

“The beginning of wisdom is this: **Get wisdom**, and whatever you get, get insight.”

Week 1 Devotion



Does it get any more straightforward than that?! **Get WISDOM!** Proverbs

4:7 is SO straight forward and simple it seems kind of silly. If God could have said it in another

way he probably would have said, “you need it”, “you have to have it”, “you cannot live without it!” According to

God in the book of Proverbs, there are NO OTHER priorities in life in front of gaining possession of wisdom. So, what’s the big deal with wisdom? Why do we need it? Who can have it? How do we get it? Before we can answer those questions we have to answer the questions, “What is it?” and “Where does it come from?” Here’s a simple answer to those questions . . .

WISDOM IS KNOWING AND LIVING LIFE ACCORDING TO GOD’S WAYS!

The book of Proverbs is God’s way of saying to us “Wise Up!” Most of the book of Proverbs is written by King Solomon whom God had given a, “wise and discerning mind”. When asked by God in a dream, “what shall I give you?”, rather than ask for long life, riches, or victory of his enemies, **Solomon asked for wisdom** and God gave it to him abundantly. Solomon was so wise that people and kings traveled from all nations to hear his wisdom (1 Kings 3:3-14, 4:29-34). Solomon’s wisdom came from God and in the book of Proverbs he shares God’s wisdom with us! Those who hear and listen to the wisdom of God in the book of Proverbs will gain practical insight into how to successfully live life. The good news is that God’s wisdom is not just for Solomon, it’s available to all of us who pursue it . . .

God has made wisdom public KNOWLEDGE (Prov. 1:20-23)

For over 125 years the Coca-Cola Company has possessed knowledge that they DO NOT want anyone else to have. What is it? The secret formula for their world famous soda pop! Coca-Cola has gone to extensive measures to make sure that knowledge of their secret formula does not become public knowledge. Have you ever considered that there is a “secret formula” for how to live life? What if someone possessed this “secret formula” and they kept it to themselves? God possesses the “secret formula” for living life which the book of Proverbs calls WISDOM. God is the creator of life and so He knows exactly how He intended it to be lived. God does not want to withhold His “secret formula” of how to live life. In fact, just the opposite is true, according to Proverbs 1:20-23 God has made his wisdom known to us like a person standing on a busy street corner shouting it aloud for all to hear. So, if God’s wisdom is public knowledge, how come more of us do not possess it?

God GIVES wisdom to all who PURSUE it (Prov. 2:1-10)

The secret formula of Coca-Cola is in a locked vault in Atlanta, Georgia. If we wanted to obtain the secret formula of Coca-Cola we would need to know the code to unlock the vault. God has a similar “code” we must possess if are going to be given His wisdom for life. According to Proverbs 2:1-4 the “code” to possessing God’s wisdom is our pursuit of it, our desire to have it, our seeking after it! God alone is the possessor of wisdom and He gives to anyone and everyone who recognizes its value and pursues it with a genuine heart.

We all need wisdom in order to live life in a way that is honoring and pleasing to God. Through King Solomon, God has made known His wisdom that will guide us down the right path in life. Are you pursuing God’s wisdom in your life right now? If not, WISE UP and, . . . GET WISDOM!

For Discussion



How is wisdom different from being smart or intelligent? Can a person be smart and not wise? Can an unintelligent person be wise? How? (cf 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)



READ: Deuteronomy 30:11-20

According to this passage are God’s commands (wisdom) beyond our ability to understand and know them? According to verse 14 where are God’s commands? What happens to those who hear but do not heed God’s commands? What happens to those who hear and obey God’s commands? Can we make any excuses for not knowing God’s wisdom?



READ: Proverbs 2:1-10 Pay attention to the word “if” in verses 1-4 and list the conditions we must meet in order to obtain wisdom. Pay attention to the word “then” in verses 5-10 and list the things that happen when we pursue wisdom.



READ: James 1:5 What is one way we can pursue obtaining wisdom?

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO PRAY AND ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU WISDOM

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So often Jesus taught with stories - He knew that we often learn really well that way!

We hope you were able to see Dawn's fun Facebook Live video about our new sermon series and all of the neat ways we will be learning together in June. Each week, as we study the concepts in Proverbs, we will have Pastor Niall's sermon, a weekly devotional written by Pastor David or Pastor Len, a Bible story chosen by Miss Kelly that correspond to the teachings. This will be a great way for families with children to have devotional time that is easier for children to grasp. It will also make for a super fun experience for all of our Grace Family, as later in the week with the Kahoot! trivia game that Dawn spoke. Caleigh has written some great questions to test our learning of the key concepts from Proverbs and each week's story. Our WBC kiddos will completely recognize the Bible Challenge format for learning!

This week, we have two parables of Jesus that speak about "Wising up."

Wise and Foolish Builders, Matt. 7:24-27 & Wise and Foolish Virgins, Matt. 25:1-13

Memory Verse

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:3-4

Questions	Answers
What is a parable?	An earthly story with a heavenly meaning!
Where did the wise man build his house?	On the rock (Jesus)
Where did the foolish man build his house?	On the sand (Earthly pleasures and priorities)
To which of these men did bad things happen? And what does this mean?	Both! It means that believing in Jesus doesn't mean that we get an easy life; it means that we walk through them with Him.
Who does the Bridegroom represent and what will He do?	Jesus. He will come for us!
What did all of the young ladies in the parable have in common?	Everyone had a lamp.
How were some young ladies better prepared than the others?	Their lamps contained oil.
What does the oil represent?	The oil is what is inside – our heart for Jesus!
In the parable, why does the Bridegroom say he doesn't know the latecomers?	Their hearts hadn't accepted Him.
What does this parable mean?	It isn't enough for our outsides to act like Christ-followers; we must accept Jesus' sacrifice for us inside our hearts.