

Study Guide 3

Growing in Wisdom across the generations

Respecting and obeying the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One leads to understanding. *Proverbs 9:10*

Being wise by making good decisions and choices in life, discerning and doing what is right.

Being wise means “Saying or doing the right thing – and at the right time in the right way” – RT Kendal

Proverbs

Solomon is recognised as the main writer of Proverbs. Proverbs are short easy wise sayings that call us to action. We studied the purpose and theme in greater detail in study guide 1 when we looked at Proverbs 1:1-7

1. Refresh your memories briefly by thinking about:

- The purpose of proverbs
- The pitfalls of proverbs

Chapters 1- 9 were written for young men and women. Yet all can benefit from them.

Chapters 10-24 for everyone

Chapters 25-31 for leaders

The following proverbs, from Chapters 10-24, were read aloud by a number of people in the service on Sunday morning. You may want to read them together again in your group. Share how you have experienced the reality of them and/or comment on the proverb - the benefits or example of them

- Proverbs 11:2 Pride and Humility – see also James 4:6
- Proverbs 18:24 Good and bad friends.
- Proverbs 16:31 The benefits of grey hair
- Proverbs 20:15 The value of wise words
- Proverbs 27:17 The value of others over going it alone
- Share from your own proverb that maybe meaningful to you.

2. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and 4:7-9

- Do you have any examples of where you have experienced the Lord guiding you when you have asked for Him for it?
- Sometimes following the will of the Lord can be costly. Do have an instance where this has been true for you? Are you glad you made that choice looking back?

James

3. Read James 3:13-18. Two Kinds of Wisdom

Wisdom is important to James 1 vs 5 and begins with knowing God

Wisdom is best demonstrated in our being and doing 3 vs 13

There is a God- given wisdom and it is our personal responsibility to seek it and live by it.

- Discuss the key feature which comes from receiving God’s wisdom in vs 13? We looked at it in Proverbs 11:2

- Compare what “Good life” is understood to be in today’s society with the biblical understanding here of “loveliness of goodness; wholesome and helpful- a way of life for Godly people (*Alec Motyer*)
 - Discuss the three unhealthy features that can drag one into temptation and sin and are destructive in Vs 14-16?
 - Spend more time on the recognising and discussing the 8 qualities that accompany Godly wisdom
4. Final thoughts on how to grow in wisdom taken from the teaching on Sunday
- Is there one aspect to wisdom you would like to focus on in the coming week?

How to Grow in Wisdom?

- Respect and Obey the Lord - *Beginning of Wisdom*
- Knowledge of God – *Gives understanding. Prov 9:10*
- Pray for Wisdom – James 1:5
- Pray for the will and guidance of the Lord John 16:3
- Ask for advice - Get the facts
- Live the good life – *Being and Doing* -James 3 vs 13
- The Lord Prayer *Pure with Peace P & P* James 3:17