

**BLUE: Knowledge** – Proverbs 19:2; Isaiah 11:6-9; John 8:31-32; 1 Timothy 1:5

Read Proverbs 19:2. Give some examples of what you think is meant by “desire without knowledge.”

Do you agree that “desire without knowledge is not good” (Proverbs 19:2)? Why or why not?

Now read Isaiah 11:6-9. What is similar about all of the relationships of the pairs of creatures named here?

What has resulted from a world that is “filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea” (Isaiah 11:9)?

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Now read John 8:31-32. What does Jesus say is the test to tell if you are a real disciple?

What do you think Jesus means by “the truth will set you free” (John 8:32)?

Do you think Jesus would agree with the saying “Knowledge is Power”? Why or why not?

Now read 1 Timothy 1:5. In your own words, what does Paul tell Timothy is the purpose of instruction in the faith?

In what ways do you think that knowledge might contribute to a “sincere faith”?

**GREEN Table: Counsel (Right Judgment)** – 1 Kings 3:16-28; Matthew 7:7-11

Read 1 Kings 3:16-28. Which woman do you think was the one to first explain the case to King Solomon – the mother of the living child, or the mother of the dead child? Why?

What would have been the hardest part for King Solomon in giving this judgment?

In your own words, explain why the people would have been “in awe of” Solomon’s judgment (1 Kings 3:28).

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*[ GREEN Table continued ]*

Now read Matthew 7:7-11. Do you agree with what Jesus says about what parents will never give their children if asked for something else? Why or why not?

What do you think is meant by, “If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good things to your children” (Matthew 7:11)?

When Jesus says that “to the one who knocks, the door will be opened” (Matthew 7:8). what kind of “door” could he be talking about?

**YELLOW Table: Understanding** – Psalm 119:127-131; Luke 9:43-45; Luke 24:45-49

Read Psalm 119:127-131. What do you think is meant by “the revelation of your words sheds light, gives understanding to the simple” (Psalm 119:130)?

Do you feel the same way about the “commandments” as the writer? Why or why not?

Now read Luke 9:43-45. What did Jesus mean by saying, “The Son of Man is going to be handed over to the power of human beings” (Luke 9:44)?

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*[ YELLOW Table continued ]*

Why do you think Jesus chose this moment to remind the disciples of this?

Now read Luke 24:45-49. By this time in the Gospel of Luke, what has happened that might have helped the disciples' understanding of what Jesus told them?

What do you feel you understand well about Catholic teachings?

What are things you still struggle to understand?

**ORANGE Table: Fortitude (Courage)** – Micah 3:8-10; Acts 4:13-22

Read Micah 3:8-10. How do you think the people and rulers of Israel would have reacted to Micah's words?

Describe or draw what a city would look like if built on a foundation of "bloodshed" and "wickedness" (Micah 3:10).

In your own words, what does acting for justice have to do with the gift of Fortitude?

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*[ ORANGE Table continued ]*

Now read Acts 4:13-22. What did the Council members find most surprising about Peter and John?

Why did the Council members warn the disciples to stop speaking in the name of Jesus?

Imagine what would have happened if Peter and John had not ignored the Council's warnings.

**PURPLE Table: Wisdom** – 1 Kings 3:3-15; Wisdom 8:5, 6-8, 9-18, 21

Read 1 Kings 3:3-15. In your own words, explain why Solomon asked God for wisdom.

How did God reward Solomon for this request?

Now read just the first verse of the next passage, Wisdom 8:5. What do you think is meant by “what is richer than Wisdom, who produces all things”?

Next read Wisdom 8:6-8. Give an example of how one of the seven virtues might relate to Wisdom. (*Refer to the “Catholic Connection” section on page 839 for the cardinal virtues.*)

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*[ PURPLE Table continued ]*

Now read Wisdom 8:9-18. What do you think of the way Solomon talks about Wisdom as he would talk about a person – as “my bride” (Wisdom 8:18)?

Today, what items or ideas might we talk about as “her” or “she”?

Finally, look at Wisdom 8:21. Do you agree that “knowing that I could not otherwise possess her unless God gave it – and this, too was prudence to know whose gift she is”? Why or why not?

**RED Table: Fear of the Lord (Wonder & Awe) –**

Psalm 8:2-10; Psalm 131:1-3; Canticle of the Sun

Read Psalm 8:2-10. In Chicago, what do we see when we look up into the sky at night? How does this compare to Psalm 8:4? What makes the difference?

How might our view of the world change if we kept in mind that God's "greatness is seen through all the earth" (Psalm 8:2, 10)?

Give some examples of how we can have "rule over the works of [God's] hands" (Psalm 8:7)?

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*[ RED Table continued ]*

Now read Psalm 131:1-3. What do you think is meant by “Rather, I have stilled my soul like a weaned child to its mother” (Psalm 131:2)?

Read the Canticle of the Sun. What have you noticed about the form of the two Scripture passages and the Canticle of the Sun?

Why might this form have been chosen for describing the Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)?

**PINK: Piety (Reverence)** – 1 Timothy 5:1-4; Matthew 6:1-8; Psalm 104:33-34

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-4. Summarize it in your own words.

What might be the reason(s) that Paul writes to Timothy especially about respecting widows?

Then read Matthew 6:1-8. Do you agree with Jesus when he says that charity and prayer should be private matters? Why or why not?

How would you define the word “hypocrites” as Jesus uses it in Matthew 6:2?

*[ PINK Table continued ]*

What do you think Jesus means by, “Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:8)?

In your own words, what do acts of charity have to do with the gift of Piety?

Now read Psalm 104:33-34. How would you know if your prayers were “pleasing” (104:34) to the Lord?

What are some ways that you might show that you “rejoice in the Lord” (104:34)?

What are some of the differences between the respect you have for people and the reverence you have for God?

**BROWN Table: Fear of the Lord (Wonder & Awe) –**

Proverbs 19:21-23; Exodus 14:21-22, 26-31; Mark 4:35-41

Read Proverbs 19:21-23. In your own words, what is promised to the one who fears the Lord?

There is an old Yiddish proverb that translates to “we make our plans and God laughs”. Do you prefer to think of God’s response to our small, human plans as laughter, or as an enduring decision (19:21)? What appeals to you about the image you like better?

Read the “Searching for God” article on page 792 of your Bible. When have you felt truly awed by the power of God?

Now read Exodus 14:21-22. How might the Israelites have felt as they began to walk through the passage the Lord had made through the waves?

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Skip ahead a few verses to read Exodus 14:26-31. What has God done to the Egyptian army?

What might have happened to the Israelites if God had not saved them from the Egyptians in this way?

Now read Mark 4:35-41 (*in verses 35-36, he/him refers to Jesus, and they/them are the twelve apostles*). Why do you think the apostles woke up Jesus during the storm?

How would you answer the question that the apostles leave unanswered in verse 41?

**BLACK Table: Wisdom** – Wisdom 7:7-12; James 3:13-18; Matthew 7:24-27

Read Wisdom 7:7-12. Name the things that Solomon is saying are less good than Wisdom in verses 8-10. As a king, how much experience would Solomon likely have of all those things?

What do you think of the way Solomon talks about Wisdom as he would talk about a person – and as a “leader” and a “mother”? in verse 12?

Today, what items or ideas might we talk about as “her” or “she”?

Next read James 3:13-18. What are the differences in how one acts when using the different kinds of wisdom named in verse 15: the wisdom “from above” and the wisdom that is “earthly”?

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*[ BLACK Table continued ]*

Describe someone from history (maybe a saint or another historical figure you have studied) who you think has used their wisdom to “cultivate peace” (James 3:18).

Finally, read Matthew 7:24-27. Which childhood story, similar to this parable Jesus tells, might be a good illustration of Wisdom in action?

What kinds of actions would Jesus consider to be represented by the “house on sand” in verse 26?

Name some ways of wisdom you have learned from Solomon, James and Jesus to find a “rock” on which to build your “house.”