Get Wisdom!

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Question: What do our kids need? Answer: They need wisdom. "Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom..." Proverbs 4:7

Designed for parents or teachers to use with children from K-5-through Grade 4, twenty-three lessons illustrate qualities of wisdom and godliness. Each lesson is presented in a simple format with illustrations to capture the attention of the child, and supplemented at the back of the book with suggestions for teaching the lesson. Every child of God both adults and children should work hard to show these traits more and more, because we love Jesus and want to be like him. That's easier said than done, isn't it? We struggle with sin every day, and we will fail. The lessons remind us that when we do, we will find forgiveness and the grace to continue to get wisdom at the foot of the Cross.

Resources like this have been needed for a long time. I hope this is not the last book of this type that Ruth Younts writes or that Shepherd Press publishes. Parents and teachers need solid, biblical material that is accessible - and this book delivers.

First, the content and structure of the book. The value of this book is not in its quantity of content, but the clarity of content. It is easy to be confusing and scattered, but difficult to be clear and concise. Younts has put in the effort and achieved the latter. Each lesson (chapter), of which there are 23 in all, is made up of a wisdom trait like listening, truthfulness, kindness, etc. Then, a short and clear definition is given, a Bible verse is supplied, room for a child to write some examples is provided, a prayer is suggested, and a helpful memory tool is created. Second, the teacher’s guide in the book. The teacher’s guide is meant to provide
"teaching points, discussion questions, games, and role plays." A guide is provided for each lesson and opens with an activity. Most of the lesson guides walk the parent/teacher through a memory verse, definition, and discussion. Third, the usefulness of the book. According to my best estimate, each lesson would take about 15-20 minutes to complete. Here is how I came to that figure: Step 1 - Preparing the activity. The time required for this step varies, but most call for very minimal preparation like: bring a blindfold, crayons/paper, dry spaghetti noodles, etc. Step 2 - Perform the opening activity (5 mins.) This step would include things like a game, activity, song, collage, role play, etc. Step 3 - Practice the memory verse (3 mins.) Step 4 - Define and explain the wisdom trait (2 mins.) Step 5 - Discuss the lesson (5 mins.

This is a wonderful book of character lessons for children. In the beginning of the book, Ms. Younts wisely begins by talking about what Christian wisdom is and how wisdom and the Gospel are related. She explains that we can’t be good enough and we can’t earn God’s love. She also explains why we want to be good. The scriptures in this page are ones that I want to memorize with my children so that they will be written on our hearts. The next section gives a definition for each of 23 traits (like listening and orderliness), a Bible verse, a prayer, and a symbolic picture to help children remember what the words mean. The next section includes a lesson plan for each of the traits. There’s a short introductory activity, the memory verse, discussion questions, and often role play suggestions for each trait. At the very beginning of the book, Ms. Younts says that the best age range for this book is K-4. I agree with that age range. This book would be perfect for children’s church or another time when you have children of these ages together. I thought of my church and the times that we have been volunteering to help watch children while the parents are taking classes at a local shelter. Most of the activities would work for home devotions as well. Only one of 23 activities wouldn’t. What I liked best about this book is the appropriateness of both the questions and the definitions. I know that my Kindergarten and Second grade daughters would both be able to answer these questions and understand the definitions. When I was a classroom teacher, one of the most difficult things was to structure an activity so that all ability levels could participate. Ms. Younts has done an excellent job with this book of making that possible with this book.

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