



Wisdom of Your Spirit

LESSON 1 – THE CALL OF WISDOM

June 7, 2020

- ABUNDANT HARVEST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
- TEACHER – EVANGELIST MONIQUE R FOSTER

THE CALL OF WISDOM

BIBLE BASIS: Proverbs 1:1-11, 20-22, 32-33



BIBLE TRUTH: Wisdom calls believers to fear [reverence] God.



MEMORY VERSE: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction”
(Proverbs 1:7)



LESSON AIM: By the end of the lesson we will: VALUE godly wisdom; CHERISH godly wisdom to influence our choices; and APPLY wise biblical principles to make a decision.

LESSON OVERVIEW

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON: People feel compelled by something greater than themselves to act wisely when confronting feelings of inadequacy to complete a task. How can they overcome these feelings of inadequacy and move forward? The wisdom of God instructs us to discern the direction we should go and gives us the insight we should go and gives us the insight we need to understand life.

BIBLE LEARNING: God demands that His people follow Him.

BIBLE APPLICATION: Students will appreciate wisdom's discretion in guiding believers of all ages.

STUDENTS' RESPONSES: Students will be discerning as they are guided by wisdom.

KEY TERMS TO RECOGNIZE

- **Wisdom** - the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise. "listen to his words of wisdom" The soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment. The body of knowledge and principles that develops within a specified society or period. "the traditional farming wisdom of India"
- The biblical definition of **wisdom** is the **fear of the Lord** as that's where it begins, and God is the source. The earthly wisdom is really no wisdom at all because "the wisdom of this world is folly with God" (1 Cor 3:19). True wisdom is found in obedience to God, fearing Him and His Word, in the Word of God the Bible and by praying or asking for it.
- **Hear** – (Heb. *Shama'*, shaw-MAH) not only means to hear with the ear but also to heed and obey the instructions, which are a guide to a life of honor and integrity



LESSON
SCRIPTURE

PROVERBS 1:1-11, 20-22, 32-22



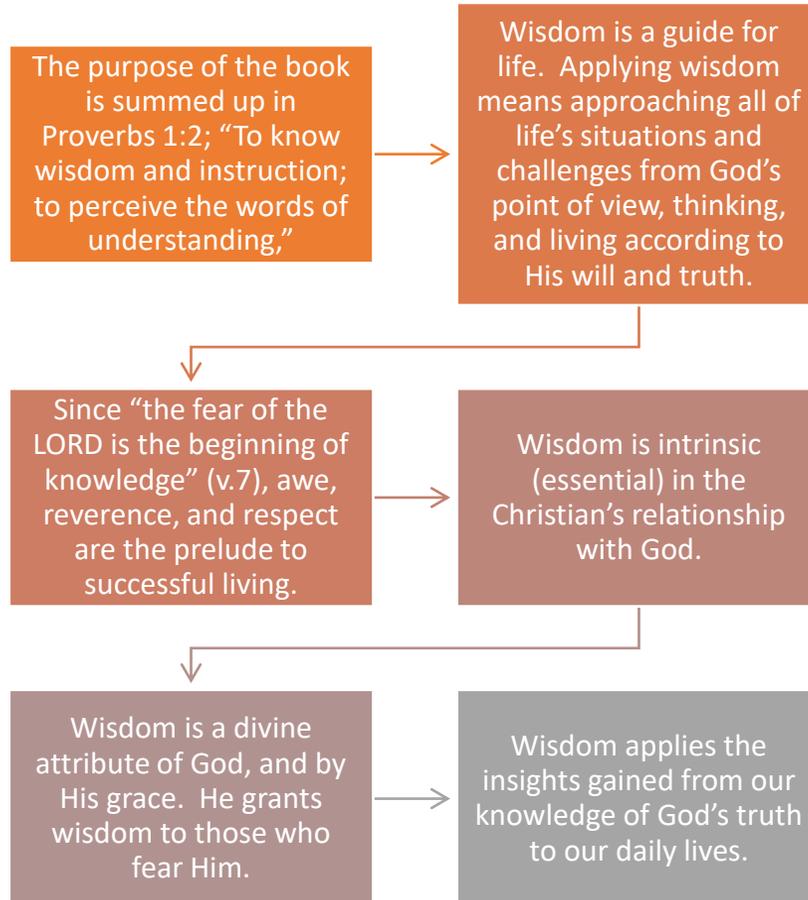
LIGHT ON THE WORD – WISDOM LITERATURE

- Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes are wisdom literature.
- Wise adages or sayings are also in the books of Job, Psalms, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations.
- Wisdom literature is a genre from the ancient Near East, which was plentiful in Egypt and Mesopotamian cultures (such as Iranians), as well.
- Often poetic, wisdom literature uses the literary techniques of simile (a similar of speech) for comparison, which means that the comparison is implied.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON

- AIM: Students will evaluate the benefits of godly wisdom.

INTRODUCTION – TO KNOW WISDOM



CONTINUATION OF INTRODUCTION

- Wisdom results in a godly lifestyle that is fair, just, and righteous.
- The foolish do not act in accordance with God's Word.
- They reject all instruction.
- Foolish living is characterized by decisions that are selfish and prideful.
- Only by answering wisdom's call to listen and obey will there be safety and peace.
- There is a clear contrast between the results of seeking wisdom versus living a life of foolishness.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: Christians agree that wise, parental wisdom is protective for children.

I. WISDOM FOR GODLY LIVING

(Proverbs 1:1-7)

- Solomon, the author, is addressing his son, and his plea is similar to a teacher who is guiding a student.
- Solomon stresses the benefits of wisdom, which are godly living and the resulting appropriate actions (vv.2-3)
- The teacher provides guidance and explains that his intended audience is the young (v.4).
- This term “young” can refer to youth based upon age as well as the characteristically immature or inexperienced.
- The theme of the book of Proverbs is in verse 7. The wise fear the Lord. True wisdom comes from God.
- Those who will not pursue wisdom are called “fools” who “despise wisdom and instruction” because they think they know everything and do not need God.
- Fools cannot distinguish between good and evil or right and wrong.
- People who are arrogant and self-sufficient will reject the need to depend on God or anyone else.
- The fool does not understand that God is the source of all wisdom and that God has given everyone who will listen to the ability to be successful.

REVIEW THE SCRIPTURES: CHAPTER 1:1-7

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

QUESTION 1

In this opening chapter of Proverbs, King Solomon imparts advice to his son. Why does he stress wisdom above all else?

QUESTION 2

Families are the foundation where children should learn about loving and honoring God. How do parents instruct and demonstrate to their children a “fear of the LORD?”

LIGHT ON THE WORD

A WISE KING

- Solomon, the third king of Israel, reigned from 971-931 BC. A prolific writer, he wrote 3,000 proverbs, 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:32), and at least two psalms (Psalm 72:127), as well as three of the five Wisdom Books in the Bible – Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon (also Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon (also known as the Song of Songs).
- Job and Psalms comprise the remainder of the wisdom literature that deal with human struggles and real-life experiences, moral excellence, and advice for living a godly life that finds favor with God.
- Solomon qualifies to write this collection of wise sayings because of his cry for wisdom.
- Although he was not the eldest son of David (who died shortly after birth), Solomon was given the honor to succeed his father David; Solomon ascended the throne when he was only twenty years old.
- When God told Solomon that he could request anything he desired, a youthful Solomon wisely responded: “Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?” (2 Chronicles 1:10)
- God granted his request-and more- and Solomon’s wisdom became so legendary that kings (1 Kings 10:1-13) traveled from near and far to learn at Solomon’s wisdom became so legendary that kings (1 Kings 4:34) and queens (1 Kings 10:1-13) traveled from near and far to learn at Solomon’s feet.
- Solomon’s priority is an example for us to follow.
- James tells us that wisdom is available upon request (James 1:5). Will we ask?

II. WISDOM TO SAY NO

(Proverbs 1:8-11)

- These instructions are a dire warning! As a father, the writer caution his son about listening to his peers and being enticed by sin, which has deadly consequences.
 - 8 – My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
 - 9 – For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.
 - 10 – My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.
 - 11- If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause.
- Having contrasted the stark differences between the wise person who fears the Lord and the fool who despises wisdom, the writer now challenges his son to hear and heed the instruction of his parents.
- The word “hear” (Heb. *Shama'*, shaw-MAH) not only means to hear with the ear but also to heed and obey the instructions, which are a guide to a life of honor and integrity.
- And there is this caution: do not pay attention to sinners who have evil enticements. Sinners plot to do evil. Sinners will strategize, plot, and plan how to kill the innocent.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Question 3

Why is the challenge to say “No” to peers so instructive to youth today?

Question 4

How might you paraphrase the advice in verse 11?

LIGHT ON THE WORD – DON'T PLAN TO TAKE A LIFE

- The worst evil, as indicated in the text (v. 11), is to plot to take the life of an innocent person.
- Life is precious and cannot be restored once it is taken away.
- A stolen object can be returned.
- One can ask forgiveness for a hurtful word and make restitution for other wrongs.
- But once there's a plan to take innocent life, the destructive wheels of evil are set in motion.
- Life cannot be replaced. And, the person who plans to take a life or who kills another will be irrevocably ruined as well.
- Yes, God forgives. But sin has consequences, some which cannot be imagined.

III. WISDOM PERSONIFIED

(PROVERBS 1:20-22, 32-33)

- Wisdom is personified, which means that Wisdom has human characteristics.
- Wisdom is shouting to the “simple one” in the streets, on the corners, and at the entrance of the cities.
- Wisdom asks: How long will they continue to act foolish and be destroyed?
- Wisdom is not hidden; God is calling for the foolish to change course and live.

REVIEW CHAPTER 1:20-22, 32-33

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Question 5

When we have to make major decisions, it is good to seek wise counsel. Whom do you trust to give you wise counsel?

Question 6

What foolish acts has godly wisdom helped you avoid?

LIGHT ON THE WORD – CHOOSE WISELY

- The contrasts between the consequences of folly and of wisdom set the tone for the rest of Proverbs.
- These stark contrasts also set the tone for our lives.
- Making wise decisions and heeding the call of wisdom propel our lives on a path of wise, skillful living that will be a blessing to everyone we encounter.
- If we listen to God's wisdom, we will live in safety and peace no matter what the future holds (v. 33).
- God will guide us as we face life's challenges if we ask for wisdom and determine to choose wisely.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: Christians will choose wisely!

- Life is full of choices Every day we make choices about whether to go to work, what do at work, what to eat, how to comb our hair, what clothes to put on, when to go to bed, and so on.
- We make hundreds of choices with little forethought. But life often gives us difficult decisions that require the wisdom of God.
- Choices include how we will live as single people or whom we will marry. Both decisions hold unimaginable consequences.
- Additional choices include whether or not we will raise our children in the fear of the Lord, and our decision may be a matter of life or death.
- We also make decisions about our involvement in our churches and communities, and in our nation and world.
- Only by prayer, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the study of God's Word, and wise counsel will we make wise decisions that result in peace and safety.

STUDENTS' RESPONSES

AIM: Students will consider five practical steps in making decisions

When we have to make life-altering decisions, the burden can have us feeling inadequate. If we evaluate life situations, in light of God's character and purposes, we will make decisions guided by divine wisdom. Whatever the choice, we must rely on God for help. We need to:

- 1. Read and study the Bible**
- 2. Pray in power of the Holy Spirit**
- 3. Fellowship with believers at church, and listen to and obey God's Word**
- 4. Confide in Christians who have shared experiences**
- 5. Pray some more and act in accordance with what the Holy Spirit guides us to do.**

NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON TOPIC: THE VALUE OF WISDOM

BIBLE BASIS: PROVERBS 2:1-11

TEACHER: Evangelist MARY E FOSTER