

"Wisdom consists, not in stumbling on truth by chance, but in marking, learning, and inwardly digesting it."
-- La Rochefoucauld



What is Wisdom?

"Wisdom" is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word "wis" (for understanding truth) and "dom" (judgement). It isn't just intelligence or knowledge, but it involves having understanding and good judgment to apply the truth.

On the other hand, "foolishness" means to reinterpret the truth to fit one's own ideas about life, continuing in error with determination to make the false ideas work.

Wisdom can be gained by being observant of events around us. Like tapping into solar power that is ever present, wisdom is gleaned from the analogies built into nature, history and heroes, life experience, and the wise counsel of others.

Wisdom is often learned by our mistakes, but only if we want to have our faults exposed so that we can learn from them. The foolish person will want to cling to his own ideas about himself and will find someone to blame for his mistakes. A wise person will turn his past mistakes into future victories by humility and the wisdom he gains.

A little foolishness can discolor the wise reputation one has gained. It is important to be consistent in applying wisdom!

Discussion Questions

1. Have you made any observations from situations with people this past week from which you have drawn some observations, therefore, wisdom?

Why not keep a journal for such "life lessons"?

2. What historical figures have you gained wisdom from?

3. How has your group learned from its past mistakes or those of groups similar to yours?

4. Has your group identified its core principles? Can you think of a time when one of those principles was carefully followed or even violated. What was the result? (Be sure to differentiate between "principle" (which should remain firm) and "policy" (which should be flexible.) "Principles" are the outgrowth of wisdom.

5. Discuss the need for obtaining wise counsel. Can you name some people your group-or individual members of the group-- would go to for wise counsel? Why?



Parents - [Click here](#) for tips on encouraging your children to develop the character quality this month.

Check out the [Just for Kids](#) pages for wisdom in a nature analogy and a historical lesson.

Wisdom vs. Foolishness

"Making practical applications of truth in daily decisions."

I Will--

- listen to my parents and teachers.
- learn from correction.
- choose my friends carefully.
- remember that there are consequences to all my actions.
- ask, "What is the right thing to do?"

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"He who walks with wise men will grow wise."
-- King Solomon

Words we confuse with wisdom~

Knowledge -- facts, information

Understanding -- Comprehending and combining information.

Discernment -- Understanding the deeper reasons why things happen.

Perception - Seeing things clearly.

"The road to wisdom? --Well, it's plain and simple to express:
'Err, and err, and err again, but less, and less, and less.'
--Danish inventor Piet Hein

Blocks to Wisdom~

--stubbornness

--thinking too highly of one's self

--seeking counsel only from those who will agree with you

--being content with understanding, but not willing to apply the truth

--unwillingness to face one's faults, blaming others instead



A foolish canoer keeps on with his course until it is too late!

A wise canoer gets the canoe out of the water early enough to walk around the waterfall.