

Get Wise

By Kathryn Higgins

Excerpts from Proverbs 1 and 2 (NLT), written for four voices. If groups have more than four participants they are encouraged to share lines without adding anything new. While it is encouraged to feature 'Lady Wisdom' as female, if the team does not have a female participant, the lines should be edited to accommodate pronouns accordingly. Starting with energy -

ALL Wisdom shouts in the streets.

ONE She cries out in the town square.

TWO She calls to the crowds along the main street -

WISDOM “How long, you simpletons –

ONE Uh... excuse me?

TWO Yah, that was rude.

WISDOM I’m Wisdom. I’m gonna say it like it is.

THREE Let the Lady finish.

ONE and TWO concede. Wisdom continues at full force.

WISDOM How long, you simpletons – will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge?

ONE Ok, hold on now, we don’t *hate* knowledge.

TWO Yah, we *love* knowledge!

ONE Love it.

TWO Knowledge is the best.

ONE It goes *knowledge* here – (*uses hand to indicate a high level*) – then everything else down here (*uses hand to indicate lower levels*).

TWO I don’t think this message is for us.

ONE Cause we’re full of knowledge.

TWO And Wisdom.

ONE That too.

TWO Yah, this message is for all *you people* out there. (*Indicating to audience.*)

ONE Yah, listen up audience.

THREE (*Interrupting.*) Can we let Wisdom continue?

One and Two concede and mutter under their breath. They are now convinced the message isn't for them and they continue to gesture/nod to the audience in agreement with everything Wisdom Says.

THREE Go ahead, Wisdom.

WISDOM Come and listen to my counsel.

ONE (*To audience.*) Come on!

WISDOM I'll share my heart with you and make you wise.

TWO (*To audience.*) Better listen up.

WISDOM I called you so often, but you wouldn't come.

ONE (*To audience.*) Didn't pick up the phone, did yah.

WISDOM I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.

TWO (*To audience.*) Didn't pay no mind.

WISDOM You ignored my advice –

ONE (*To audience.*) Left her 'on read' -

WISDOM So I will laugh when you are in trouble!

ONE & TWO Oh, woah, ok now that's too far *etc.*

WISDOM I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—

ONE Woohee, she really means business.

WISDOM When they cry for help, I will not answer.

TWO (*Stopping the escalation.*) Ok now, Wisdom. This all seems a bit extreme.

ONE Are you saying that if *we*, I mean, *they*, didn't listen to you earlier, you won't help them later?

TWO Like, maybe it's already too late to get wise?

Wisdom does not speak but makes a knowing expression.

THREE It might already be too late.

WISDOM My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands.

ONE You listening, audience?

THREE *(To ONE)* Are you listening?

ONE and TWO realize this message is in fact for them too, try to save face but are taking in Wisdom's advice more personally now.

THREE Go ahead, Wisdom.

WISDOM Tune your ears to wisdom and concentrate on understanding.

ONE & TWO Tune your ears.

THREE I'm tuning in.

ONE *(Under breath, eyes closed.)* Listen up ears.

WISDOM Cry out for insight -

ONE, TWO & THREE *(Yelling.)* Insight!

WISDOM Search for them as you would for silver.

TWO Like hidden treasures?

THREE Just like that.

WISDOM *Then* you will understand what it means to fear the Lord,

ONE Wait, *fear the Lord*? I thought we were talking about getting wise?

WISDOM You will gain knowledge of God. For the Lord grants wisdom!

THREE From his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

ONE & TWO Oooooohh.

WISDOM He grants the treasure of common sense to the honest.

TWO *(Excited whisper.)* Treasure!

WISDOM Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go.

ONE For wisdom will enter your heart... my heart.

TWO And knowledge will fill you with joy... I feel it.

THREE Wise choices will watch over us.

WISDOM Understanding will keep you safe.

ALL So follow the steps of the good and stay on the paths of the righteous.