

WISDOM FROM GOD: 6 Studies in Proverbs

Study 1 The Fear of the Lord

Study 2 Get Wisdom!

Study 3 Wisdom on Friendship

Study 4 Wisdom on Work and Wealth

Study 5 Wisdom on Words

Study 6 Wisdom on Our Essential Relationships

Study 1: The Fear of the Lord

From the beginning...

Genesis 2:15-17

Genesis 3:1-7

God's word for God's people

Exodus 19:1-6

Exodus 20:18-20

Deuteronomy 5:28-33

Joshua to Solomon

The book of Proverbs

Proverbs 1:1-6

Jesus: God's Wisdom

Colossians 2:2-3

1 Corinthians 1:24

As Christians reading Proverbs we need to:

1. Read them on their own terms
2. See how Jesus personifies/exemplifies them
3. See what further teaching is given in the new testament

The Fear of the Lord

1. Read the following proverbs. Take your time to discuss and reflect on each one. What do we learn concerning the fear of the Lord?

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 3:7-8

Proverbs 8:13a

Proverbs 14:26-27

Proverbs 22:4

2. What did Jesus teach about the fear of the Lord? (eg Matthew 10:28)
How does he set an example for us?

3. How do the following verses add to our understanding of how Christians are to fear the Lord?

Philippians 2:12-13

Hebrews 12:28-29

2 Corinthians 7:1

4. As you grow in your fear of the Lord, what changes would you expect/hope to see in your life?

Choose one of the proverbs from today's study and write it out on the card provided. Keep it with you and reflect on it through the week. Try to memorise it by next week.

Study 2: Get Wisdom!

1. Answer the following questions for each of the passages below:
 - a. What are the characteristics of wisdom?
 - b. What does she offer?
 - c. What are the benefits from following wisdom?
 - d. What are the consequences of rejecting wisdom?

Proverbs 2

Proverbs 3:13-26

Proverbs 4

Proverbs 8:1-11

2. From all you have read today, what is wisdom?

3. Who is giving this instruction to whom?

4. Why is it so important to hand wisdom on from generation to generation?

5. Now read **Colossians 2:2-3** and **1 Corinthians 1:23-24**.
What does it mean for Jesus to be the Wisdom of God?

6. Are there times you choose folly instead of wisdom? Why do we do that?

7. How can we help each other be wise?

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Study 3: Wisdom on Friendship

1. What do these proverbs teach about the value of good friends?

Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 27:6

Proverbs 27:9

Proverbs 27:10

2. What do we learn from these proverbs about how to choose friends?

Proverbs 13:20

Proverbs 20:19

Proverbs 22:24-25

3. How do these proverbs help us to be a good friend?

Proverbs 3:27-28

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 17:14

Proverbs 27:14

4. Read **Proverbs 18:24**. In what way does Jesus embody this proverb?

5. How did Jesus show himself to be a good friend to his disciples?

6. How does being a friend of Jesus affect our lives? (see John 15:14)

7. What warning is given in **1Corinthians 15:33**? Have you observed this to be true?

8. Discuss the connection between friendship and evangelism.

9. From all you've read today, how can you be a better friend?

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Study 4: Wisdom on Work and Wealth

As you read through the proverbs today, take note of any that surprise you, or that go against popular 21st century wisdom.

1. What do these proverbs teach about wealth and poverty?

Proverbs 11:4, 28

Proverbs 12:11

Proverbs 20:17

Proverbs 21:5, 17

Proverbs 23:4, 5

2. What do we learn about generosity and greed from these proverbs?

Proverbs 3:9-10

Proverbs 11: 24-25

Proverbs 14:20-21, 31

Proverbs 15:27

Proverbs 19:17

3. What attitudes to work are expressed in the following proverbs?

Proverbs 6:6-11

Proverbs 10:5, 26

Proverbs 11:1-3

Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 24:27

4. Try and summarise in a sentence or two the perspective on work and money we get from Proverbs.

5. Share with each other what you remember of Jesus' teaching on these matters from Luke (eg **Luke 12:13-21, Luke 12:22-34, Luke 16:9-13**) and Paul's from Philippians (eg **Phil 4:11-19**).

*If you have time, also see **2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 and James 4:13-17**.*

6. What encouragement or challenge have you received today regarding work and money? Do you need to make any changes?

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Study 5: Wisdom on Words

As we go through the selected proverbs today, briefly share your experiences of the truths taught.

1. Consider the negative effects of the tongue:

Proverbs 12:19, 22

Proverbs 16:27-28

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 25:9-10

Proverbs 26:20-22, 28

Proverbs 27:1-2

2. Now consider what good can be achieved when we use our tongues the right way:

Proverbs 10:11, 19

Proverbs 12:18, 25

Proverbs 13:3

Proverbs 15:1-2, 23, 28

Proverbs 16: 24

3. Reflect together on the life of Jesus – his interactions with people and his teaching. How did he live out some of the proverbs studied above?

4. Read the following passages. What further challenges do they present for how we are to speak?

Ephesians 4:29

Ephesians 5:4

James 1:19-20, 26

James 3:1-12

5. Why do we find it so hard to be godly in our speech?

6. What steps can we take to grow in this area?

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Study 6: Wisdom on Our Essential Relationships

Today we hear the wisdom of Proverbs speaking to us as daughters, mothers and wives.

Daughters

1. What do the following proverbs teach us about being good daughters?

Proverbs 15:5

Proverbs 20:20

Proverbs 23:15-16

Proverbs 23:22-25

Also read **1 Timothy 5:8**.

2. Summarise how God wants us to treat our parents.
3. What are the challenges for you in doing this?

Mothers

4. What do the following proverbs say to us as mothers?

Proverbs 15:16-17

Proverbs 17:1

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 29:15, 17

Also read **Ephesians 6:1-4**

5. What is God's primary concern for our children?

6. Do we have the same priorities for the children in our care?

Wives

7. What do these proverbs say to us as wives?

Proverbs 11:22

Proverbs 12:4

Proverbs 19:14

Proverbs 21:9, 19

Proverbs 27:15-16

Proverbs 31:10, 11, 30

Also read Ephesians **5:22-24, 33**.

8. What specific action do you need to take this week to be a more godly wife to your husband?

Let's stretch our thinking a little...

Read **Philippians 2:5-8**. What did it cost Jesus to obey his Father? What was Jesus' attitude to his Father?

Read **Hebrews 12:9-11**. How do love and discipline work together in God the Father's treatment of us?

Read **Ephesians 5:25-27** and **Revelation 19:6-8**. How does Jesus act as the husband of his people? What is the response of his bride?

How does reflecting on these relationships help deepen our understanding of how God wants us to be in our family relationships?

How can we help each other to live out these essential relationships wisely?

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