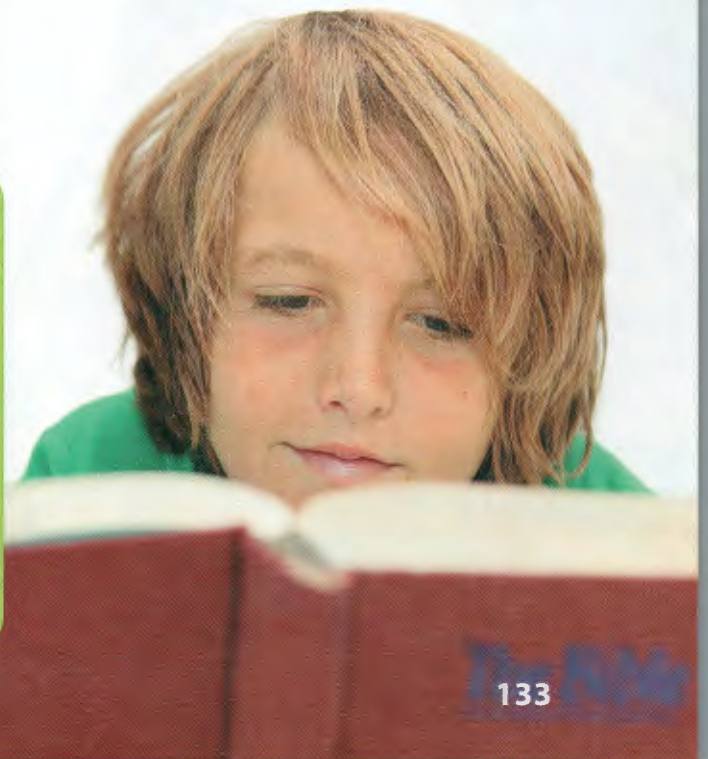
**Share** In the Book of Proverbs, find a proverb that suits the person you have chosen.

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Then read the proverb to the group.



## The Wisdom Books

### How is God's wisdom shown by Solomon and Job?

The Book of Wisdom, often called the Book of Solomon, teaches in a different way. It is a narrative about the importance of acting wisely.

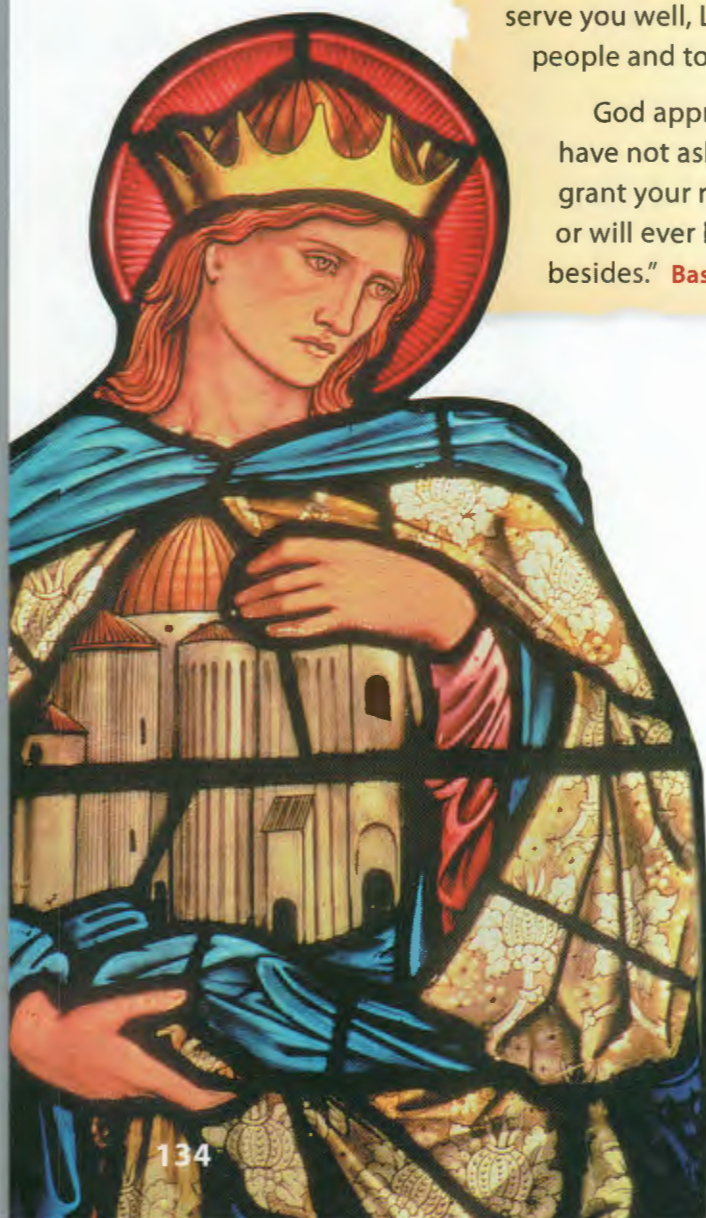
Solomon, the son of King David, succeeded his father as king. Solomon built a Temple in Jerusalem to give the people of Israel a place where they could worship the one true God. However, Solomon is remembered even more for his wisdom.

### Scripture

#### Solomon's Request

Solomon asked for God's help. "I am young," he said. "So that I may serve you well, LORD, give me an understanding heart to judge your people and to know right from wrong."

God approved Solomon's request and replied, "Because you have not asked for wealth and power over your enemies, I will grant your request. I give you the wisest heart that has ever been or will ever be, and I will give you wealth, honor, and long life besides." **Based on 1 Kings 3:4-14**



Solomon knew that true wisdom comes from more than human insight. God's laws revealed his purpose and plan. Observing God's laws led to wisdom. Because of his faith, Solomon knew that true human wisdom is a participation in God's own wisdom and goodness.

- ➔ What did Solomon ask of God?
- ➔ What gifts should leaders ask for today?

1 Kings 6-8 describes the building of King Solomon's Temple to God. At its dedication, Solomon said, "I have built this house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel" (1 Kings 8:20).

## A New Way of Seeing

The Books of Wisdom and Proverbs primarily hand down traditional wisdom. Other books, like the Book of Job, challenge popular beliefs. Job was depressed. He was a very good man, yet he was suffering. Some friends told him that his troubles must be his punishment for displeasing God. But Job knew that he was good and demanded to talk to God directly.

God spoke to Job. Revealing all of his creative power and might, he reminded Job of who God is. A terrified Job responded this way:

### Scripture

#### The Story of Job

I know that you can do all things,  
and that no purpose of yours can be hindered...

I have spoken but did not understand;  
things too marvelous for me, which I did not know. ...

By hearsay I had heard of you,  
but now my eye has seen you.

Therefore I disown what I have said,  
and repent in dust and ashes.

God told Job's friends that they were wrong in what they told Job. He restored Job's health and his prosperity. **Based on Job 42:2-6**

- ➔ What is happening in this artwork?
- ➔ What does Job's posture tell you about his attitude toward God?

### Connect Your Faith

**Learning from Experience** Summarize the story of Job to a partner. Tell what you can learn from Job's experience.



## Our Catholic Life

### How can you make wise decisions?

You need wisdom when you make important decisions. Before making those important decisions, take time to look for God's wisdom in what you are going to do.

Here are some simple steps you can follow to help you make wise decisions.

1. Find a place where you can pray without distractions.
2. Pray to the Holy Spirit for wisdom and the ability to discover God's will.
3. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Am I choosing between two things or among many things?
  - How would each decision help me trust God and obey his laws?
  - How would each decision make it harder for me to trust God and obey his laws?

4. Try to remember a Bible passage in which a similar decision had to be made. Think about what happened in the passage.
  - What passage did you choose?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

- How did the passage end?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you are still not sure of the choice you should make, discuss the situation with a trusted adult, such as a parent or relative, a priest or parish minister, or a teacher.
6. After making your decision, continue to pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit.



Answer the questions above in the spaces provided.







 Let Us Pray

## Prayer of Praise

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** Lord, open our lips.

**All:** And our mouths will  
proclaim your praise.

**Reader:** A reading from the  
Book of Ecclesiastes.  
Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–8.  
The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the  
leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Holy Spirit"  
Holy Spirit,  
come into our lives.  
Holy Spirit,  
make us truly wise.

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter defines wisdom as a gift from God that helps us understand the purpose and plan for our life, and explains how the Wisdom books in the Bible offer a guide for living.

### Scripture



Read **2 Chronicles 1:10–12** to find out what Solomon asked God to give him.

### Catholics Believe

- The wisdom tradition in the Bible teaches that true wisdom comes from trusting God and obeying his law.
- Jesus is the wisdom of God, sought in every age by those who are wise.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #156–158, 215–217 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, you child learned about Saint Thomas Aquinas. One of the most brilliant men who ever lived, Thomas' study of Catholic teaching, the *Summa Theologica*, is still read today.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand God's Wisdom** Your child is growing in his or her ability to engage in a process of reflection on possible courses of action. This is a by-product of his or her growing skills in the area of abstract reasoning. Your child still might, however, need support in brainstorming alternatives and thinking of all the pros and cons when weighing decisions.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

What is the difference between wise and smart?

Most of us know someone who is “book smart” but does not seem to be wise. Wisdom is a Gift of the Holy Spirit. As Catholics, we know wisdom “enables us to see the world from God’s viewpoint, which can help us come to grasp with the purpose and plan of God. It grants us the long-range view of history, examining the present in light of the past and the mystery of the future. It saves us from the illusion that the spirit of the times is our only guide” (*USCCA, p. 208*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you about the wisdom of Solomon.
- Together discuss a time when someone in the family really needed wisdom. What did he or she do?

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, give us the ability to learn quickly and easily as Saint Thomas Aquinas did. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 8 Review

**A Work with Words** Match each description in Column 1 with the correct term in Column 2.

## Column 1

1. A very good man who suffered
2. A very wise man
3. A wisdom book
4. Restored Job's prosperity
5. Also called Book of Solomon

## Column 2

- God  
Book of Wisdom  
Book of Ecclesiastes  
Job  
Solomon

**B Check Understanding** Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

6. The wisdom tradition in the Bible is contained primarily in the \_\_\_\_\_ books.

- prophetic  
 wisdom  
 historical  
 poetical

7. \_\_\_\_\_ is useless without a reverent trust in God and respect for his law.

- Fasting  
 Human wisdom  
 A good deed  
 Prayer

8. One of the greatest examples of a wise person in the Old Testament is \_\_\_\_\_.

- Samson  
 Pharaoh  
 Solomon  
 Esau

9. The Book of \_\_\_\_\_ is an example of wisdom literature.

- Proverbs  
 Micah  
 Genesis  
 Exodus

10. The greatest way Jesus showed us God's wisdom is through his life, Death, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- good deeds  
 good example  
 prayers  
 Resurrection

