

Growing in wisdom 1

Study Guide

Definitions of wisdom:

“The ability to use your knowledge and experience to make good decisions and judgments”: Cambridge English Dictionary

“The ability to make the right decisions. With the purpose to help one choose the best course of action among those available”. John Ortberg OTC Course

“Saying or doing the right thing – and at the right time” R.T. Kendal – not saying or doing the right thing shows our lack of wisdom. Even the correct thing said at the wrong time may show lack of wisdom.

Getting started

1. What is the purpose of proverbs in our own culture and in Scripture?
Share some from our culture that we use.

Going Deeper

Read Proverbs 1 vs 1-6

- 2 How can we **benefit** from studying the Proverbs see vs 1-6?

Proverbs are described as short, wise, easy to remember sayings that can help us shape our lives with calls to action in attitude, words and deeds. They can be written as figure of speech, parables or reflections on life’s experience. They are generally true with very helpful principles and great practices recognising that life does not always follow suit.

3. Discuss the below parable:

“The more talk, the less truth, (more likely to lead to trouble) the wise measure their words.” Proverbs 10:19 *The Message*

4. Proverbs are not to be taken as absolute and literal.

Discuss some examples which should not be taken as an absolute and discuss why. You may want to use these examples or you own. e.g. Proverbs 10 vs 27. Or Proverbs 15 vs 25

5. Proverbs are not to be interpreted as prophecy, law or promises.

We looked at the misuse of a proverb – treating it as a promise:

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and your plans will succeed.” Proverbs 16:3

Have you heard or experienced any proverbs that have been misused and seen as a promise or command which have not been helpful?

Read vs 7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

6. What do you understand by the phrase the fear of the Lord?
7. Discuss the implication for our lives coming out of this verse.

Going Forward

Proverbs are there to encourage us to go forward in life wisely in a good way, in all areas of life, as well as being a warning of the consequences of poor choices and decisions.

8. Is there anything that has drawn your attention from this study that you want to pursue in the coming week?

“Respect and obey the Lord! This is the beginning of knowledge. Only a fool rejects wisdom and advise.” Proverbs 1:7