



WISDOM'S WAY

"I HAVE TAUGHT YOU THE WAY OF WISDOM..."

PROVERBS 4:11a

Key Verse: Proverbs 1:7

"The fear of the Lord
is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction."

WHAT IS WISDOM?

LESSON 1

WISDOM'S WAY

WHAT IS WISDOM? - Lesson 1

WHERE DO WE GET OUR WISDOM?

A. We live in an Information Age.

1. No time in history have we had such instantaneous access to knowledge.
2. Yet with all this knowledge, we have some strange thinking.
3. Yet with all this knowledge, we don't seem to be smarter about "life".

B. What we really need is WISDOM.

1. Wisdom defined
2. Wisdom found in the Word of God

PROVERBS HAS PURPOSE.

A. The 1st purpose is to teach skill in godly living.

Proverbs 1:2a

1. Wisdom defined
2. Instruction defined

B. The 2nd purpose is to provide discernment.

Proverbs 1:2b

1. Discernment defined
2. Discernment that "walks"

C. The 3rd purpose is to develop alertness to wise behavior.

Proverbs 1:3

PROVERBS HAS A PATTERN.

- A. Chapters 1-9 are introductory.
- B. Chapters 10-31 are editorial.
- C. It is part of wisdom literature.
 - 1. It is poetic in form.
 - 2. It has cameo appearances of a cast of interesting characters.

PROVERBS HAS A PROPOSAL.

- A. To the simple Proverbs 1:4
 - 1. It will give prudence.
 - 2. It will give discernment.
- B. To the wise and understanding Proverbs 1:5
 - 1. It will give increased understanding.
 - 2. It will give wise counsel.

PROVERBS HAS A PERSPECTIVE.

Proverbs 1:7-9

- A. A lesser source of wisdom
- B. The greatest source of wisdom
 - 1. Developing a reverence for God
 - 2. What does reverence for God look like?
 - a. He is to be obeyed.
 - b. He is to be served.
 - c. He is to be worshiped.

A CLOSING QUESTION

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT FOR LESSON 2

Fear (as opposed to wisdom) doesn't want you to make the journey to the mountain. If he can rattle you enough, fear will persuade you to take your eyes off the peaks and settle for a dull existence in the flat lands." Max Lucado

Day 1

Read Proverbs 1:8-2:10 and answer:

- 1. Describe wisdom. Look it up in the dictionary.
How does our culture describe wisdom?**

- 2. How does God describe wisdom? See Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, Ephesians 1:17 and 1 Corinthians 1:23-30.**

- 3. According to James 1:5, how do we acquire wisdom? To whom and how does God give wisdom? How does that apply to you? In what areas do you particularly need wisdom?**

Day 2

4. According to Proverbs 1:7-8, what is the source of wisdom? How does that relate to you? What do you think "fear of the Lord" means? Give examples.

5. Describe wisdom according to vs. 9. What do you think this verse means? Give an example to illustrate.

6. Read vv. 10-19 and summarize the ways of the unwise. Give a modern-day example of the contrast between this picture and the depiction given in vs. 9.

Day 3

7. According to vv. 20–22, where and to whom does wisdom call? How do you think that applies to today's culture and to you specifically? Give an example.

8. Read vv. 24–29 and describe the result of ignoring the call of wisdom. Describe how Lot illustrates this passage in Genesis 14:12.

Day 4

9. Describe the person depicted in Proverbs 1:33-2:6.
How does this relate to you?

10. Portray a Biblical character or someone you personally know who illustrates this kind of perspective.

Day 5

11. According to Proverbs 2:7-10, list how God will reward one who seeks after wisdom. Give an example from life today.

12. What specific lessons did you learn from studying this passage?
How will you apply it to your life this week? What wisdom did you find for today?

OPTIONAL:

For further study read Psalm 91 and describe how it relates to Proverbs 1:33.
Does “dwelling in the shadow of the Most High” mean we will never have any challenges or difficulties in life? Explain.

Memorize Proverbs 1:7.