

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

LESSON 163 → Daniel 1:17-20; 2:1-13, 24-30

His parents' decision-making process had Derek concerned.

Jordan took hold of the boards nailed up the side of the tree and climbed quickly up to the secluded tree house. Tossing his backpack into a corner, he grinned at his friend Derek, who was sitting against a short wall, staring out into the brown and gold branches surrounding them. Reaching into his jacket pocket for an apple left from his lunch, Jordan nudged Derek with his foot.



TRUE WISDOM COMES FROM GOD.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally.
— James 1:5

“Hi . . . you beat me today. Did you get out of class early or something?”

“Yeah.” Derek’s reply was brief, and he didn’t look at Jordan.

Jordan took a second, longer look at his friend. “Hey, is something the matter? You look kind of upset.”

For a moment there was only silence, then Derek sighed and said, “No . . . well, I hope not . . .”

“C’mon, Derek,” Jordan said as he flopped down beside him. “Tell me what’s bothering you. I know something is.”

After a minute, Derek admitted, “Yeah . . . well, it’s my folks. They have some problems and they don’t know what to do. Last night they were consulting Dad’s horoscope—as though that should make their decision. Then they decided to have this guy over who is really into astrology. They think he might be able to come up with some answers for them.”

“Do they really think astrology is going to help them?”

“I don’t know. That’s just the problem! Mom always listens to her daily horoscope on her phone, but I thought it was just kind of a joke. I can’t believe she really thinks it’s true.”

Jordan frowned. “I remember reading somewhere in the Bible about astrologers and magicians. God wasn’t pleased with people who trusted in them instead of Him.”

Derek nodded in agreement. “Yeah, that’s what got me concerned. Have you read the Sunday school lesson for this week? It’s about how God gave Daniel and his three friends wisdom that was ten times greater than the wisdom of all the magicians and astrologers in the kingdom.”

“Yeah, that’s right. Hey, have you tried talking to your parents about this? Maybe they don’t know how God feels about astrology and stuff like that.”

“Naw, you know they don’t go to church. Although, I don’t think they would intentionally try to displease God.”

“Why not tell them about your Sunday school lesson? Try to get them to see the difference between God’s wisdom and man’s wisdom,” Jordan suggested. “Whatever their problems are, I know that God could work them out. And if you ask God for wisdom in talking to them, He’ll give it. Isn’t that the key verse this Sunday—‘If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally?’”

Derek nodded thoughtfully. “I think I’ll talk to them tonight.”

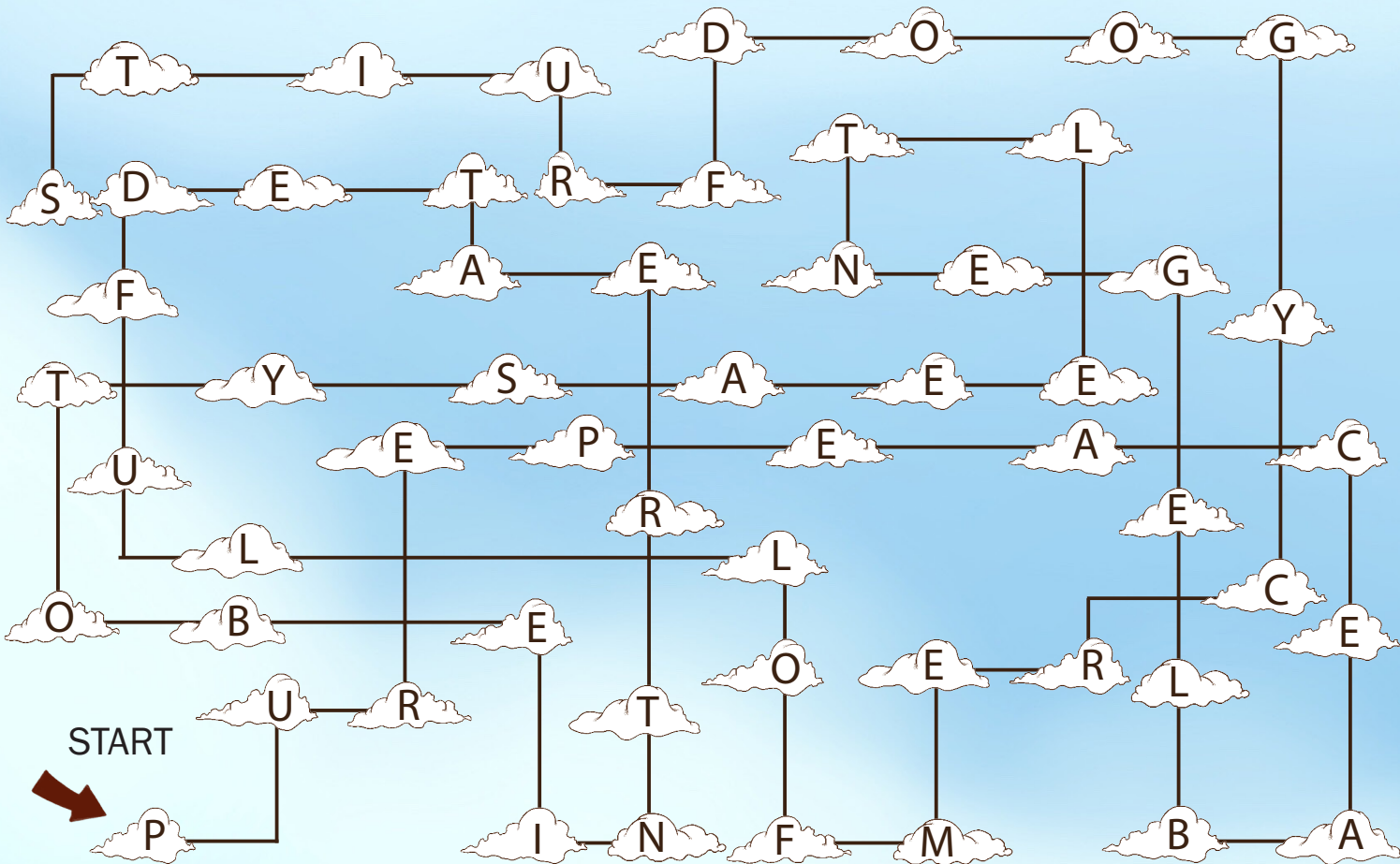
The next day when Jordan arrived at the tree house, he again found Derek already there. A closer look told him the answer to the question he had planned to ask. After an awkward moment that seemed to last forever, Jordan finally managed to mumble, “Didn’t work, huh?” Derek’s only reply was a slow shake of his head as he stared somewhere past Jordan. “Hey man, I’m sorry,” Jordan finally squeezed out. Derek didn’t seem to hear him. Slowly Jordan backed down the ladder, wishing he could think of some right words to say. None came.

The next morning Jordan was just opening his locker when he was startled by a brisk slap on his back. Turning quickly he looked into Derek’s broadly grinning face. “Guess what?” Derek exclaimed. “This morning Mom came to my room and apologized for yelling at me the other night. She said she started thinking about the things I said and it made her feel really bad; especially when I didn’t argue or answer her back like I used to before I was saved. Jordan, she wants to go to church with me this Sunday! Isn’t that great? You know, I asked the Lord for wisdom to say the right things. Would you believe it, He even helped me to know when not to say anything!”

“Yep,” Jordan smiled as he nodded. “I believe it.”

FROM ABOVE

What is this wisdom that is from God? Finish the verse below and find out. Begin at START and write each letter in the cloud on the lines below as you follow through the puzzle. When you have finished the puzzle ask your teacher to help you find this verse in your Bible.



The wisdom that is from above is first _____,
 Then _____, _____, and _____,
 _____ and _____.