Day 1
LISTEN UP!

BIBLE PASSAGES
The Ears
1 Kings 3:1–15; various Proverbs

SOLID ROCK VERSE CHALLENGE
Listen to me . . . keep my ways. Proverbs 8:32

ANIMAL PAL
Tembo the Elephant

FUN PUN
Be all ears!
(Do I have ears that hear and do God’s Word?)

LESSON FOCUS
Be wise—have ears that hear and do God’s Word!

Today’s Exploration Stations
• Discovery Center: All Ears
• Touch Table: King Solomon, Part 1
• Dramatic Play: Safari Time
• Coloring Corner: Proverbs 8:32

Today’s Lesson at a Glance
• Introduce It!
  Ears to Hear
• Teach It!
  Part 1: King Solomon
  Part 2: Puppet Pal—What Is Wisdom?
• Apply It!
  Part 1: Solid Rock Verse Challenge
  Part 2: Go and Do
  Optional Song: “Oh, Be Careful Little Ears”
  Optional Activity: Play Acting Review

Preparing for the Lesson
• Read 1 Kings 3–4 several times.
• Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials. For more information on the book of Proverbs, visit answersvbs.com/ckfaq.
• Pray.

Lesson Materials
• Exploration Station Names posters
• Wise Solomon poster
• Dream bubble posters
• W = H + D poster

FROM RESOURCE DVD-ROM
• Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet (Expl. Station)
• Sound effects
• 2 copies of today’s puppet script

OTHER MATERIALS
• Exploration Station supplies (see back cover)
• Bible or children’s Bible
• Expedition guide costumes for teachers
• Discovery Backpack (any backpack will work)
• Optional: Toy elephant
• Device on which to play sound effects
• Boy or girl puppet (in costume) and puppet stage (tent)
• Clipboard
• Headphones for puppet
• Mounting putty or tape
• Apply It! section supplies
• Optional: Props for Play Acting Review

STUDENT EXTRAS
• Student guides (11-3-134), 1 per child
• Trail Guide (11-3-090), 1 per child
• W = H + D bookmark (11-3-077), 1 per child
• Tembo bookmark (11-3-078), 1 per child
Day 1: Listen UP!

Devotion 1: Listen UP!

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6

During the 1980s, the then-famous actor Mr. T (of A-Team fame) popularized the phrase, “I pity the fool!” In his case, he defined a fool as someone who dared to get in his way. Since only a limited number of people have crossed paths with Mr. T, it seems there should be many more people who are wise than those who are fools.

In contrast, in the Bible we find a much broader definition of fool: one who says in his heart, “There is no God” (Psalm 14:1). And the wise are those who fear the Lord (Proverbs 9:10) and show their fear by hearing His Word and doing what it says (Deuteronomy 4:5–6). According to this definition, there are many more who are foolish than who are wise. (In fact, we are all born as fools.)

This week at Camp Kilimanjaro, we want to teach our kids that true wisdom is not based on an arbitrary definition made up by a celebrity or sports figure or smart teacher. True wisdom comes from the God of the Bible who alone is wise (1 Timothy 1:17) and who has given us a standard for wise living in His Word. After all, as our Creator, He knows how He created us to function and how we can best do that. We’ll be studying a variety of passages from the book of Proverbs, a book full of God-inspired principles for all areas of life.

But what happens to “wisdom” in a worldview where there is no god? If there is no god—no ultimate standard of truth and wisdom—and we are simply the product of random processes operating on chemicals over time, then the thoughts in our brains are nothing more than the product of random chemical interactions. And the immaterial concept of wisdom has no logical basis in mere physical chemical reactions. Further, how do we determine which chemical interactions lead to “wise” actions and which lead to “foolish” actions on our own? Is Mr. T our standard of what is wise and foolish? Are you? We quickly descend that proverbial (ahem!) slippery slope into the proverbial (ahem!) moral morass with no ultimate standard to tell us who are the wise, what actions are wise, or how we can become wise.

Apart from the perfect, truthful, unchanging, eternal, triune God of the Bible, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3) and from whom come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 9:10), we cannot know what true wisdom is.

The all-wise God of the Bible has created each person in His image, giving us the ability to reason and to develop wise courses of action based on the principles He’s given in His Word. And He has revealed Himself to everyone so that no one is without excuse. Those who deny His existence are willfully ignorant and foolish (Romans 1:18–21).

We can praise Him that He freely gives wisdom to those who ask for it (James 1:5). Today, let’s be quick to seek wisdom from God as we teach our children to Listen UP! to His Word.

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:
To know wisdom and instruction,
To perceive the words of understanding,
To receive the instruction of wisdom,
Justice, judgment, and equity;
To give prudence to the simple,
To the young man knowledge and discretion—
A wise man will hear and increase learning,
And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,
The words of the wise and their riddles.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

(Proverbs 1:1–7)

My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within you,
So that you incline your ear to wisdom,
And apply your heart to understanding;
Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,
If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
And find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;
He guards the paths of justice,
And preserves the way of His saints.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.

(Proverbs 2:1–9)
Day 1: Listen UP!

**Exploration Stations**

### Discovery Center: All Ears

**MATERIALS**
- Discovery Backpack (any backpack will work)
- Safe objects that make sounds, such as jingling coins, a bell, a bottle of water to slush around, potato chips to crunch, a piece of paper to rip, a whistle to blow, a balloon to blow up, keys to jingle, a pen to click on and off

**PRE-PREP**
In this activity, the hikers will guess sounds just by hearing, so they shouldn’t be able to see the objects. Put the objects in the backpack.

**DIRECTIONS**
Show the kids the Discovery Backpack. Tell them that every day this week, there will be new things to discover in the backpack. Today, they’ll play a listening game and try to guess what the objects in the backpack are just by hearing them. One at a time, rattle an object. See if they can guess what it is or what you’re doing. (You can also do ones that don’t require an object, such as fingers snapping or hands clapping.)

**TEACHING TIE-IN**
 touched your ears! It was fun using your ears to guess those sounds, wasn’t it? God made your amazing ears so they can hear all kinds of things. (“The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both” Proverbs 20:12.) But the most important thing God wants you to hear are the words of the Bible, because when you listen to the Bible, you’re hearing God’s own words! It’s like God is talking to you! How cool is that?!
And God wants you not only to listen but to do what He says! Are you listening to God’s Word and doing what it says? That’s how you become wise!

### Touch Table: King Solomon, Part 1

**MATERIALS**
- Under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or “official” touch table
- Tarp or plastic tablecloth
- Large fake jewels and play coins
- Optional: Yellow poster board strips, glue sticks, and a stapler

**PRE-PREP**
Tarp the floor under the touch table. This will be used all week. Put the large jewels and coins in the touch table.

**DIRECTIONS**
Hikers will swish their hands through the jewels and coins. They can choose some jewels and make a crown if you choose to do that. To do so, glue the jewels on the yellow poster board strips. Then an adult can determine the correct size by putting the crown on the child’s head. Once size is determined, staple.

**TEACHING TIE-IN**
While they’re playing with the jewels and coins, lead a little discussion about King Solomon and what he asked God for (1 Kings 3). Did he ask for riches (jewels, money)? Did he ask for a long life? Did he ask for victory over his enemies? No, he asked for wisdom!

### Dramatic Play: Safari Time

**MATERIALS**
Choose from any of the following, depending on your situation. These will be used all week.
- Safari backdrop and play jeep (see Decorating Decisions)
- Costumes (safari vests, pith helmets, visors, sunglasses, animal headbands, animal masks, animal vests/costumes)
- Props such as toy animals, toy binoculars, toy cameras, blanket, picnic basket with play food, toy canteen, backpacks, toy nets
- Optional: Elephants (paper, picture, plush, or plastic)

**PRE-PREP**
Gather the supplies. The costumes, masks, and suggested props can be borrowed, made, or bought from thrift stores, garage sales, or online companies like Oriental Trading Company or Rhode Island Novelties.
Set up the safari backdrop, jeep, and other decorations to simulate the African savanna.

**DIRECTIONS**
Dress up and pretend to be on a safari. Pretend to see (and hear) an elephant. Make his trumpet call.

**TEACHING TIE-IN**
On our safari today, we meet Tembo, the big-eared elephant. His big ears remind us to hear God’s Word and do it!

Note: You may want to only put out part of the supplies today, adding new ones each day. The kids enjoy discovering something new daily. Also, for a fun activity any day, gently toss stuffed or plastic animals and have kids “catch” them in the play nets.
Coloring Corner: Proverbs 8:32

MATERIALS
- Base Camp supplies—tents, flashlights, etc. (see Decorating Decisions)
- Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet (Resource DVD-ROM)
- Markers or crayons
- Optional for marker and crayon storage: mini suitcase (small plastic marker case with travel stickers would work)
- Optional: Additional supplies to glue on, glue sticks, and stickers

PRE-PREP
Photocopy the coloring sheet, 1 per child. Make or gather the decorating supplies and set them up. These will be used all week. Gather additional supplies to glue on.

DIRECTIONS
Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN
Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

Note: You may want to put a child’s small table inside the tent for an easier surface on which to color.

Additional Exploration Station Ideas
- Animal Puppets—Have a small puppet stage and safari animal puppets for the kids to play with.
- Mountain of Books—Make a cozy reading spot at the base of a “mountain.” Use light brown bulletin board roll paper and scrunch it into a mountain shape that you tape on the wall. Put white batting at the mountaintop for the snow. Put a blanket at the base with some books in a picnic basket. The books can be about the wonderful safari animals God made or the wonderful parts of the body God made, too! Children’s picture Bibles or children’s books about Proverbs or Bible accounts are a perfect addition!
- Nature Reserve—Set this up as a science/nature center where the young trekkers can explore animals, plants, and other items of interest from Africa. Possible suggestions are aloe, African violets, an ant farm, snake skin, bird feathers, lavender, coffee beans, plantains, sorghum, bananas, an ostrich egg, a cola nut, spices (cloves, curry), a coconut and/or coconut milk, and pineapple. A leader should oversee this area. Avoid items a child may be allergic to.
- Animal Antics—Set up an area with large toy African animals for free play, along with African animal puzzles and animal-themed toys.
Introduce It!

Ears to Hear (5 minutes)

Teacher One: Welcome to Africa and Camp Kilimanjaro, hikers! I’m (Safari Sue, Ranger Ron, Adventurous Amy, Tracker Tom, or whatever name you choose).

Teacher Two: And I’m (name of your choice). We’ll be your expedition guides at this high adventure camp that’s by this big mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro. Can you say “Kilimanjaro” with me? Help children sound it out. It’s going to be fantastic fun!

Teacher One: Before we start on our journey, let’s get ready, okay? First, we’ll put on our sunglasses and visors. Pretend to do so, or really do so. See sidebar note. Now let’s put on our safari vests. Pretend to do so. And how about our hiking boots? Pretend to do so. Okay, I think we’re ready!

Teacher Two: The next things to get ready for are the sounds we may hear. Let’s try a little listening game to see if we can figure out these sounds from Africa. I’ll play a sound, and see if you can guess what it is. Play each sound effect and have them guess.

Sound effect #1 is a lion’s roar. A lion’s roar can be heard for over 4 miles!

Sound effect #2 is a drum beating. Africa is known for its drums.

Sound effect #3 is someone speaking in another language—Swahili. Swahili is the language they speak around Mount Kilimanjaro.

Sound effect #4 is the trumpet of an elephant. The big-eared African elephant is the largest land animal and lives freely only in Africa.

Sound effect #5 is the bray of a zebra. Zebras live freely only in Africa.

Sound effect #6 is a waterfall. This can be heard at the base of the mountain where the rainforest is.

Teacher One: Good job, hikers! It looks like your ears are listening UP! In His great wisdom, God designed your ears in an amazing way to get sounds from the air to our brains. It’s important to listen UP, especially to important instructions. We’ve got an animal pal with us today to remind us to listen UP!

Teacher Two: Today’s animal pal is Tembo (TEM bo). Tembo means “elephant” in Swahili. Show the Fun Pun poster and practice saying “Tembo” together. Pull the toy elephant from the Discovery Backpack if you have one. Tembo is an African elephant and has big ears. God designed his big ears to help keep cool by fanning himself. His big ears remind us to listen UP!

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Well, when it comes to listening, I have THE most important thing to listen to in the whole world right here in my Discovery Backpack. Can you guess what it is?

Slowly and dramatically pull out your Bible.

Teacher Two: It’s God’s special book, the Bible! Do you know who wrote the Bible? Right, God did! It’s the most special book ever because God wrote it and it’s perfect. Every word is true! So if we’re going to listen to anything, we need to listen to the Bible. In fact, why don’t we listen right now to an account about a king?

Teacher One: Oh, that would be great because I love to hear from God through the Bible! Let’s hear about a king named Solomon. Open your Bible to 1 Kings 3. Make sure they see you using your Bible every day!
Day 1: Listen UP!

Teach It!

Part 1: King Solomon (5 minutes)

Teacher One: Long ago, God’s Word tells us there lived a man named Solomon, and one day, Solomon became a king. Show the Wise Solomon poster. Let’s blow our trumpets and pretend that Solomon is becoming a king. Do so.

Now let’s pretend to put on our crowns, like King Solomon did. Do so.

Teacher Two: Solomon loved the Lord. Let’s give ourselves a great big hug, like we’re saying we love the Lord! Do so.

Teacher One: Well one night, Solomon fell asleep. Let’s pretend to fall asleep. Do so.

Teacher Two: And while he was sleeping, King Solomon had a dream. In the dream God said to him, “Ask! What shall I give you?”

Teacher One: Wow! What a question! If God asked you what one thing you wanted, what would you say? Take answers.

Teacher Two: Let’s see if you can guess what Solomon told God he wanted.

Teacher One: Pull out Picture 1: Long Life from the Discovery Backpack.

Teacher Two: Do you think King Solomon asked God to give him lots and lots of money and riches? Take answers. NO!

Teacher One: Pull out Picture 2: Riches from the Discovery Backpack.

Teacher Two: Do you think Solomon asked God to let him win in war over all his enemies? Take answers. NO!

Teacher One: Pull out Picture 3: Victory over Enemies from the Discovery Backpack.

Teacher Two: Do you think King Solomon asked God to give him a good, wise heart so he could rule well? Take answers. YES!

Teacher One: Do you think God was happy Solomon asked for a good, wise heart? Take answers. YES!

Teacher Two: God was pleased Solomon hadn’t asked for a long life (show picture again), riches (show picture again), or victory over his enemies (show picture again).

Teacher One: So, God gave Solomon what he asked for—a good, wise heart. Plus, as an added bonus, God gave him the things he hadn’t asked for—long life, riches, and victory over his enemies.

Teacher Two: And Solomon became known as the wisest man ever!

Teacher One: Let’s all cheer! Do so. But, (Teacher Two’s name), what does the word “wise” mean, anyway? You keep saying he asked for a wise heart.

Teacher Two: I’m so glad you asked. Let’s have our puppet pal, Akili, come and talk to us a little about this. Everybody, help me call Akili. Do so.
Part 2: Puppet Pal—What Is Wisdom? (5 minutes)

Each day, the puppet pal will reinforce the lesson the kids just heard. It's a quick, but important, part of the day. If you don't have a teaching assistant or a co-teacher, enlist someone (a group guide or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. If you're alone, have the puppet enter from a travel-looking suitcase (travel stickers on it) with the lid flipped up.

The puppet can be a boy or a girl. Use a consistent voice for the puppet all week. Speak clearly and exaggerate words and expressions. For instance, draw out certain words for emphasis, or make an exaggerated action for things like groaning, turning its head, or sneezing. Use your free hand to do things with the puppet's hands or arms. For example, if the puppet is “thinking,” put the puppet’s hand on its chin. When the puppet is talking, make sure the mouth is open. (This is the opposite of what people often do!) In other words, the mouth should be open on most syllables. You don’t have to open very wide, which will help you move the mouth faster and more naturally.

Your puppet should come up either from behind or inside the tent, looking out the window or door. Or, if you have a free-standing mountain, it can come up from behind it. (The supply box will assume the tent, but it works great to have the puppet pop up from behind the mountain if you have a free-standing mountain!) When entering, hold your arm back and down and have the puppet take three steps forward, getting higher each time, until the puppet is out and visible. When exiting, turn the puppet toward you and take three steps down until out of sight.

Puppet: Akili comes up with headphones on, supposedly jamming to some music. Sing loudly and off key for a few seconds.

Teacher: Whoa, whoa, whoa, what’s going on, Akili?

Puppet: Oh, hi, ____! I’m just listening to my favorite Jambo Jive music. Start singing off key again.

Teacher: Well, hey, would you mind listening UP for just a minute?


Teacher: I keep hearing that word jambo over and over. What does it mean, Akili?

Puppet: Jambo is the Swahili word for hello! Swahili is a language many people speak in Africa! So . . . jambo, everyone!

Teacher: Oh, jambo (hello!) to you, too! Let’s say jambo to Akili, everyone! Do so. And Akili, I’ve been wondering what your name means in Swahili. It’s such a cool name, isn’t it, boys and girls? Let’s all say Akili. Do so.

Puppet: Both boys and girls have the name Akili in Africa. It means “wisdom.”

Teacher: Oh, how about that? We were just wanting to talk more about what the word wise or wisdom means.

Puppet: Start to sing softly again and (if you’re able) sneak the headphones back on.

Teacher: Uh, Akili, did you know that part of being wise is learning to listen UP?

Puppet: Akili is now singing full blast again and isn't paying any attention. Teacher has to get right in his (her) face and loudly say the next line, getting louder with each call.

Teacher: Akili! Akili!! Akili!!!

◆ Akili is pronounced Ah-KEE-lee.
Day 1: Listen UP!

Puppet: Jump a mile. Oh, don’t sneak up on me like that! You scared me!

Teacher: Akili, let’s take a minute to hear what God’s Word has to say about being wise. Did you know that wisdom starts with hearing?

Puppet: Hearing what?

Teacher: Hearing God’s Word! God is completely wise and has all wisdom. God wants us to learn to be wise, like He is. He has given us instructions for being wise in His special book, the Bible. There’s one part of the Bible, in particular, called the book of Proverbs, that’s full of wise sayings to help us live a wise life. Open your Bible to the book of Proverbs.

Puppet: That’s pretty cool! It looks like it’s right about in the middle of the Bible.

Teacher: Yep! And God used King Solomon to write most of the book of Proverbs.

Puppet: Oh, yeah, Solomon’s the one who asked God for wisdom instead of asking for riches or long life.

Teacher: You got that right! And he wrote proverbs (wise sayings) about all kinds of things, from how to choose your friends wisely to speaking with kind words to listening to your parents.

Puppet: Maybe I do need to hear what God’s Word has to say!

Teacher: Yes! We all do! But did you know that being wise is more than just hearing what God’s Word says?

Puppet: What do you mean?

Teacher: You not only need to hear it, but you also need to do it!

Puppet: Huh?

Teacher: Well, for example, God says to obey your parents (Ephesians 6:1). What if your mom said you shouldn’t touch a hot pan, but you touched it anyway? Would that be a wise choice?

Puppet: No! Big ouchie!

Teacher: For sure! Or what if you read in the Bible that you shouldn’t lie (Ephesians 4:25), but you went ahead and lied to your teacher?

Puppet: Not good!

Teacher: So you see, if you want to be wise, you need to hear the right thing to do from God’s Word, and you need to do it!

Puppet: Oh . . . so wisdom (W) = hearing (H) + doing (D)?

Teacher: Show W = H + D poster. Absolutely! Hear what God’s Word says, and then do it! That’s how to be wise! Hikers, let’s see if we can tell Akili what W = H + D means. Take answers and review together. Then ask the hikers if they can tell Akili who the animal pal is today (Tembo) and what his big ears remind us of (to listen UP/to hear and do God’s Word). Share with the children that the most important step on the path to being wise is becoming a child of God. Briefly review the gospel. (This will be taught in more detail on Day 2.)

Puppet: Cool beans! I’ll remember that. Well, time for some more Jambo Jive! Later!

Teacher: Later, Akili! Thanks for chatting.
Apply It!

In the remaining time, complete one or more of the following ideas in class. Review the student guides and/or the Trail Guides (or group guides can do so during snack time or send them home at the end of the day). Pass out the W=H+D and Tembo bookmarks (or group guides can do so at the end of the day).

Supplies for this section are not listed in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose, so decide what you will do and add them to your supply list accordingly.

Part 1: Rock Solid Verse Challenge

Today’s Verse: “Listen to me . . . keep my ways.” Proverbs 8:32

Practice the verse a couple times using the memory verse poster as a reference, then try the challenge.

Challenge: Whisper the “listen to me” part while cupping your hands near your ears and scrunching down. Then shout the “keep my ways” part as you stand up straight.

Tomorrow’s Verse: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Proverbs 3:5

Practice tomorrow’s verse if time permits. Say the new verse together several times and try the challenge again, making up new motions. You also may want to go over the theme verse, using the theme verse poster as a reference.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Go on a sound walk around your house or neighborhood with an adult. What sounds do you hear with the ears God made?
2. With someone’s help, look up this verse and talk about it: Proverbs 2:6.
3. Draw a picture of King Solomon, who asked God for wisdom (1 Kings 3). Talk to God and ask Him to give you wisdom, too (James 1:5–6).
4. With someone’s help, check answersvbs.com/ckkids for more fun information.

Ask yourself this question: When I hear something from the Bible that God wants me to do, do I do it?

Optional Song: “Oh, Be Careful Little Ears”

If you like to use songs in your teaching, here’s a fun song to incorporate into any part of your day. It will be used over and over throughout the week, with new verses added daily.

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear (Put hands up to ears.)
Oh, be careful little ears what you hear (Put hands up to ears.)
For the Father up above (Point up.)
Is looking down with love (Look down.)
Oh, be careful little ears what you hear (Put hands up to ears.)

Optional Activity: Play Acting Review

Do this little activity with any extra time. Have the kids act out the lesson about King Solomon they just heard. You may want to use simple props, like a blanket over a chair for a throne, a play crown, and a bathrobe for a king’s outfit. Or just use your imagination!