

## THREADING THE THEME HANDOUTS

### WHEN GIRLS ARRIVE AT CLUB

Designate a **Wisdom Wall** in your club that has a monthly focus on this season's theme.

#### September Wisdom Wall:

- Heading: We're girls of wisdom who will go beyond the gold! Plus download and print the *Get Wisdom: Go beyond the gold!* logo.
- Needed supplies: Using poster board create a large gold medal that girls can sign. Add ribbon to the medal to give it the look of the girl wearing a medal in the *Get Wisdom: Go beyond the gold!* logo. Plus you'll need markers, crayons, or pens.
- Activity: Above the medal write, "Sign your name if you will get wisdom that goes beyond the gold!"
- Verses: Post: Proverbs 9:10 and Proverbs 16:16-17.
- Quote: [The book of Proverbs] takes the ageless, priceless wisdom of God Himself and makes it understandable and accessible to regular people like you and me. – Bill Hybels

#### October Wisdom Wall:

- Heading: What words do wise girls use? Plus download and print the Wisdom about Words logo from [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org).
- Needed supplies: Paper lips for each girl and markers, crayons, or pens.
- Activity: When girls arrive they need to write an encouraging word on a pair of lips and post it on the wisdom wall!
- Verse: Post: Proverbs 12:18.
- Quote: Always keep your words soft and sweet. Just in case you have to eat them. – Author Unknown

#### November Wisdom Wall:

- Heading: How do wise girls treat one another? Plus download and print the Wisdom about Relationships logo from [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org).
- Needed supplies: A paper heart for each girl and markers, crayons, or pens.
- Activity: When girls arrive they need to write on a paper heart one way that wise girls treat one another. Post hearts on the wisdom wall.
- Verse: Post: Proverbs 17:17.
- Quote: Happiness is found in relationships. And life's greatest happiness is found in life's greatest relationship: a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. – Kenneth L. Tangen

#### December Wisdom Wall:

- Heading: What character qualities mark a wise girl's life? Plus download and print the Wisdom about Integrity logo from [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org).

Needed supplies: Use butcher paper to create two roads. One should be straight and narrow and the other wavy and crooked. Plus you'll need markers, crayons, or pens. Before girls arrive write words like lying, cheating, stealing, hate, jealousy, temper tantrum, selfishness, and so on, on the wavy, crooked road.

Activity: When girls arrive they need to each write a character quality that should be part of wise girls' lives on the straight and narrow road.

Verse: Post: Proverbs 10:9.

Quote: Integrity: Doing what is right even when it's difficult. – Unknown

### **January Wisdom Wall:**

Heading: What work do you enjoy most? Plus download and print the Wisdom about Work logo from [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org).

Needed supplies: Wide Popsicle sticks with a hole drilled in each end (they're bar bells for their strong arms!), stickpins, and markers.

Activity: When girls arrive give them a "barbell" and ask them to write a task that they enjoy doing most. They should use stickpins to post it on the wisdom wall.

Verse: Post: Proverbs 31:17.

Quote: Good for the body is the work of the body, and good for the soul is the work of the soul, and good for either is the work of the other. – Henry David Thoreau

### **February Wisdom Wall:**

Heading: Where are some places or organizations that wise girls can give their money to? Plus download and print the Wisdom about Money logo from [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org).

Needed supplies: Print photocopies of the \$1 bills from page 17 of the *Theme Resource Book*. One dollar is needed per girl, plus markers.

Activity: When girls arrive give them a \$1 bill. Have them write on the front of the dollar a place where they can give their money: church, The Esther School, Crisis Pregnancy Center, and so on. They should post it on the wisdom wall.

Verse: Post: Proverbs 3:9a.

Quote: There is no portion of our time that is our time, and the rest God's; there is no portion of money that is our money, and the rest God's money. It is all His; He made it all, gives it all, and He has simply trusted it to us for His service. – Adolphe Monod

### **March Wisdom Wall:**

Heading: What's your favorite Proverb? Plus download and print the *Get Wisdom: Go beyond the gold!* logo from [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org) or post a picture of a Bible open to the book of Proverbs.

Needed supplies: Use the Proverbs for Life posters for a list of Powerful Proverbs, or create your own list. Print these verses in full on sheets of paper

for the girls to look at. Go to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) to help you! You will need an index card for each girl, plus markers, pencils, or pens.

**Activity:** When girls arrive give them an index card. Have them write their name and favorite Proverb on the index card. Challenge older girls to write why this is their favorite verse. Post on the Wisdom Wall.

**Verses:** Post: Proverbs 1:1, 4.

**Quote:** Proverbs is a fascinating and powerful book. Where else can we find the wisdom of God compressed into a few pithy phrases that please our ears and stretch our minds and satisfy our souls? – Bill Hybels

### **April Wisdom Wall:**

**Heading:** What did you learn at GEMS this season? Plus download and print the *GEMS Girls' Club* logo from [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org).

**Needed supplies:** You will need a variety of solid colors of construction paper and markers and crayons. Other decorations like stickers, GEMstones (available through the Service Center), glitter, etc. can also be made available.

**Activity:** When girls arrive have them choose a piece of construction paper. These are going to be posted on the Wisdom Wall like a quilt so be sure to choose if you want the girls to write on their paper horizontally or vertically. Ask them to write one or more things they learned at GEMS this year. They can decorate if desired. Help them hang it on the wall so it looks like a quilt.

**Verse:** Post: Proverbs 2:10.

**Quote:** The goal of Proverbs is to grow ever closer to the God who is Wisdom. Knowing God is the proper definition of the good life, and the highest goal of the Proverbs-driven life. – Anthony Selvaggio

## **ICEBREAKERS/GAMES/ACTIVITIES**

### **LEARNING THE PROVERBS**

**Match the Proverb:** Choose enough verses for half the girls in your club. For each Proverb, write the first half of the verse and the second half of the verse on separate index cards or pieces of paper. Place all the paper in a bowl. Ask each girl to draw one piece. Their assignment is to find the person who has the other half of their Proverb! Once everyone has found the opposite half of their verse, ask the girls to take turns standing up as pairs, introducing one another, and reading the full Proverb verse.

**Proverbs Point:** Make new friends and familiarize the girls with Proverbs.

**Memory Game:** Create a jumbo Memory Game using 11" x 8 ½" clear poly sheet page protectors. On the backside of each sheet print the *Get Wisdom* logo. On the front sides put the first and second halves of different Proverbs (put the address on the bottom of

both. Example: Proverbs 1:1a on the 1<sup>st</sup> half, Proverbs 1:1b on the 2<sup>nd</sup> half). A “match” is made when both halves of the verse are found.

**Proverbs Point:** To memorize verses from Proverbs.

**Hang Man:** Play it with your girls on the chalkboard/whiteboard/large piece of paper using verses from the book of Proverbs.

**Proverbs Point:** To help girls learn the verses from Proverbs.

**Names of God:** You will need one inflatable beach ball for every 5-8 girls. On the beach balls write the names of God. Small groups of girls toss the ball to one another, catch it, and then look at the name that’s closest to their right hand thumb. They should praise God for this characteristic. “Thank you God that you are my King!” or “I praise God that He is my Rock!”

**Proverbs Point:** Fear God by recognizing who He is!

**Who Needs Rules:** Divide the girls into two teams and have them face one another. Once everyone is lined up say, “It looks like everyone is ready to begin the game!” Then toss one or a few beach balls or balloons toward the group. Let them become frustrated that there are no rules so they don’t know what they’re playing or how to play it.

**Proverbs Point:** We need God’s rules and guidelines to make life work! That’s why it’s important to study Proverbs.

**Sharing Wisdom:** Have girls partner up and talk quietly together. They need to learn each other’s names and share a word of wisdom that they learned from someone. Maybe that piece of wisdom is, “Brush your teeth before you go to bed.” Once everyone is ready to share, have partners take turns standing in front of the group, introducing their partner, and sharing their partner’s words of wisdom.

**Proverbs Point:** Learn the importance of sharing wisdom with others.

**Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of things for the girls to find in a Scavenger Hunt. Small groups can go door to door with counselors and collect random items from neighbors, look for nature items in a park, or small items within your club building.

**Proverbs Point:** Searching for wisdom is similar to a Scavenger Hunt. It demands a diligent search. Challenge them to work hard to search for wisdom!

**Proverbs Puzzle:** Write a Proverb on a large poster board, cut it into 6 to 12 puzzle pieces, and hide pieces throughout the room or building. Tell girls the boundaries! Each girl may only find one puzzle piece. Once they find a puzzle piece, they must return to a designated area, and wait for the rest of the pieces to arrive. After the puzzle is complete, they should read it aloud together. You can do this with multiple groups by writing different Proverbs on different colors of poster board. Simply tell them what color they are to search for and how many puzzle pieces there are for that color.

**Proverbs Point:** To help girls learn the verses from Proverbs.

**Grow Like Jesus:** Read Luke 2:52. You will need masking tape, four sheets of paper, and a beanbag. Mark the floor with masking tape creating four 3' x 3' squares. Put the four sheets of paper within the squares:

Jesus grew in Wisdom	Jesus grew Physically
Jesus grew in Favor with God	Jesus grew in Favor with people

Girls should take turns tossing the beanbags unto a square. The girl who tosses the beanbag needs to either say or do charades (have the other girls guess!) a way that we grow in wisdom, a way that our bodies grow physically, a way that we please God, or a way that we can be “get along” girls.

**Proverbs Point:** To help girls understand that they should follow Jesus’ example.

**Post a Proverb:** Place a wire or clothesline across a wall in your large group room. Create a headline that reads, “Post a Proverb.” Invite girls to draw or write out their favorite Proverbs and clothespin them to the line. You can have supplies available at club or they can bring their pictures/Proverbs to club that they worked on at home.

**Proverbs Point:** To encourage the girls to read the book of Proverbs on their own.

### **WISDOM ABOUT WORDS**

**An Encouraging Word:** Divide girls into small groups of 5-7. Instruct the girls to think of an encouraging word that has 5-7 letters. They need to spell the word out with their bodies.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls to identify encouraging words.

### **Encourage One Another!**

1. **Compliment Sheet:** Ask small groups of 6-8 girls to sit around tables. Each girl should write her name at the top of a piece of paper and pass it to the girl on her right. That person writes something she admires about the owner of the paper. “You’re kind.” “You are a good listener.” And so on. Pass the papers around until they return to their original owners.
2. **Balloon Kudos:** A balloon is needed for every 2-3 girls. Group the girls into twos and threes and give them an inflated balloon. As they hit it back and forth the person hitting the balloon into the air needs to say something kind about the person who hit the balloon last. Switch up the groups often so they’re complimenting a number of people!

**Proverbs Point:** To inspire girls to build each other up.

**Speak the Truth:** You will need a small item, foam ball, or beanbag for every group of 4-12 girls, plus praise music. Girls are to hold hands and form a circle, facing in. Ask them to drop their hands and put one or more items in the circle. When the music plays, they should pass the item to the right as quickly as possible. It’s like hot potato! When the

music stops the person(s) that are holding an item need to step into the circle and say something truthful about themselves.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls to speak the truth.

**Bubbles:** Have bubble solutions available for the girls. Instruct them to wiggle their toes while they blow their bubbles. Have fun seeing who can blow the biggest bubble or time to see how long a bubble exists before popping. When finished, give the Proverb point.

**Proverbs Point:** Big bubbles take big lung capacity. When you're upset or eager to gossip, take a long, deep, slow breath, wiggle your toes 10 times, and most important – ask God to help you be wise with your words. Be calm when you speak!

### **WISDOM ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS**

**Show 'n Tell:** Have a show 'n tell time when girls show each other their scars and tell the story behind what happened. Maybe it was quite serious. Maybe they did something really silly or without thinking. It's an interesting way to break the ice!

**Proverbs Point:** It's important to build relationships with one another so we can be there for each other on the super sunny days and the "Ouch! That hurt!" days!

**Keep it Up!** You will need an inflated balloon for every group of 4-8 girls. Play upbeat praise music while they play! The girls should hold hands in a circle during the game. The goal is to keep the balloon in the air by blowing on it or hitting it with their head or other body parts. Play is complete if the balloon touches the floor or if they let go of their hands. Play for 5 minutes and declare a winner or a tie if more than one group plays.

**Proverbs Point:** In all our relationships, we should make every effort to be united, binding ourselves together with love and peace.

**Chit Chat Cards:** Use the Chit Chat Cards to help the girls build relationships at GEMS.

**Hugs:** You will need several inflated balloons for every two girls. Tell the pairs that they need to pop the balloons as quickly as possible by squeezing them between their bodies!

**Proverbs Point:** Appropriate hugs express love and friendship to one another.

**The Elderly:** If doing a service project for the elderly, have the girls seek wisdom by asking, "What piece of wisdom did someone give you when you were my age?" or "What words of wisdom do you have for me?"

**Proverbs Point:** It's important to honor, respect, and learn from the elderly.

**Friendship Candle:** You may choose to have a Friendship Candle in the room where the large group meets or where your small group meets. Light it at the beginning of your time together and keep it burning until girls leave. You can do this all season long or during the month you're focusing on Wisdom about Relationships.

**Proverbs Point:** To be reminded of the importance of the relationships we build at club.

### **WISDOM ABOUT INTEGRITY**

**Slap it!** Create a deck of cards out of index cards. Each card should contain one of three things:

1. A characteristic of integrity – walking the highway of the upright
2. A characteristic of dishonesty – walking the path of the wicked
3. Write, “Get Wisdom: Go beyond the gold!” Or adhere the Get Wisdom logo.

The game is played the same as the card game Slap Jack.

1. Deal the cards face down into equal piles for each person.
2. The person to the right of the dealer turns one card face up in the center.
3. If the card names a characteristic of integrity, everyone tries to slap it. The first person to slap the card takes the whole center pile.
4. If the card names a characteristic of dishonesty, don’t touch it! If someone slaps it, she needs to take 3 cards from her hand and put them in the center pile.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls to identify characteristics of wise people.

**Lean to the Left, Lean to the Right:** Ask girls to stand. Say, “Many of the Proverbs are comparisons. We see what wise people look like and what fools look like. I’ll read a number of verses to you. If a verse shows us what a wise person looks like, lean to the right. If it shows us what a foolish person looks like, lean to the left.”

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls to differentiate between being wise or foolish.

**Random Choices:** Life is full of choices! Some choices are clearly marked in God’s Word – do this, not that. For example – tell the truth; don’t lie. In the Random Choices activity, the choices are silly and not in God’s Word. There’s no right or wrong answers, just personal preference! Line the girls down the middle of the room. Say, “Step to the right if you’d rather have super powers, step to the left if you’d rather have Christmas never end.” Allow the girls to talk to the other girls that stepped in their direction to learn why that made that choice! Other questions:

- Would you rather drink a gallon of ketchup or a gallon of mustard?
- Would you rather have a third leg or a third arm?
- Would you rather travel back in time 500 years or travel forward 500 years?
- Would you rather share your bedroom with 5 cats or 5 dogs?
- Would you rather have 100+ friends that are OK or 3 friends that are the best?

**Proverbs Point:** To understand that some choices are a matter of personal preference.

**Newspaper Headlines:** You will need newspapers, a flashlight, wisdom wire, clothespins, and a garbage can. Divide the girls into teams of 3 or 4 and give each team newspapers. At your signal they need to rip out a news article about a person or an organization making a bad choice and about a person or an organization making a good choice. Once all the teams have their articles, they should take turns standing up and holding up the bad choice article and telling the painful consequences of that choice. This goes in the garbage can! When they tell about the good choice and the consequences, shine the light on that article with the flashlight. Clip it on the wisdom wire!

**Proverbs Point:** To show girls the reality of consequences to good and bad choices.

**Tug of War:** Play a game of tug of war. After you're finished ask the girls what temptations have the biggest pull on their hearts. When are they most tempted to do something wrong? When you face a situation like that, you should flee! Use the rope as a finish line. Have the girls line up at the start line and think of the temptation that is greatest for them. At the count of three have them flee to the finish line!

**Proverbs Point:** To help girls identify temptations and respond rightly by fleeing!

### **WISDOM ABOUT WORK**

**Teamwork:** You will need an 11-inch or larger inflated balloon for every girl (plus extras if the pop!). Divide girls into teams of 3 or 4. Determine a start and finish line. Have the first two players of each team stand back to back at the start line. Wedge both balloons between their bottoms while the other team members simply hold their balloons. The entire team must walk to the finish line without dropping their balloons. At the finish line, add a third team member and balloon to the circle. Once this team returns to the start line add the fourth girl and balloon. If they drop their balloons they must start over!

**Proverbs Point:** To teach the importance of teamwork and to remind them that work is often hard, but it can also be filled with laughter and fun!

**Service Projects:** Before your girls do a service project together give them a thorough understanding of why you're doing this, who it will help, and then stress the importance of rolling up your sleeves and giving your very best!

**Proverbs Point:** We must be like the Proverbs 31 woman! Read Proverbs 31:17.

**Go the Extra Mile:** On a long table place the following items with a corresponding sheet of paper that contains a question and lines for girls to write answers on:

Item	Question on top of paper
Cleaning supply	How can you go the extra mile in helping to clean your home?
A toy or game	How can you go the extra mile in taking care of things?
A textbook	How can you go the extra mile in your schoolwork?
A toothbrush	How can you go the extra mile in caring for your body?
An encouragement card	How can you go the extra mile to help someone in need?

Give all girls that participate a piece of EXTRA gum.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls to work hard by going the extra mile in all they do.

**Clump Game:** Find similar work interests, by playing the clump game. Have all the girls stand up in a wide-open space and say . . .

1. Think about the work you'd like to do someday. Maybe it's teaching, working in the medical field, retail, homemaker, or some other career. Clump together with girls who are interested in the same occupation! *Once girls are "clumped" have each group share what work they'd like to do someday.*
2. Think about your favorite subject in school. Clump together with other girls who have the same favorite subject! *Have groups share their favorite school subject.*

3. Think about your favorite chore to do at home. Clump together with other girls who have the same favorite chore. *Have groups share their favorite chore.*

**Proverbs Point:** To share positive points about work with one another.

**Whistle While You Work:** Have a whistling contest. Who can whistle the loudest or most creatively? Show this video (Snow White singing, *Whistle While You Work*): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oY3aljAO7qU>. Encourage girls to find joy in work.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach the girls to be cheerful and thankful for work.

### **WISDOM ABOUT MONEY**

**Nickels:** Give each girl a nickel, have her study it and then put it in her pocket. Ask:

1. Whose head is on the head side of the nickel?
2. What image is on the backside of the nickel?
3. In what year was your nickel minted?
4. What phrase or words are on the head side?
5. What word(s) are on the tail side?
6. Is the edge of the coin smooth or bumpy?

When finished have them look at their coins to check their answers!

**Proverbs Point:** What money looks like isn't near as important as what we do with it. We must pay attention to how we spend, save, and give away our money. Those details matter to God and should matter to us!

**Penny Drop:** Place kitchen-style chairs with a back in a line and a jar on the floor behind each chair. You will need one chair and one jar per every 6-8 girls. Give each girl 4 pennies. Have the girls place 4 pennies in their palm as you tell them four uses for our \$:

1. Honor God: give a portion to the church, GEMS Girls' Clubs, the needy, etc.
2. Save It – Save it for the future.
3. Give it to Others – Buy gifts for friends and family and give it to the needy.
4. Spend it Wisely – Spend it on the things that you need.

You're ready to play! Line up the teams of 6-8 girls at a distance from the chairs. At your signal girls take turns running to the chairs, kneeling on the chairs facing backwards, and dropping their 4 pennies, one at a time, into the jar. Their arms must not drop below the top of the chair. For every penny that falls into the jar a team wins a point.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls the four wise ways God wants us to use money.

**Everything Belongs to God:** Ask girls to stand in a circle. Remind them that their money and all they own really belongs to God. Girls need to think of things that belong to God that begins with their first name. For example: If a girl's name is Melanie she can say, "Money, moon, milk, or mittens." See how quickly the girls can get around the circle with their answers. Try it again and see if they can do it faster than the previous time!

**Proverbs Point:** To understand that every square inch of creation belongs to God.

**Penny Towers:** Group girls into teams of 3 or 4 and give each team a pile of pennies and space on tables to stack pennies. Play four rounds of Penny Towers. Each round lasts one

minute. At your signal girls take turns stacking pennies on their team's tower. After the stop signal, everyone waits 10 seconds to see if any tower falls. The tallest tower wins. The Proverbs point is that each time a person stacks a penny, they need to tell a way that money can be used wisely. Round 1: How can they honor God with their money? Round 2: What can they save their money for? Round 3: Whom can they give their money to? Round 4: What are wise things to buy?

**Proverbs Point:** To talk through wise ways to use their money.

**Heads or Tails:** Give each pair of girls a coin to flip. One girl flips the coin and asks, "Heads or Tails?" If her partner guesses heads and she's correct, the "coin flipper" needs to share one way to use money wisely. If she's incorrect, the "guesser" needs to share one way to use money wisely. If she guesses tails and she's correct, the "coin flipper" needs to share one way that money is used foolishly. If she's incorrect, the "guessers" needs to share one way that money is wasted or used foolishly. Girls take turns flipping the coin.

**Proverbs Point:** To identify wise and foolish ways to use our money.

## **PRAISE & WORSHIP**

**Review the Theme!** Say to the girls, "Describe girls of wisdom!" They say: **Girls of wisdom**

**Fear the Lord and are** – *extend both hands up to the Lord*

**Wise about words** – *touch both hands to your lips*

**Wise about relationships** – *give high fives to the people around you*

**Wise about integrity** – *walk to toe-to-toe three steps*

**Wise about work &** – *flex both strong arms*

**Wise about money** – *move hands from your front jeans pockets and extend forward in surrender*

**Proverbs Point:** To provide an ongoing review of the 5 primary topics this season.

**Do a cheer!** Ask each small group to come to praise & worship time prepared to do a cheer. It could be something they learned about fearing God or getting wisdom, or a word of encouragement to the other girls at club.

**Proverbs Point:** To provide a fun way to reiterate what they're learning from Proverbs.

**Sing!** Sing and do creative movement with the theme song, *I Want to Know You*.

**Proverbs Point:** Worship!

**Devotions:** Use the theme related *Devotions and Object Lessons Book* as a club opener.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach Proverbs points in a large group setting.

**Wisdom Mic:** Opportunity for girls to share how they put God's wisdom into action.

**Proverbs Point:** To encourage and inspire one another with our stories.

**Wisdom Rocks:** As a closing ask girls to stand in a large circle and link pinkies for prayer. After prayer ask them to cross their arms and hold hands. At the count of three

have them say, “Go in peace!” or “Wisdom rocks!” or “Be girls of wisdom!” Keeping their hands joined they lift them, turn, release hands and walk out of the circle.

**Proverbs Point:** To help girls experience the joy of being sisters in Jesus.

## BIBLE LESSONS

**Mark up your Bibles:** If girls have permission to mark up their Bibles use colored pencils and this color key as they study the book of Proverbs:

Purple:	Fear God
Green:	When a Proverb tells us to go and live this way.
Red:	When a Proverb tells us to stop and warns we’re going the wrong way.
Yellow:	Wisdom about Words
Orange:	Wisdom about Relationships
Blue:	Wisdom about Integrity
Brown:	Wisdom about Work
Light green:	Wisdom about Money

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls how to study God’s Word and apply it to their lives.

**Bible Bookmarks:** Use the bookmarks on page 14 of the *Theme Resource Book*.

**Proverbs Point:** To teach girls how to navigate the Proverbs.

**Encourage the Girls to Ask Questions:** Proverbs 12:15 (NLT) says, *Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.*” Wise girls ask questions!

**Proverbs Point:** To help girls experience a safe and gentle place to learn.

**Sparkle Magazine:** There is one theme-focused Bible lesson in the 6 issues of *Sparkle*.

**SHINE *brightly!* Magazine:** There are three theme-focused Bible lessons in the September – March issues of SHINE. At the beginning of each Wisdom Chasers story are sentences in italics. Have girls take turns reading this in a special way. The reader is designated as the **Girl of Wisdom**. *Enter the Girl of Wisdom:* Ask a girl to put on a crown and sit on a stool or chair that is draped in purple cloth. She will turn on a flashlight and read the italics introduction to the WISDOM CHASERS section. This calls attention to the fact that this is something different than the actual story and there is wisdom being offered in that section.

**Girls’ Blog:** At club log on to [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org) and click on Girls’ Blog. Show the girls all the cool things that are available to them! Many are theme related.

**Wisdom about Work:** Stress the importance of leaving a place better than you found it! At the end of Bible Lesson/Craft Time ask, “What clean up should take place before you go?” Have them identify the needs and then work together to clean up.

**Proverbs Point:** To immediately practice the wisdom they’re learning about work.

## PRAYER IDEAS

**Prayer Journals:** *Strength & Power Prayer Journals* are available for women and girls. Make the women's journal available to the moms and women in your congregation, too!

**December Prayer Chain:** During the month of December have the girls write prayer requests, praises, and thanksgiving to God on strips of red and green paper. Form them into a chain. Send paper home with the girls to encourage them to do the same at home.

**Pray Together:** Pray aloud often together, letting the girls take the lead! The more they pray aloud at young ages, the greater their confidence will be as they grow.

**Pray Alone:** Give each girl a small carpet sample or a solid colored welcome mat. Decorate it during a craft time if desired. It's their prayer mat! Use it throughout the season to have timeout with God – talking to Him personally in prayer.

**Blessing Basket:** You will need a basket, index cards, and markers. Have girls record things they are thankful for and God sightings on the index cards and place them in the basket. Encourage them to read what others wrote!

**Prayer Request Box:** Have a Prayer Request Box available with two different colors of paper for the girls to put their requests on. One color is designated for prayer requests that can be shared with the entire group at Praise & Worship time. The other color is private prayer requests that the girls only want to share with the counselors.

**Prayer Walk Around Club:** Ask girls to pray silently for the girls, counselors, and club activities as they walk around the exterior of the club building or within the halls of club.

**Teaspoon Prayers:** If snack or craft time involves spoons, tell the girls that one of the creative ways we can pray is using Teaspoon (tsp) Prayers: T: Thank you, S: Sorry, P: Please. These are three important parts of prayers!

## SNACK TIME

**Sticks & Stones Snack: Serve the month your group studies Wisdom about Words**

Ingredients: 4 tablespoons butter, ¼ cup frozen orange or apple juice concentrate, ¼ cup brown sugar, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 3 cups oatmeal cereal squares (example: Quaker Oatmeal Squares), 2 cups pretzel sticks, 1 ½ cups whole almonds, 1 cup raisins or dried cranberries. Servings: 7 cups.

Heat oven to 300° F. Place the butter, juice concentrate, and sugar in a large microwave-safe bowl and microwave on high for 45 seconds to melt the butter. Stir in the cinnamon. Spread the oatmeal squares, pretzels, and almonds in a single layer on a baking sheet. Toss the pieces with the melted-butter mixture to coat. Bake the mix, stirring the pieces every 10 minutes, until the mixture is dry to the touch and the nuts are lightly toasted, about 30 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven; stir in the dried fruit. Let the mix cool completely before storing it in an airtight container. Serve snack.

**Proverbs Point:** Talk about the power of our words. Sticks and stones may break our bones, and names WILL hurt us, too!

**Ants on a Log: Serve the month your group studies Wisdom about Work**

Ingredients: 1 stalk of celery for every two “logs”, peanut butter, and raisins. Have girls cut the celery stalks in half, spread with peanut butter, and sprinkle with raisins.

**Proverbs Point:** Talk about Proverbs 6:6.

**Hand Swap:** Ask, “How many of you have tried to be girls of wisdom and failed? We aren’t perfect and do fail, but failing is not an excuse to quit trying! We must not give up! We must keep trying to be God’s girls of wisdom!” Instruct all the lefthanders to eat and drink their snacks with their right hand, and all the right-handers to eat and drink their snacks with their left hand. It’ll be tricky, but don’t give up!

**Proverbs Point:** To encourage girls to persevere in being girls of wisdom.

**Caution Tape Table Runners:** Place caution tape down the middle of each of the snack tables and around the serving area before snack time. You can even put it around their cups or tie it as bows around their chairs! Girls will ask and wonder. Once everyone is seated and guessed why there is caution tape everywhere, give the Proverbs point.

**Proverbs Point:** Caution tape reminds us to slow down and proceed with caution. Everyday we make choices and must reminder to use caution! Poor choices often come with painful consequences! We must pay attention to our choices!

**Solomon’s Porch:** Solomon is the primary author of Proverbs and the wisest person who ever lived. Can you imagine what an amazing experience it would’ve been to have lemonade with him on his palace porch? Create a special place (tulle, pillars, special dishes, etc.) for small groups to take turns having snack time throughout the year. Call it Solomon’s Porch. Have each of the girls wear pearls. Invite a special guest wise woman to join the group for a snack who can encourage and share wisdom.

**Proverbs Point:** To create a special space to share pearls of wisdom with one another.

## **BADGES**

**Theme Badge:** Our recommendation for this year’s theme badge is to do it one night or three consecutive nights: Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3. Part 2 contains the five wisdom areas we’ll focus on this season: Words, Relationships, Integrity, Work, and Money. That study begins in November in Sparkle and October in SHINE *brightly*.

**Other Theme-Related Badges:** Check out page 32 of the *Theme Resource Book* to see other theme-related badges that you may want to do this season.

## **PARENTS & FAMILIES**

**Parent Newsletters:** There are 8 theme-related Parent Newsletters available for download at [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org). They’re in a colorful PDF format or a Word Document

**Get Wisdom: Go beyond the Gold! Family Celebration:** Use this theme-focused family celebration in multiple ways within your club.

**Get Wisdom: Go Beyond the Gold! Devotions and Object Lessons Booklet:** Gift or make available for purchase to your families. It includes questions and ideas for parents to help their entire family dive deeper into Proverbs.

**SHINE brightly Magazine:** Within each lesson there is a section titled Family Talk. This includes a faith discussion question for girls to ask their parents.

**Encourage, encourage, encourage!** Whenever you connect with parents, remind them that every moment they have with their children is an opportunity to point them to Jesus!

**Resources:** Does your ministry have resources that could be purchased or borrowed by parents like parenting books, Bibles, DVDs, and music? If so, make it available to them!

## COUNSELOR GIFTS/ENCOURAGEMENT

**Making Life Work: Putting God's Wisdom into Action:** Want your counselor team to bond and build lasting, Christ-centered relationships? Do this book study together!

**Pray Together:** If you haven't already established a prayer time with your counselors, this is the year to begin! Ask counselors to be in a designated spot within the building five minutes before club begins. Put this on your schedule! Join hands and pray together. Designate a CIT or Advanced Level girl to supervise during that timeframe. It works!

**Mid-Season Encouragement:** Surprise your counselor team or Club Coordinator with a surprise gift when a boost of encouragement is needed mid-season!

Gift	Note
Counselor's Favorite Soda	You are Soda-rific!
NEW Pink GEMS Pen	"Jot" this down. You're the best GEMS Counselor in town!
Reese's PB Cups	There are many "Reese's" why we think you're great!
Theme Notepad	To a "Noteworthy" and wise GEMS Counselor!
Donuts	"Donut" you know you're a wonderful GEMS Counselor?
Mints	Thanks for your invest"mint" in the lives of girls!
Mounds Bar	Mounds of thanks for all you do!
Candy with gold foil wrap	You are a wise counselor that goes beyond the gold!
Hershey Hugs & Kisses	Hugs & kisses for who you are and all that you do for us!

**God-Sightings Poster/Whiteboard:** Do you have a designated place where counselors pick up their supplies, Parent Newsletters, and pray? If so, add a poster or whiteboard to this area and use it as a place for counselors to record God Sightings.

**Communicate!** Your team will be more united, encouraged, equipped, and confident in their leadership when there's regular communication via counselor meetings, emails, and notes. Begin and close your communication with thanks and praise to God and appreciation to your GEMS volunteers.