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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

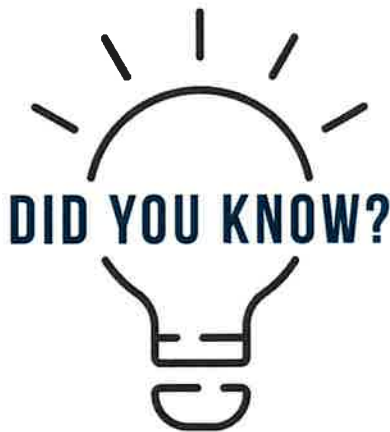
This guide has been designed with you in mind! Our goal is to provide you with questions and resources that will help you dig deeper and cultivate spiritual growth, whether you choose to go through this individually, as a family, or in a small group.

Each week starts out with an *introduction* to the sermon, the *main points*, and the *key takeaway*. We've included a *notes* section to jot down ideas and thoughts that stand out during the sermon.

Next up is the *family discipleship* page. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Parents, use this guide as a way to connect with your children through studying God’s Word together. The time you spend together in Scripture will make an eternal impact.

From there, we move into a *watch + read + discuss* section designed to provide supplemental resources for you. If you’re using this guide as a group, this section is perfect for additional study together.

Remember that this is just a guide. If you don’t get through every question or outside resource, that’s okay! Choose the ones that work best for you and your group. If you think of a better question, ask it! If you find additional resources that you want to pull in, great! Our prayer is that this guide will serve as a starting point to help you spark deeper, more meaningful conversations and relationships with others and, most importantly, with Christ.



Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings and poems.

Most of the proverbs are attributed to Solomon, but Agur and King Lemuel are also credited with their own sections.

Proverbs was compiled and arranged after Israel’s return from exile in Babylon around the 5th to 4th century B.C.E.

WHY PROVERBS?

PROVERBS 1:1-6

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 for gaining wisdom and instruction;
for understanding words of insight;
- 3 for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;
- 4 for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—
- 5 let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—
- 6 for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

INTRODUCTION

People desperately want to “win” at life. They want to succeed in everyday life, and Christians are no different. We search frantically for tips from books, from “experts” on TV, the internet, TikTok or anywhere we can find them. The problem is that many Christians look everywhere but the Bible to learn how to “win” at parenting, finances, marriage, the workplace, and other areas of life.

Even Christians who want a “Christian” perspective on these topics are more likely to look to a Christian book than to the Book—the Bible! So often we don’t want the Word. Instead, we want practical tips and strategies that have been plucked from the world. Sure, we believe the Bible is God’s Word and it’s authoritative, but we somehow buy into the misconception that it doesn’t do a great job of addressing the nitty-gritty details of daily life. So Christians will do no more than skim the Word devotionally to get some helpful tips for their day. The philosophies of the world primarily shape and fashion their worldview.

However, the problem doesn’t stop there. The problem is that even if we do look to the Book, and even if we do somehow pull out some tips for how to live a better life, more often than not we don’t follow what we already know. Oftentimes we know what to do, but we can’t bring ourselves to do it.

- Think of how often we mess up.
- Think of the hurtful words you’ve said to a friend or your spouse or your parents.
- Think of the times you’ve said more than you should say.
- Think of the times you spoke too quickly and couldn’t get your words back.

WHY PROVERBS?

PROVERBS 1:1-6

INTRODUCTION

- Think about the time someone confronted you with something you needed to hear, and in anger you blew them off with, “Who do you think you are?!”
 - Think about the times you should’ve lovingly confronted someone and didn’t.
 - Think about that person whose feelings you hurt.
 - Think about that lie you desperately hope your parents won’t find out or your boyfriend won’t find out or your wife won’t find out.
 - Think about those things you keep hidden.
 - Think about that secret that you just couldn’t keep to yourself, and in a moment of supposed confidential privacy you whispered in someone’s ear, “Well, did you hear what happened to . . . ?”
 - Think about the times you’ve bragged about yourself so others would think you’re something.
 - Think about the mistakes you’ve made with your children.
 - Think about the times you didn’t discipline a behavior that has now gotten out of hand.
 - Think about the times your children saw you do something you had told them not to do or heard you say something you told them not to say.
 - Think about that grudge you’ve held and refused to let go because someone really hurt you.
 - Think about the times you’ve been stingy with your money instead of generous to a person with a real need.
 - Think about the frivolous spending that got you in trouble.
 - Think about the get-rich-quick scheme that ruined you.
 - Think about the times you didn’t finish your job assignment on time because you got sidetracked by Facebook.
 - Think about the people you’re jealous of because they got the promotion that passed you by.
 - Think about the times you’ve nagged or ignored helping your spouse.
 - Think about how you repeat the same stupid mistake over and over and don’t learn from it.
- On and on and on we could go.

What does all of this tell us? It tells us that we have a major problem that no amount of tips will solve. It tells us that we are not wise and are often foolish. It tells us that we are broken and don’t work right. It tells us that we are in desperate need of wisdom to make decisions and navigate our way through life. But we can’t just say that we need wisdom and then go after it. Since we are broken, we don’t even follow the wisdom we already know. We do things we know are hurtful and foolish. We just can’t help ourselves. Proverbs is all about becoming wise in everyday life through a relationship with Jesus—through the gospel. It’s about the life of the kingdom that God always meant for humankind to live. When our vertical relationship with God is right through Jesus, we can be right with others and the world around us.

WHY PROVERBS?

PROVERBS 1:1-6

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- In the book of Proverbs, we read about 800 Proverbs attributed to Solomon. Historically, he is credited with writing over 3,000. Solomon spent a lifetime gaining the knowledge he has written down for you and me to follow. It is a collection of truths learned over a lifetime of experiences. Although society has changed, the encounters in which he lends sound advice have not. His advice is as relevant today as it was when it was written. The truth we find in the Bible is the truth of God and everything points to Christ. We cannot have wisdom without Christ.
- Learning, guidance, wisdom, instruction, and understanding are prevalent words in the first six verses of chapter one, regardless of the version of the Bible you are reading. These words go beyond knowledge alone. Wisdom takes knowledge and puts it into action. We can not live a life pleasing to God if we aren't living by His Word.

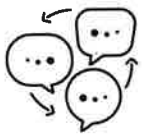


Memory Verse

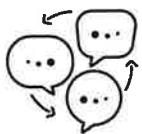
“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

2 Corinthians 6:2b

FAMILY DISCUSSION



Verse four talks about knowledge and discretion to the youth. As parents, we often do a good job with passing knowledge but lack teaching discretion. How do we define discretion and how it relates to the way we deal with our neighbors?



Asking questions and sharing are great ways to keep the family connected. Kids, what are some things you are going through right now that you are unsure of how to handle or need a different perspective? Share that with your trusted adults. Parents, we all have those memories of events that have happened in our lives that we wish we would have handled differently. Think of an experience and pertinent piece of wisdom that might be worth sharing at this point in your child's life.

WHY PROVERBS?

PROVERBS 1:1-6

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

Bible Project Video

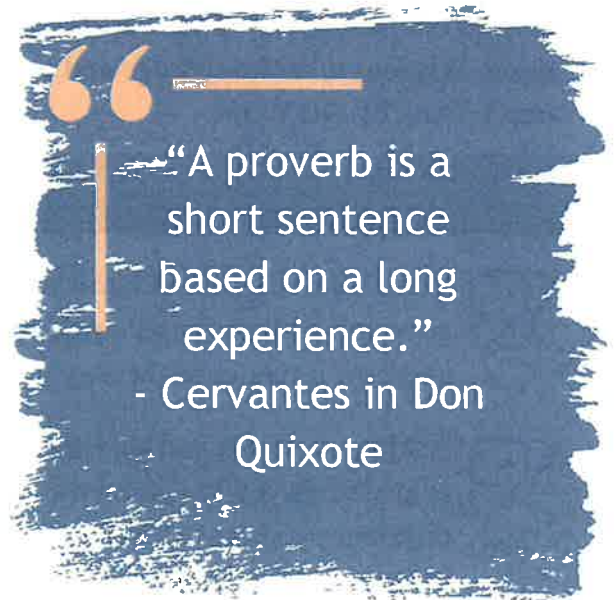
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/proverbs/>

Q Wisdom and Trust: The video explains that wisdom in Proverbs is about aligning ourselves with God's design for the world. What are some areas in your life where trusting God's wisdom might be challenging? How can you take steps to grow in that trust?

Q Fear of the Lord: Proverbs teaches that the "fear of the Lord" is the beginning of wisdom. How do you understand what it means to "fear the Lord"? How might this perspective change the way you make decisions or view your daily life?

READ 1 Kings 3:1-14; 4:29-34

Q Sharing Wisdom: 1 Kings 4 describes how Solomon's wisdom brought people from many nations to hear and learn from him. In what ways can you use the wisdom God has given you to positively influence those around you? How might seeking God's wisdom help you bless others in your family, church, or community?



Check out the Bible Project Guide for supplemental information and resources
<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-proverbs/>

BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE

PROVERBS 1:7

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

INTRODUCTION

We all view the world in a certain way—through a certain lens. However, the fall of humankind into sin has assured that we do not see the world rightly. We don't view the world the way it really is, so we make wrong decisions that go against the grain of how the world really is. However, if we will observe the world through the lens that God has given in fear of Him, we can start perceiving how things really are. And once we start living according to that pattern, we will walk in wisdom.

Getting wisdom is important because it will help you make decisions in everyday life. It will help you “win” at life. But failing to get wisdom will wreck your life. The problem for all of us is that we have failed repeatedly because even when we know what to do, we often don't do it. This reveals our brokenness. Where do we turn? What's the answer for us? How can we become wise when we are so broken we can't even do what we know is right?

Wisdom is a person—Jesus of Nazareth. Through a relationship with Him you can be reconciled to God, to others, and to the world around you. Through a relationship with Him, he will begin to produce in you the wisdom he lives out—the wisdom of Proverbs!

“

“We will only see things in the world wisely when we seek God worshipfully.”

- David Platt

BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE

PROVERBS 1:7

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- Fear and respect are two words that we often use exclusively but they certainly have a lot in common. When we respect something, we give it credit for what it is capable of. Weather is a powerful thing. We respect the seasons by preparing ourselves and our homes to endure the unique weather each season brings. In a harsh winter we bundle up. We make sure we have a good heating source. We keep things on hand like shovels and salt to make sure we have proper footing. We do these things because we know the power that winter can have. If we are not prepared, the winter can be terrible. Much in the same way we need to respect God. We need to prepare to live a life that is pleasing to him each and every day, no matter the season.
- Within our church we are blessed to serve with brothers and sisters who have had a lot of life experience and that is truly a blessing. It is so important for us to live life as a body of believers. By doing life together, we can share our experiences with one another as Solomon has shared with us and give counsel to our brothers and sisters. We simply need to be willing to seek it.

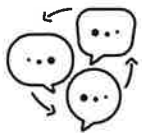


Memory Verse

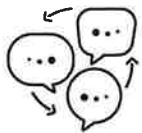
“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 1:7

FAMILY DISCUSSION



We all have loved ones in our lives that we know love us unconditionally, but whom we are afraid of disappointing. When we are little we are afraid of getting into trouble by our parents or guardians. We know they love us, but we also know that they have certain expectations for us while we are in their care. How is a parent's love similar to God's love for us?



Often in life we live without fear of things we know are coming when we should be preparing for them. Discuss an experience in your life that you weren't worried about and should have been. How did your lack of preparedness affect the outcome? What are some things we need to do to be prepared to walk with God on a daily basis?

BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE

PROVERBS 1:7

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

Proverbs 1:7 - Amy Seiffert

https://youtu.be/1Qsd1vB-xqA?si=_7K_xcRW3pUkSgaS

- Q** **Defining 'Fear of the Lord':** Amy Seiffert explains the "fear of the Lord" as a profound respect and reverence for God. How does this perspective influence your understanding of wisdom and knowledge?
- Q** **Personal Application:** Reflecting on the video's message, in what areas of your life can you cultivate a deeper reverence for God to enhance your decision-making and understanding?

READ Colossians 1:9f

- Q** **Compare Proverbs 1:7 with Colossians 1:9f.** The wisdom that Paul wants to see from churches in the Colossae area is directly connected to God and His will. It is not just intellectual/mental like some Greek philosophies or later Gnosticism the early church struggled with. It results in a spiritual life (see Col 1:28, 2:1-3, 3:10). As FF Bruce said "Right knowledge leads to right behavior"; i.e. we live and act in a way that is worthy of our Lord (NICONT Colossians, Philemon and Ephesians, pg. 46). The proper attitude towards God is the first step of true knowledge, which is what is being said in Proverbs 1:7. Romans 1:28 makes clear what happens when we don't have that proper attitude; i.e. when God is not in the knowledge, "base mind" and "improper conduct" is the result.

"As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on thing and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you."
C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

WISDOM: ACCEPTED OR DECLINED

PROVERBS 1:8-33

The Enticement of Sinners

- 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
9 for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.
10 My son, if sinners entice you,
do not consent.
11 If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for
blood;
let us ambush the innocent without reason;
12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
13 we shall find all precious goods,
we shall fill our houses with plunder;
14 throw in your lot among us;
we will all have one purse"—
15 my son, do not walk in the way with them;
hold back your foot from their paths,
16 for their feet run to evil,
and they make haste to shed blood.
17 For in vain is a net spread
in the sight of any bird,
18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood;
they set an ambush for their own lives.
19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for
unjust gain;
it takes away the life of its possessors.

The Call of Wisdom

- 20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street,
in the markets she raises her voice;
21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

- 22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being
simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
23 If you turn at my reproof,
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;
I will make my words known to you.
24 Because I have called and you refused to listen,
have stretched out my hand and no one has
heeded,
25 because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
26 I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when terror strikes you,
27 when terror strikes you like a storm
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not
answer;
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.
29 Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
30 would have none of my counsel
and despised all my reproof,
31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,
and have their fill of their own devices.
32 For the simple are killed by their turning away,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

WISDOM: ACCEPTED OR DECLINED

PROVERBS 1:8-33

INTRODUCTION

Hellfire and brimstone preaching can be harsh, and there are definitely wrong ways to do it. Many people can use the threat of hell as a way to manipulate people into making decisions. But many people preach with this kind of passion—like our group leader—because they really do love people and do not want them to perish. We can debate the most effective methods of evangelism and the best ways to go about it, but what we can't debate is that there is an urgent need to plead with those headed toward destruction to repent and believe the gospel.

Shockingly, in Proverbs 1:20-33 Wisdom is presented as a “turn or burn” street preacher who appeals to “the inexperienced” to turn and not perish. Wisdom warns that we are heading for disaster because of our foolishness and brokenness. Wisdom pleads with us to repent. This passage is essential to rightly understanding the book of Proverbs and the biblical concept of wisdom. Ultimately, wisdom is not a set of ideas; wisdom is a person—Jesus Christ. You need to begin a personal relationship with him by faith. If you do, he will forgive your sin and give you his Spirit. This will lead you to wisdom for abundant life here and eternal life hereafter. But rejecting Wisdom—Jesus—will wreck your life here and condemn you eternally hereafter. Whether or not you have a relationship with Jesus determines if you walk in wisdom or in a way that seems right to you.

WISDOM ACCEPTED OR DECLINED

PROVERBS 1:8-33

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- Most of us have heard the saying that tells us not to put off tomorrow what we can do today. That is sound advice and can apply to a lot of things. The most important thing, however, is our salvation. Putting off the dishes or laundry is just an inconvenience. Putting off salvation has eternal consequences. Living for God and by his word is such a blessing. Any truly committed believer will tell you they can't imagine life without His presence.
- Often we are our own worst enemy. We let our pride get in the way of our growth because we don't like to be wrong. Salvation is not an admittance of doing something wrong, it is accepting the only thing that is right. Satan is who sews seeds of doubt. He does not want anyone to turn to God. He is the one that fuels the fire of our prideful attitude. No one that matters will shame you for accepting Jesus Christ. Today is the day.



Memory Verse

“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

2 Corinthians 6:2b

FAMILY DISCUSSION



What is something you have put off in your life that you should not have? What were the consequences of procrastination? What are the consequences of putting off what we know God is calling us to do?



In the related resources section, it mentions the Wise and Foolish Builders in Matthew and Luke. What is something in your life that you have tried to build on the wrong foundation? A friendship based on gossip. A relationship based on lust. Anything with a foundation other than Jesus Christ will not stand. How do you avoid those falls in your life? What are their consequences?

WISDOM: ACCEPTED OR DECLINED

PROVERBS 1:8-33

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

The Parable of the Two Builders
Saddleback Video for Kids

<https://youtu.be/I6S3cRVLMFQ?si=4iLadnRfO6XoLRqb>

Q **Hearing and Doing:** The video emphasizes that being wise is not just about hearing God's Word but also obeying it. What are some ways you can put God's teachings into practice in your everyday life?

Q **Storms of Life:** Both builders faced storms, but only the house on the rock stood firm. What are some "storms" you've experienced in life, and how has your relationship with God helped you stay strong during those times?

READ Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-29

Q **Compare with the story of the Wise and Foolish Builders in Matthew (7:24–27) and Luke (6:46–49)** How do both passages emphasize the importance of building a life on the right foundation? What are the similarities between Wisdom's call to repentance and Jesus' teaching about hearing and doing His words? Reflect on how each passage warns of the consequences of ignoring wisdom or building on a faulty foundation, and consider how these truths apply to your life today.

GET WISDOM

PROVERBS 2:1-22

The Value of Wisdom

- 1 My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
- 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
- 3 yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
- 4 if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
- 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
- 6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and
understanding;
- 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
- 8 guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.
- 9 Then you will understand righteousness and
justice and equity, every good path;
- 10 for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
- 11 discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you,
- 12 delivering you from the way of evil,
from men of perverted speech,
- 13 who forsake the paths of uprightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,
- 14 who rejoice in doing evil
and delight in the perverseness of evil,
- 15 men whose paths are crooked,
and who are devious in their ways.
- 16 So you will be delivered from the forbidden
woman, from the adulteress with her smooth
words,
- 17 who forsakes the companion of her youth
and forgets the covenant of her God;
- 18 for her house sinks down to death,
and her paths to the departed;^[c]
- 19 none who go to her come back,
nor do they regain the paths of life.
- 20 So you will walk in the way of the good
and keep to the paths of the righteous.
- 21 For the upright will inhabit the land,
and those with integrity will remain in it,
- 22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

GET WISDOM

PROVERBS 2:1-22

INTRODUCTION

In life, we are bombarded with all kinds of voices and messages. These are human voices. They might be a parent, a teacher, a coach, a coworker, a friend, or a commercial, but these human voices have spiritual voices and messages that stand behind them. There are godly messages, and there are evil messages. These messages instruct us, exhort us, warn us, and make promises to us. The questions we must ask are, Whose voice will I listen to? What message will I trust as good and helpful? What message will I reject as bad and harmful?

God warns us and instructs us to keep us from harming ourselves—not to keep us from having fun. He wants what is best for us, and he doesn't want us to hurt ourselves. Will you listen to his voice? Or will you listen to the voice of another because it seems to offer more happiness at the time? The difference between the good life and the foolish life is the voice you heed. This is the key to Proverbs. Wisdom is a person—Jesus. Will you listen to him? If you will, he will make you wise. But we learn in Proverbs 2 that foolishness is also personal. There are voices in your ear, in your head, and the person Folly often stands behind them trying to get you to yield. Will you? Notice the competing voices in Proverbs 2:1-22.

“Seeking God first will always put us in the correct position and aim us in the right direction to move into the future God has for us.”
- Stormie Omartian

GET WISDOM

PROVERBS 2:1-22

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- There is a constant battle between good and evil going on all around us and even within us. God's word and His guidance can help us navigate the good from the evil. As humans, God's way isn't necessarily the most appealing all the time, but it is the one we must listen to. We are called no longer to live our own lives but to live by Him and for Him.
- Our daily focus should be on Christ and Christ alone. Living a life for Christ takes discipline. Athletes train to be successful at their sport. Firefighters, policemen, teachers, and doctors all go through rigorous training to be good at what they do. Christians are no different. We have to be willing to put in the work to grow closer to God each day. The world is waiting for us to stumble. We must keep our focus on Christ and work hard to stay the course for Him.

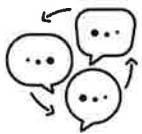


Memory Verse

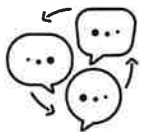
"You will seek me
and find me,
when you seek me
with all your
heart."

Jeremiah 29:13

FAMILY DISCUSSION



Seems like all of us have a smartphone these days. There is so much information at our fingertips. How do we determine if the content we are viewing is content that is building us up as believers? How do we discern what is true and what is not? Are there spiritual benefits of having so much media in our faces all the time? What would be a good alternative?



Not only can we view content but we can also create it. Many people have Youtube channels or create various types of media. If you are one of those creators, what is the foundation of your creation? What message are you spreading? What image are you putting out there? Do others see Christ in your work?

GET WISDOM

PROVERBS 2:1-22

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

Ernest T. Bass gets “wisdom” on the Andy Griffith show

<https://youtu.be/FWD4TKkEjr8?si=SwoDX8UiR0tEc4g8>

Q **Voices and Wisdom:** How does Ernest T. Bass’ behavior highlight the importance of discerning whose voice we listen to? How do the voices and influences in your life shape your decisions and understanding of wisdom? Reflect on how your actions might change if you sought godly wisdom rather than relying on your own understanding or the approval of others.

Q **Influence of Voices in Our Lives:** Ernest T. Bass is influenced by the people around him in his quest for “wisdom.” How does this reflect the battle between good and evil voices described in Proverbs 2? How can we guard against folly and ensure we are listening to the right voices in our lives?

READ James 1:5-8

Q **Seeking Wisdom from God:** What does James say is necessary for receiving wisdom from God? How does this compare to the wisdom we often seek from other sources?

“Any fool can know. The point is to understand.”

Albert Einstein

WISDOM BUILDS TRUST

PROVERBS 3:13-35

Blessed Is the One Who Finds Wisdom

- 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,
14 for the gain from her is better than gain from
silver and her profit better than gold.
15 She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called blessed.
19 The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
by understanding he established the heavens;
20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open,
and the clouds drop down the dew.
21 My son, do not lose sight of these—
keep sound wisdom and discretion,
22 and they will be life for your soul
and adornment for your neck.
23 Then you will walk on your way securely,
and your foot will not stumble.
24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
- 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror
or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,
26 for the Lord will be your confidence
and will keep your foot from being caught.
27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is
due, when it is in your power to do it.
28 Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come
again, tomorrow I will give it”—when you have it
with you.
29 Do not plan evil against your neighbor,
who dwells trustingly beside you.
30 Do not contend with a man for no reason,
when he has done you no harm.
31 Do not envy a man of violence
and do not choose any of his ways,
32 for the devious person is an abomination to the
Lord, but the upright are in his confidence.
33 The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.
34 Toward the scorners he is scornful,
but to the humble he gives favor.
35 The wise will inherit honor,
but fools get disgrace.

WISDOM BUILDS TRUST

PROVERBS 3:13-35

INTRODUCTION

When my daughter was very young, she would see commercials for toys or dolls or new trinkets, and she would exclaim, “I have to have that! Mom, can I get it? Dad, can I get it?” All the way to keeping a notebook by her side and writing down the 800 numbers! I remember asking her at Christmas time or birthday, “If you could only get one thing, which would you want?” I wanted to determine what her heart was set on above all else.

What about you? What one thing do you want most? What in life do you have to have? Often, commercials can awaken us to our desires. Maybe there are things you just have to possess, foods you just have to consume, or relationships you just have to have. What’s the superior treasure in your life that you wake up thinking about, go to sleep dreaming about, and spend your day planning to get? It may be money, stuff, sex, success, or any number of things.

Wisdom—Jesus—is the treasure that is superior to all that we can set our hearts on. Solomon will tell us in Proverbs 3:13-35 to seek Wisdom first, above all else. When Solomon wrote these words he was encouraging his son to commit to study this book—Proverbs. But in the fullness of time, the Spirit has revealed to us that Wisdom is a person—Jesus Christ. We are to seek him—the pearl of great price—above all else, and all these other things will be provided for us (Matt 6:33). If we set our supreme desire on things—even good things—it will prove disappointing. It may even wreck our lives. But when we set our supreme desire on Jesus, we are able to enjoy these other things as gifts that cause our hearts to praise Jesus for providing them.

“
I’d rather have Jesus than silver
or gold; I’d rather be His than
have riches untold; I’d rather
have Jesus than houses or lands.
I’d rather be led by His nail-
pierced hand Than to be the king
of a vast domain Or be held in
sin’s dread sway. I’d rather have
Jesus than anything This world
affords today.
(Rhea F. Miller, “I’d Rather
Have Jesus,” 1922)

WISDOM BUILDS TRUST

PROVERBS 3:13-35

MAIN POINTS

- Wisdom Will Give You an Abundant and Eternal Life (3:13-18).
- Wisdom Will Give You a Perception of How the World Works (3:19-20).
- Wisdom Will Give You Peace of Mind (3:21-26).
- Wisdom Will Give You God's Blessing Instead of His Judgment (3:27-35).

IN YOUR LIFE

Are you seeking or chasing after the wisdom that is Christ? Or are you in pursuit of the misunderstood prosperity that is believed to be included in the blessings of wisdom?

TAKEAWAY

WISDOM (JESUS) IS
THE SUPERIOR
TREASURE ABOVE ALL
ELSE

NOTES

WISDOM BUILDS TRUST

PROVERBS 3:13-35

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- What makes us happy? The world does its best to keep our focus off of Christ. It promises a happy life through sin and is rooted in evil. We can spend our life chasing that next big thing to give us some sort of fulfillment, or we can spend our life seeking Christ. Wisdom is knowing there is no joy in the former, but there is peace everlasting when we seek wisdom and walk with Christ.
- Earthly prosperity doesn't automatically come with a life built on Christ. We are promised that if we seek Him, things will not always be easy. We will, however, have God's blessings instead of his judgment. Blessings from God are worth far more than any wealth or prosperity I can find here on earth.

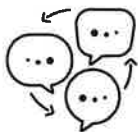


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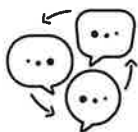
"If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth."

1 John 3:17-18

FAMILY DISCUSSION



What are some of the ways that God has blessed your family? What are ways that you can use those blessings to help others? What should be our motive for helping others?



One thing that our minds can't comprehend is eternal life. We only have two options when our life here is over. What are those options? What type of life here on earth leads to each eternity? Should Heaven be our focus, or should it be simply living a Christ-centered life?

WISDOM BUILDS TRUST

PROVERBS 3:13-35

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

Trust Fall Fail

<https://youtu.be/mUJ3XX8hK74?si=MgtHDyMoyK5P-dHH>

Q Pursuing the Wrong Things: What happens when we do not understand God’s Will and go after the wrong things? How can we better align our desires with God’s wisdom to avoid the pitfalls of earthly distractions?

READ Matthew 6:19-21

Q Earthly vs. Heavenly Treasures: How does Matthew 6:19-21 highlight the difference between pursuing earthly and heavenly treasures? How can we shift our focus from temporary, worldly desires to the eternal wisdom found in Christ?

Q The Long-Term Value of Wisdom: How does the pursuit of wisdom, as seen in Proverbs 3:13-18, serve as a way to store up treasures in heaven? What are some practical ways to begin valuing wisdom and spiritual growth over material wealth or success?

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

Corrie ten Boom

HEART OF WISDOM

PROVERBS 4:20-27

- 20 My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.
- 21 Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.
- 22 For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their flesh.
- 23 Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.
- 24 Put away from you crooked speech,
and put devious talk far from you.
- 25 Let your eyes look directly forward,
and your gaze be straight before you.
- 26 Ponder the path of your feet;
then all your ways will be sure.
- 27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left;
turn your foot away from evil.

INTRODUCTION

Many people think of God like they think of Santa Claus. He judges you if you're naughty, and he rewards you if you're nice. Because of that misconception, much of modern Christianity consists of behavior modification. Many people think the main message of Christianity is "Stop doing bad things so God will like you, bless you, and take you to heaven instead of hell when you die. Heaven is for good people, and hell is for bad people; so be a good person and go to heaven not hell."

There are lots of problems with this understanding of Christianity. One, it is not biblical. Another is this: We cannot stop sinning. We cannot perfectly modify our behavior. Isn't this clear?

This is a problem for all of us. We are all sinners by nature, so we are all broken at the heart level and bent toward sin. That means we love things that God hates, and we hate things that God loves. So we can try to modify the behavior, but it won't bring lasting change because we are only treating the symptoms and not the source.

The behavior modification approach to Christianity has brought a lot of heartache. Behavior modification can either lead to depression when you can't fully address your problems or pride if you are able to solve your problems. These are both problematic. The answer for us according to Proverbs 4:20-27 is not behavior modification; it's that we need a new heart because the heart is the command center for life. The heart is the source for every behavior in your life, so in order to address sin and foolishness we must address them at the heart level. For us to obey God and walk in wisdom, we need a change at the heart level.

HEART OF WISDOM

PROVERBS 4:20-27

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- The notion that good people go to heaven and bad people do not is a lie that the enemy has told us. We are all sinners, and even after we are saved, we will sin again. Christianity is not a story of good or bad, it is a story of redeemed and unredeemed. If you are bought with the blood of Christ Jesus, then you are a constant work in progress. Changing your heart through Godly principles, fellowship, counsel, and messages will continue the work that Christ started in you when he saved you.
- In football, the quarterback is often the heart of the offense. A good quarterback listens to the coach and knows the playbook. If he is able to keep his focus downfield, remain calm and make good decisions through all the noise and chaos then things usually go well. Our scripture this week tells us to do the same while walking with Christ. Listen to wise counsel and let it sink in. Wise counsel can be life changing. Guard your heart and stay away from the negativity. Choose the best path and don't get distracted. Stay focused on Christ.

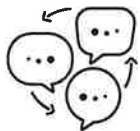


Memory Verse

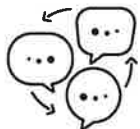
“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.”

Matthew 12:33

FAMILY DISCUSSION



What would you consider corrupt speech? What are some ways that we can stay away from it? Why does God not want us to listen to it or speak it?



Read Proverbs 4:20-22 as a family. How do you lift one another up as a family? What are some meaningful things that you have come to really enjoy from one another? These can be words or actions.

HEART OF WISDOM

PROVERBS 4:20-27

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

Drew Brees Decodes On-Field Play Calls

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1587464291889435>

Q Navigating Challenges with Wisdom: Drew Brees remains calm under pressure, helping his team navigate challenges. How does having wisdom and a heart centered on Christ help us stay calm and focused when we face difficulties in life?

Q Guarding the Command Center: Just as a quarterback must protect the ball and make strategic choices, Proverbs 4:24-27 encourages us to guard our hearts. What are some practical ways we can protect our hearts from negative influences and ensure we are making choices that honor God?

READ Romans 12:1-2

Q Resisting Worldly Influences: Romans 12:2 warns against conforming to the pattern of this world. What are some patterns or influences in society today that might try to shape your heart or your thoughts? How can you actively resist these patterns and instead focus on God's truth?

THE PERIL OF THE FLESH

PROVERBS 5:1-23

Warning Against Adultery

- 1 My son, be attentive to my wisdom;
incline your ear to my understanding,
- 2 that you may keep discretion,
and your lips may guard knowledge.
- 3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
- 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
- 5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;
- 6 she does not ponder the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.
- 7 And now, O sons, listen to me,
and do not depart from the words of my mouth.
- 8 Keep your way far from her,
and do not go near the door of her house,
- 9 lest you give your honor to others
and your years to the merciless,
- 10 lest strangers take their fill of your strength,
and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,
- 11 and at the end of your life you groan,
when your flesh and body are consumed,
- 12 and you say, "How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!
- 13 I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
or incline my ear to my instructors.
- 14 I am at the brink of utter ruin
in the assembled congregation."
- 15 Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.
- 16 Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?
- 17 Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you.
- 18 Let your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
- 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.
- 20 Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a
forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an
adulteress?
- 21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord,
and he ponders all his paths.
- 22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
- 23 He dies for lack of discipline,
and because of his great folly he is led astray.

THE PERIL OF THE FLESH

PROVERBS 5:1-23

INTRODUCTION

One of the primary tactics of our enemy is to keep us distracted. He will often provide opportunities for us to take our eyes off of Jesus. He does so with various tactics.

Facing tough times is one of the main ways he works to shift our gaze from our Savior. It isn't the only way, however. Desires of this world are also something that tends to pull us away from our relationship with Jesus.

We learn in this proverb that things of the flesh are a primary deterrent in our lives, and just as with every other area of our lives, God's word has something to say about them.

THE PERIL OF THE FLESH

PROVERBS 5:1-23

MAIN POINTS

- Promise of the Peril (5:1-6)
- Price of the Peril (5:7-14)
- Prevention of the Peril (5:15-23)

IN YOUR LIFE

What perils of the world can you see in your life that are competing with, and taking away from, your relationship with Jesus?

NOTES

TAKEAWAY

KEEPING OUR EYES ON
WISDOM (JESUS) WILL
KEEP US FROM
DESTROYING OUR
LIVES WITH
MISDIRECTED
AFFECTIONS.

THE PERIL OF THE FLESH

PROVERBS 5:1-23

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- Satan does not want us to keep our focus on Christ. When tough times come, we tend to revert back to that “Santa Claus” God that we talked about in week 6. Since things aren’t going well, we feel like God is not with us. Nothing can be further from the truth. God is with us always, especially in the tough times. We just have to keep our focus on Him.
- Reverting to worldly and temporary satisfaction in times of trouble is exactly what Satan wants us to do. He wants us running to him instead of Christ. By doing that, we are telling God that we don’t need him and that we can numb the pain ourselves. God doesn’t want us to numb the pain. He wants us to lean on Him and allow Him to walk through it with us. Doing so only strengthens our relationship with Him, not with the world.

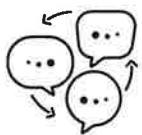


Memory Verse

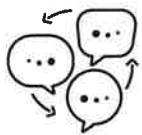
“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them.”

1 John 2:15

FAMILY DISCUSSION



Discuss as a family some easy distractions that Satan knows he can use to try to get your mind off Christ. How can you help one another, as a family, stay focused on your Christian walk?



What do we have to fear when Christ is with us? Read Mark 4:35-41. Discuss why the disciples were afraid. What was Jesus doing? What did he tell the disciples? How can we apply that in our lives?

THE PERIL OF THE FLESH

PROVERBS 5:1-23

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

“Simple Man” by Lynyrd Skynyrd

<https://youtu.be/sMmTkKz60W8>

Q **Desires of the Flesh vs. Wisdom:** It’s a secular song, but it is interesting to think about “Simple Man” when comparing the perils of flesh to what we are promised comes with wisdom. The song talks about not overcomplicating life and focusing on simple truths. Proverbs 5 warns against the dangers of following fleshly desires, which often lead to destruction. How can focusing on the "simple" wisdom outlined in Proverbs help you recognize and resist the price of worldly desires in relationships, material pursuits, or other temptations that pull you away from Jesus?

READ James 1:14-15

Q **Recognizing Temptation:** James 1:14-15 explains how desires lead to temptation and, if unchecked, to sin. What desires in your life might be leading you toward temptation, and how can you address them before they give birth to sin?

“The Bible says that there is pleasure in sin (Hebrews 11:25). You can go out and drink and take drugs and have sex and all the rest of it—and have a lot of pleasure at it—but the Bible says it is only for a season. Then it is over. It leaves you bitter and finally destroys you. A day of reckoning always comes.”

Billy Graham

DILIGENCE OF WORDS

PROVERBS 6:16-19

- 16 There are six things that the Lord hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:
17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,
19 a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers.

INTRODUCTION

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words shall never harm me...” Such a catchy, quippy and totally untrue saying. Proverbs tells us repeatedly about the weight of our words; particularly when our words are dishonest.

In this passage, Solomon gives us the definition, the cause, the consequences and ultimately, how to overcome this ever-present, ever-dangerous area of temptation in our lives.

DILIGENCE OF WORDS

PROVERBS 6:16-19

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- Your words and actions define you to those around you. They are the basis of what others believe about you. God wants to see us walking in wisdom according to his word. He does not want us to be seen as worldly, but for people to see Christ in us.
- For us to be able to have an effective witness, we have to be able to connect with others. We have to be approachable by people of all different walks of life. We have to be able to listen and share the good news without judgment. We can't make a practice of deceit and sin and share the love of Christ.

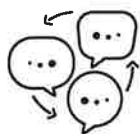


Memory Verse

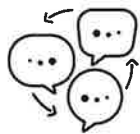
“3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.”

Psalm 24:3-4

FAMILY DISCUSSION



Verse 17 talks about a false witness that pours out lies. What is a false witness? How does having a false witness affect our reputation as believers? Can we let our light shine before others if we are doing the things talked about in these verses?



What are some ways that God shows us His truth and character through his word? What are some specific bible stories that you can think of that prove that God is truthful and keeps His promises? Is He still the same God today?

DILIGENCE OF WORDS

PROVERBS 6:16-19

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

“Do Actions Always Determine Your Character?”

- Vince Miller Devotion

<https://youtu.be/nix0pIXnfdc?si=-dxo2Wid5DIPDBH3>

Q Characteristics vs. Characterized: How does the distinction between characteristics and being characterized relate to the way our words and actions reflect our character as Christians?

Q Redeemed by Christ: Vince Miller explains that we’re characterized as redeemed by Jesus Christ. How does the way God sees us shape the way we view ourselves? What about how we view others? What do you need you need to change in your life to live as one who has been redeemed rather than as the world sees you?

READ Ephesians 4:25-32

Q The Dangers of Dishonesty: Paul warns against giving the devil a foothold in our lives (Ephesians 4:27). How does dishonesty open the door for temptation and spiritual harm, and what steps can we take to avoid it?

WISDOM WARNINGS

PROVERBS 7

Warning Against the Adulteress

- 1 My son, keep my words
and treasure up my commandments with you;
- 2 keep my commandments and live;
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;
- 3 bind them on your fingers;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
and call insight your intimate friend,
- 5 to keep you from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words.
- 6 For at the window of my house
I have looked out through my lattice,
- 7 and I have seen among the simple,
I have perceived among the youths,
a young man lacking sense,
- 8 passing along the street near her corner,
taking the road to her house
- 9 in the twilight, in the evening,
at the time of night and darkness.
- 10 And behold, the woman meets him,
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.
- 11 She is loud and wayward;
her feet do not stay at home;
- 12 now in the street, now in the market,
and at every corner she lies in wait.
- 13 She seizes him and kisses him,
and with bold face she says to him,
- 14 "I had to offer sacrifices,
and today I have paid my vows;
- 15 so now I have come out to meet you,
to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.
- 16 I have spread my couch with coverings,
colored linens from Egyptian linen;
- 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,
aloes, and cinnamon.
- 18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;
let us delight ourselves with love.
- 19 For my husband is not at home;
he has gone on a long journey;
- 20 he took a bag of money with him;
at full moon he will come home."
- 21 With much seductive speech she persuades him;
with her smooth talk she compels him.
- 22 All at once he follows her,
as an ox goes to the slaughter,
or as a stag is caught fast
- 23 till an arrow pierces its liver;
as a bird rushes into a snare;
he does not know that it will cost him his life.
- 24 And now, O sons, listen to me,
and be attentive to the words of my mouth.
- 25 Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;
do not stray into her paths,
- 26 for many a victim has she laid low,
and all her slain are a mighty throng.
- 27 Her house is the way to Sheol,
going down to the chambers of death.

WISDOM WARNINGS

PROVERBS 7

INTRODUCTION

God created his world good and everything worked right, including our physical relationships. But sin broke our relationship with God and with each other, so nothing right now works as it was designed. Instead of intimacy and satisfaction in marriage, there are distrust, barriers, and unfaithfulness. Sex is still a good, God-given gift, but it is not used properly because we are sinners. Fire can be both good and destructive. When it is in a fireplace, it can warm a house so you do not freeze in the winter, but when it is outside the fireplace, it will destroy the house. Like a fire, sex is very good in the right context (i.e., marriage) but very destructive in the wrong context. Because of our sinful nature, we use sex in destructive ways that God never intended.

“

“All great temptations appear first in the region of the mind and can be fought and conquered there. We have been given the power to close the door of the mind.”

Amy Carmichael

WISDOM WARNINGS

PROVERBS 7

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

BIG IDEAS

- The way the world is now was never the way God intended for it to be. When Sin entered the garden with Adam and Eve, our world was changed. We can't battle all the sin in the world. We can, however, learn how to deal with it in our own lives. Gaining biblical wisdom will help us resist worldly temptations.
- Temptation is something that we all endure. Even Christ was tempted, but he did not act on it. We have the ability to turn away from temptation also. It is hard to not give in to fleshly desires. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:13 God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

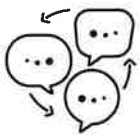


Memory Verse

"1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!"

— Psalms 119:1-3

FAMILY DISCUSSION



This discussion will vary a bit depending on the age dynamic in your family. This would be a great place to have a discussion about the biblical definition of marriage and where sex fits in with that. It would also be good to discuss the physical and emotional consequences of sex before and outside of marriage.

WISDOM WARNINGS

PROVERBS 7

WATCH + READ + DISCUSS



WATCH

“Slow Fade” by Casting Crowns

<https://youtu.be/QASREBVDsLk?si=gp8do8tzDJx9dj0L>

Q The Consequences of Small Compromises: In the song, the gradual fade leads to major consequences. How can small compromises in our lives lead to bigger temptations or spiritual harm? How does this align with wisdom warnings about the consequences of temptation?

Q The Power of Seeking Wisdom: How can seeking wisdom from God help us recognize and resist the subtle steps of temptation described in the song? How can we stay rooted in God’s word and keep our focus on Him to prevent the slow fade from affecting our lives?

READ 1 Corinthians 10:13

Q God's Faithfulness in Temptation: What does this passage teach us about God's faithfulness when we face temptation? How can we trust in God’s promise to provide a way of escape from temptation?



Check out the Enduring Word Commentary for a more in depth look at Proverbs 7

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/proverbs-7/>

PRAYER DIRECTIVES

PROVERBS

WEEK 1: WHY PROVERBS?



During your time of prayer, focus on how to strengthen your relationship with Christ.



During your time of prayer, pray for discernment and clarity in understanding the proverbs from the Word of God.



During your time of prayer, focus on being able to learn from our own mistakes and to be able to teach our children the wisdom we gained from those experiences.

WEEK 2: BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE



During your time of prayer, pray to have a fear of God while living a life that is pleasing to Him.



During your time of prayer, pray that we are able to see the world through the lens that is provided by God and not the lens the world provides.



During your time of prayer, ask God for the strength and knowledge to help you make the correct choices in your daily living.

WEEK 3: WISDOM: ACCEPTED OR DECLINED



During your time of prayer, think of those in your life that do not have a relationship with Jesus. Pray for the confidence to urgently plead with them to repent and form a relationship with Jesus.



During your time of prayer, focus on letting go of your pride so we might be more humble and willing for what God is calling us to do.



During your time of prayer, focus on strengthening your personal relationship with Jesus so we might gain wisdom through Him.

PRAYER DIRECTIVES

PROVERBS

WEEK 4: GET WISDOM



During your time of prayer, focus on seeking God first in all things. This will always put you in the right direction in life.



During your time of prayer, pray for God's word and guidance so we might be able to discern good from evil.



During your time of prayer, pray that we listen to God's voice and heed it instead of worldly voices that intend to lead us away from God.

WEEK 5: WISDOM BUILDS TRUST



During your time in prayer, focus on seeking wisdom first (which is Jesus). Then, all other things will be provided for us.



During your time in prayer, remember that we aren't promised an easy life. Thank God for His many blessings that ease our way through this life.



During your time in prayer, ask God to show you how to use your many blessings in order to help others.

WEEK 6: HEART OF WISDOM



During your time in prayer, pray that we be willing to change our sinful nature at the heart level.



During your time in prayer, focus on ways in which to change your heart such as through Godly principles, fellowship, counsel, etc.



During your time in prayer, pray for strength to stay away from the negatives in life and to guard your heart against them.

PRAYER DIRECTIVES

PROVERBS

WEEK 7: THE PERIL OF THE FLESH



During your time of prayer, pray that we are able to keep our eyes on God even when the world tries to distract us.



During your time of prayer, focus on the fact that God is always with us, especially through the hard times.



During your time of prayer, give thanks to God for letting us lean on Him and for helping us through the tough times.

WEEK 8: DILIGENCE OF WORDS



During your time of prayer, focus and reflect on what kind of words come out of your mouth, is this an area that could use some work in your life?



During your time of prayer, pray that our words and actions are pleasing to God. That we are able to walk in Wisdom so others might be able to see Christ in us.



During your time of prayer, pray that we are approachable to those around us so that we might become a more effective witness.

WEEK 9: WISDOM WARNINGS



During your time of prayer, pray that we are able to keep our eyes on Wisdom (Jesus) so that we are better able to keep temptations under control.



During your time of prayer, focus on not taking on the sins of the world, but focusing on taking control of the sins and temptations of our own lives.



During your time of prayer, give thanks to God for providing a way out of temptation, and for always being faithful and just.