

# “Virtues to Live by”

## Before You Begin – An overview for teachers

### Wisdom

*“Be wise in the way you act; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

(Colossians 4:5-6)

#### **Definition**

PRACTICAL WISDOM / GOOD SENSE – You decide, based on what you know, what is the best thing to do. You take time to think about what you must do and ask other people about it. You reflect on what you know and have been told and then decide to do something which you think is best.

#### Virtue to Live by

**I take time to think about what I must do and ask God and others about it.**

**I help others to make the right choices**

#### Biblical Sources

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity” (Ephesians 5:15)

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6)

“How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!” (Proverbs 16:16)

“Where there is trouble, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.” (Proverbs 13:10)

#### Why Practise Wisdom

“Practical wisdom is a true characteristic that is bound up with action, accompanied by reason, and concerned with things good and bad for a human being. Practical wisdom is concerned with human things and with those that about which it is possible to deliberate. The person with practical wisdom is skilled in aiming, in accord with calculation, at what is best for a human being in things attainable through action.” (Aristotle)

#### How to Practise Wisdom

Be Open to New Experiences-Wisdom is gained through life experience. To keep growing as an individual, you must be willing to explore unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable things.

You show compassion and empathy- you think of others and listen because there is plenty to learn. By putting yourself in other people’s shoes and seeing their point of view, you can become more open-minded and conscientious which can have an impact on your decisions.

You learn from your mistakes as there is no such thing as being absolutely perfect, personal growth will come from this.

You ask for help- Being wise doesn't mean you have all of the answers, but people who are will be able to use the resources around them. Sometimes this means reaching out to other people. There will be many people who will be in the same shoes as you, and by showing them how they too can work on developing wisdom, it simply reinforces what you've learned over time. A wise person has a lot to share and give back to others, and there's no better way than leading by example.

### **Key Words:**

Wise, practical wisdom, good sense, learning

### **Signs I show wisdom**

- **I take time to reflect on my actions**
- **I learn from my experiences**
- **I can decide, based on what I know, what is the best thing to do.**
- **I make the most of my gifts and talents**
- **I can help others make the right choices**

### **Other Sources:**

"Practical wisdom is only to be learned in the school of experience. Precepts and instruction are useful so far as they go, but, without the discipline of real life, they remain of the nature of theory only." (Samuel Smiles)

"The experience gathered from books, though often valuable, is but the nature of learning; whereas the experience gained from actual life is one of the nature of wisdom." (Samuel Smiles)

### **Reflection Questions:**

Do I make considered choices?

Do I speak to God before I make difficult choices?

How can I use my past experiences to guide me and others around me?

Do I seek the experience of others when making choices?

How can I use my gifts and talents?