

Preparing for College

Dear Facilitator: For several lessons we have been discussing how successful families communicate, support one another, and organize their lives. Today, we are going to talk about increasing wisdom and understanding.

Maybe you still remember the request from Solomon to God found in 1 Kings 3:

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶ Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷ “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ The LORD was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. ¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. ¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” ¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

continued

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the LORD's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

We, like Solomon, are also encouraged to increase in wisdom.

Proverbs 2:1-5 says:

*My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
² turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
³ indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
⁴ and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.*

How does one go about increasing in wisdom and understanding? Certainly, one needs to go to God first. Proverbs says to “look for it as silver and search for it as hidden treasure.”

One way we do so is planning for our future, including college.

It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson.

Participants will:

1. Create a vision for the future.
2. Identify steps to make college a reality.
3. Commit to lifelong learning.

During the past few lessons, we made commitment statements. This week's commitment statement is: I look for wisdom and understanding as for silver and search for it as a hidden treasure.

We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities. We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God's love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

Blessings

Prior to Meeting



Do: Leaders will need to make copies of Handout 1 (pages 12-13).



Do: Spend some time looking at the following resources and information:

- Entry level professions: <https://thebestschools.org/careers/best-entry-level-jobs/>
- 10 Hottest jobs in Michigan in 2015: <http://www.freep.com/story/money/business/michigan/2015/01/04/michigan-hot-jobs/21235493/>
- Employment Projections: 2014-24 Summary: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm>
- Fastest Growing Occupations, 2014-24: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t05.htm>
- Wind turbine service technicians: Some college, no degree
- Occupational therapy assistants: Associate degree
- Physical therapist assistants: Associate degree
- Physical therapist aides: High school diploma or equivalent
- Home health aides: No formal educational credential
- Commercial divers: Postsecondary non-degree award
- Nurse practitioners: Master's degree
- Physical therapists: Doctoral or professional degree
- Statisticians: Master's degree
- Ambulance drivers and attendants, except emergency medical technicians: High school diploma or equivalent
- Occupational therapy aides: High school diploma or equivalent
- Physician assistants: Master's degree
- Operations research analysts: Bachelor's degree
- Personal financial advisors: Bachelor's degree
- Cartographers and photogrammetrists: Bachelor's degree

Notes

Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing and leading your family.

Last week we spent time discussing technology and how to honor God with our use of technology.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something this past week that made a positive difference in your family that you would be willing to share?

Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Let's take a few minutes together to read out loud our Family Commitment Statements (read together out loud the previous statements).

Today our topic is around navigating college.

Today's teaching objectives are to:

1. Create a vision for the future.
2. Identify steps to make college a reality.
3. Commit to lifelong learning.

This week's commitment statement is: I look for wisdom and understanding as for silver and search for it as a hidden treasure.

 **Ask:** What do you want to be when you grow up?

 **Share:** Your story and your career path.

 **Say:** Jobs have changed over the centuries. In fact, I want to do an activity that shows just how much they have and will change.

 **Do:** Have 10 people stand up.

 **Say:** Each of these people represents a job.



Do: Have seven people sit down.



Say: The seven that sat down represents the number of jobs for today's students that do not even exist yet. (<https://www.successperformancesolutions.com/65-percent-of-todays-students-will-be-employed-in-jobs-that-dont-exist-yet/>).



Say: The world has certainly changed. Below is a list of jobs that no longer exist.



Ask: Guess what the employee did (answers can be found at <http://www.viralforest.com/11-jobs-longer-exist-today/>)?

- Bowling alley pinsetter
- Human alarm clock
- Ice cutter
- Pre-radar listeners for enemy aircraft
- Rat catchers
- Lamp lighter
- Milkman
- Log drivers
- Switchboard operator
- Resurrectionist
- Lector who entertained factory workers

Family & Table Talk 20 minutes



Say: Create a list of jobs that children may be interested in.

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.

Notes

40 minutes

Parent Training

Engaging The World

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

You are capable of great things! Today, we are going to talk about increasing wisdom and understanding. God has created each of us in a unique way (Psalm 139).

Maybe you still remember the request from Solomon to God found in 1 Kings 3:

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

⁶ Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day."

⁷ "Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little

child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

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there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.¹³ Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the LORD’s covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

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How does one go about increasing in wisdom and understanding? Certainly, one needs to go to God first. Proverbs says to “look for it as silver and search for it as hidden treasure.”

One way we do so is planning for our future, which may include college.

JOBS OF THE FUTURE

Ben Schiller envisions new jobs for 2025. (<https://www.fastcompany.com/3015652/futurist-forum/8-new-jobs-people-will-have-in-2025?>)

What do you think are the following jobs?

1. Digital Death Manager

Answer: “Life-logging” will be a way of life, affecting how we record and remember what we do. Young sees a role for someone who can take the mass of life-logged material and make stories out of it. That could be useful during our lives (for personal-brand purposes) but also in death. “Today, it happens only with important people. Andy Warhol has a foundation and so on. We’re imagining this is going to ladder down to other people who want to shape what their legacy means,” Young says.

2. Un-Schooling Counselor

Answer: The concept of education as a four-year box-ticking exercise will be over. The future will be more diverse. People will plug in a year of education here and there, a month now and again, and un-schooling counselors will guide them the whole way. “We’re seeing the evolution of the traditional counselor to someone who can hack your life together so it’s unique,” he says.

3. Armchair Explorer

Answer: Machines will be connected, producing tons of data about their performance and surroundings. Communications technology that has been expensive in the past (like satellites) will be widely accessible. This will create opportunities for “armchair explorers” who will travel the world, checking on systems, buildings, and hard-to-reach places. We’ll need people to break through the fog and give us a clear picture.

4. 3-D Printing Handyman

Answer: Today when your handyman fixes something, he usually has to order a spare part

from China. One day, he might print it right in your yard. Say you need to replace the pipe under your sink. Why wait for the whole thing to come in from out of the country, when it can be done there and then? We already have 3-D printed shower heads, after all.

5. Microbial Balancer

Answer: From the gut to your mouth, the microbial world is a big focus of current research. Young sees a job for a “microbial balancer” who can keep you aligned with your bacteria: “They will understand how to read your genome, your gut, and your mouth bacteria and get you better balanced at a house, school, or individual level. They’re the equivalent of the Feng Shui person who sets up your apartment.”

6. Corporate Disorganizer

Answer: Big companies want to be more like startups, seeing innovation as vital to future profits. Young says they’ll want “corporate disorganizers” who can introduce a little “organized chaos.” Young says: “The disruptor will be tapping into the new systems of the collaborative economy, creating greater fragmentation and a more distributed ecosystem.”

7. Digital Detox Specialist

Answer: The digital “overload” will become even more overwhelming. That will open the way for people who can help lead less data-centric lives, or at least find a better balance. In some cases, they will even organize digital rehabs. It’s going to get that bad (actually, it already is).

8. The Urban Shepherd

Answer: With cities getting greener, we’ll need “urban shepherds” to look after the new infrastructure. “You need someone who is going to take care of the urban beehives, who’s going to make sure your composting is set up correctly, and who is going to know how to curate all the vertical gardens,” Young says.

Notes

Whether you are in grade school, high school, or even an adult, college can be an option.

How does one prepare for college?

Being a lifelong learner, meaning always wanting to learn something new, will help as jobs change. So why is learning so important?

Here are some quotes:

“Find something you’re passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it.” **Julia Child**

“I’m always open for people saying I’m wrong because most of the time I am.” **Prince William**

“It’s only when you risk failure that you discover things. When you play it safe, you’re not expressing the utmost of your human experience.” **Lupita Nyong’o**

“I can never be safe; I always try and go against the grain. As soon as I accomplish one thing, I just set a higher goal. That’s how I’ve gotten to where I am.” **Beyonce Knowles**

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day, but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.” **Clay P. Bedford**

“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” **John Dewey**

“The excitement of learning separates youth from old age. As long as you’re learning you’re not old.” **Rosalyn S. Yalow**

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.” **Anthony J. D’Angelo**

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.” **Alvin Toffler**

Adapted from <http://impowerage.com/not-too-late/start-something/inspirational-lifelong-learning-quotes> and <https://www.whitbyschool.org/passionforlearning/inspiring-quotes-about-learning-from-ib-and-montessori-graduates>

ACTIVITY

In small groups, have participants create a list of ways to prepare for lifelong learning, both from the quotes above and their own personal experience.

Have groups share lessons.

Handout: Review components of handout, discussing points of interest.

Lifelong learning and preparing for college—these are two big topics. While we did not cover them completely, you should still be able to:

1. Create a vision for the future.
2. Identify steps to make college a reality.
3. Commit to lifelong learning.

This week's commitment statement is: I look for wisdom and understanding as for silver and search for it as a hidden treasure.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as a parent this week?

Notes

Handout 1

COLLEGE PREPARATION ONLINE GUIDE

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

- **Entry level professions**
<https://thebestschools.org/careers/best-entry-level-jobs/>
- **10 Hottest jobs in Michigan in 2015**
<http://www.freep.com/story/money/business/michigan/2015/01/04/michigan-hot-jobs/21235493/>
- **Employment Projections 2014-24 Summary**
<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm>
- **Fastest Growing Occupations, 2014-24**
<https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t05.htm>

ACT/SAT

- **SAT Information**
www.collegeboard.org
- **SAT Fee Waiver Instructions**
www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenfees/feewaivers.html
- **Preliminary SAT (PSAT)**
www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html
- **ACT Information**
www.actstudent.org
- **ACT Fee Waiver Instructions**
www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/feewaiver.html
- **Khan Academy SAT/ACT prep classes**
www.khanacademy.org

COLLEGES/COLLEGE FAIRS

- **Petersons**
www.petersons.com
- **Go to College Fairs**
www.gotocollegefairs.com

Handout 1 (Continued)

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP

- **Federal Student Aid**
<https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- **TRIO Federal Program**
www.studentaid.ed.gov
- **Fast Web**
www.fastweb.com
- **Find Tuition**
www.findtuition.com
- **Sallie Mae**
www.salliemae.com
- **US News Report**
<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college>

ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATION AND RESEARCH/POLICY

- **National Association for College Admission Counseling**
www.nacanet.org
- **United Negro College Fund (UNCF)**
www.uncf.org
- **Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities**
www.hacu.net/hacu/Default_EN.asp
- **National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education**
www.nafew.org/home.php

CAREERS

- **Resource Links**
www.careersprep.com/html/links.html
- **The Occupational Handbook**
www.bls.gov/oco

PREPARATION

Freshmen Year:

- Meet your counselor
- Lay out a four-year plan
- Connect every semester to review your grades and plan

Sophomore Year

- Stay motivated
- Go to college fairs and ask questions
- Take a practice ACT/SAT test

Junior Year

- “Best grades ever” year
- Prepare and take ACT/SAT
- Visit at least one college campus

Senior Year

- Apply to schools at the start of the first semester
- Apply for financial aid
- Apply for scholarships

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Engaging The World

**BUILDING STRONG
FRIENDSHIPS**

Objectives

- Help children be aware of what the Bible says about humans being made in God's image.
- Help children be aware that God has a plan for their life.
- Help children be aware of God putting man and woman in charge of His beautiful creation.
- Help children be aware of why God needed man to be intelligent and wise.
- Help children be aware of the difference between knowledge and wisdom.
- Help children be aware of importance of being a lifelong learner.
- Help children be aware of importance of college.
- Help children be aware of how to prepare for college.

When God created man, He said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Humans are the only creatures that God made in His likeness. Then God made us stewards and put humans in charge of His beautiful creation. A steward is a person

who manages another's property and/or affairs. Because God placed humans in charge of His affairs, He needed them to be intelligent and wise. So, He gave humans a superior brain like no other living thing in His creation.

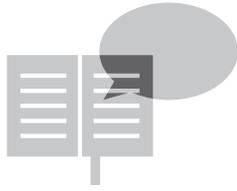
This brain that God gave exclusively to humans is part of our amazing bodies we have been blessed with. Psalm 139:14 says,

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” God gave us our phenomenal brains because He wants us to be continually learning and growing wiser. God wants His children to be curious and have a desire to be lifelong learners so that they can become all that He created them to be. God has great plans for your life! In Jeremiah 29:11, God says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

God wants us to have wisdom and knowledge. Knowledge is information that is acquired over time. It is about facts and ideas that we learn through study, experience, research, or observation. Wisdom is the ability to judge or discern what is true or right. For example, knowledge is knowing how to use a phone; wisdom is knowing when to use it and when to keep it put away. Knowledge is memorizing verses in the Bible; wisdom is doing what those verses tell us to do. Proverbs 16:16 says that having wisdom and understanding is better than having silver or gold. An education is something that makes you better prepared in life and can never be taken away. Your education is important to God.

As young children, our parents place us in educational settings where we are taught information and grow in our knowledge (daycare and preschool). Then we are ready for the beginning of our formal education, and we enter kindergarten! As a Christian, it is important that while you are gaining knowledge through your secular schooling and that you are also acquiring godly knowledge and wisdom at home and in your church. Your educational journey is intended to expose you to information and experiences that will help you perfect your God given gift and mold you into the person that God created you to be.

That is why your parents pray for your salvation. They know that when you accept Christ as your personal Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside



Scripture SUPPORT

Psalm 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Proverbs 16:16

How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

you and help you grow in wisdom and knowledge about what you are learning at school and in the world around you. In John 14:26, Jesus says, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” So, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us have true knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Luke 2:52 says, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” And God wants you to grow in wisdom and stature and favor also.

God wants you to develop a passion for learning, and schooling is a part of God’s plan for your life. We are promoted from grade to grade as we complete elementary and middle school. Finally, we are proud to enter high school and begin focusing on meeting graduation requirements. High school years pass by quickly, so for those intending to go to college after high school completion, the planning begins. There are many colleges that may interest you, but for a Christian young person, a Christian college is an important consideration. So, with the counsel of your parents and your school guidance counselor, choose a college carefully. Look at all of the options and pray about your decision. Hopefully, by the time you are in high school, you have accepted Christ as your Savior, and you have the help of the Holy Spirit with your studies and college planning.

As college approaches, the pinnacle of your formal educational journey, here are some helpful suggestions that will make sure you are college ready when the time comes (See Handout 1). And remember, Matthew 6:33 says, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” In other words, as you pursue higher education, keep God first in your life, and you will be successful.

Earning a college degree will give you a head start moving into a successful career as a steward focused leader. College also enriches your mind and opens the door to new people, places, and

friendships. Education is no substitute for anointing, and Christian college grads will be happily prepared with both—education and anointing. With your gift, anointing, wisdom, knowledge, and college degree in hand, you will be ready for God to use you for His glory and the betterment of His creation.

DISCUSS

- Lead children in a discussion about humans being given superior brains because we are created in God's image.
- Lead children in a discussion about God having a plan for their life to use their gift for His glory.
- Lead children in a discussion about God needing man and women to be intelligent and wise to be good stewards to oversee and manage His creation.
- Lead children in a discussion about difference between wisdom and knowledge.
- Lead children in a discussion about the importance of college to develop to their fullest potential.
- Lead children in a discussion about the steps to prepare for college.



Scripture SUPPORT

Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Technology to show video

“Thinking About My Future Career” worksheet

Pencils, crayons, or markers

Easel or white board for group discussion (optional)

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/ZR1bvJQrgSI>

“Importance of College--Kids On Campus 2016”.

- After the video, discuss briefly the importance of going to college. Have children think about what kind of work they would like to do in the future. (Use information from video and lesson.)
- Then have students fill out “Thinking About My Future Career” worksheet. When they are finished,

AGES 12-16

Materials

Technology to show video

“Getting Ready for Higher Education” worksheet

(Place worksheets back to back)

“Timeline to Success” worksheet

Pencils, crayons, or markers

Easel or white board for group discussion (optional)

Have children view YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/U6jw-KvIIMU> “Welcome to College for Middle School and High School Student.”

- After the video, discuss briefly the importance of going to college. Have children think about what kind of work they would like to do in the future. (Use information from video and lesson.)
- Then have children fill out both sides of “Getting Ready for Higher Education” and “Timeline to Success” worksheet. When they are finished, have children share some of their information from their worksheet with the group.



CHALLENGE QUESTION

AM I DOING THE THINGS I NEED
TO DO TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

WHAT CAN I DO TO WORK
ON THE CHALLENGE QUESTION?

	AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>I am growing in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people.</i>

Handout 1

COLLEGE PREPARATION

FRESHMEN YEAR

- **Meet your counselor**
- **Lay out a four-year plan**
- **Connect every semester to review your grades and plan**

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- **Stay motivated**
- **Go to college fairs and ask questions**
- **Take a practice ACT/SAT test**

JUNIOR YEAR

- **“Best grades ever” year**
- **Prepare and take ACT/SAT**
- **Visit at least one college campus**

SENIOR YEAR

- **Apply to schools at the start of the first semester**
- **Apply for financial aid**
- **Apply for scholarships**

Once you have made your decision and done all of the steps of preparation, Pray for God’s will to be done. He will open the door of the college that is right for you.

Once that door opens...walk through it. The rest is up to you!

Proverbs 3:5-6 says,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”

THINKING ABOUT MY FUTURE

1. What are my hobbies and things I like to do?

2. What are my favorite subjects in school?

3. What subjects do I make good grades in?

4. What job or career I think I might be good at?

GETTING READY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Take a moment to talk with your partner about what your plans are for the future.
Share the goals you will set for yourself to achieve by next school year.
Write them down. Answer the following questions.

What are three most important goals you hope to achieve by next school year?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Why are these goals most important?

What will you have to do to achieve these goals?

What support will you need from others to accomplish these goals?

TIMELINE TO SUCCESS

Below you are going to make your own timeline to success and explore what you need to do to get there. Let's start by having you understand how long you have to accomplish some of your goals.

- I will start middle school in year: _____
- I will start high school in year: _____
- I will apply for college in year: _____
- I will graduate from college in year: _____

Goals serve as a guide to help you travel the road to your future. Think about the things you will need to do to stay on track and reach your ultimate goal of success.

