

# SAFETY IS FOUND IN GODLY COUNSEL

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING IN WISDOM / SERIES: PROVERBS

## BIG TRUTH: SAFETY IS FOUND IN GODLY COUNSEL

Proverbs 12:15, 26; 13:20; 15:22; 16:2; 18:24; 24:6; 27:9, 17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

## BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 11:14

*“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”*

## BIG IDEAS

- Our understanding, insight, feelings, and thoughts are limited and often broken.
- Wisdom willingly embraces dependence and recognizes our need for help.
- Wisdom values and find success in godly counsel.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: PROVERBS 1

## KNEEL: LIVING IN WISDOM

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know...

- What wisdom is.
- Why wisdom is worthy to be pursued.
- How to grow in wisdom.



### Every student should feel...

- Love for God who gives all wisdom.
- Satisfied and secure in the wisdom of God.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



### Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Proverbs one time each month.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Repent of the ways they have not pursued God and His wisdom.



### Every student should want...

- To fear the Lord and keep His commandments.
- To live their lives in pursuit of true wisdom.
- To guard their heart from all impurity.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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SAFETY IS FOUND IN  
GODLY COUNSEL**BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 11:14**

*“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”*

**A lack of counsel leads to folly.**

*“Where there is no guidance, a people falls...”*

- God created us to live life in community. We are not meant to live alone as individuals trying to discern this life by ourselves. God joins believers together as brothers and sisters so they might live together as a family. This enables us to offer counsel to one another throughout our lives.
- When we try to live our lives without this godly counsel, it often leads to difficulty and strife. Solomon calls it folly in the book of Proverbs, or foolishness. It's foolish to live this life without seeking godly counsel from others. A lack of counsel leads to foolish mistakes and decisions.

**Wise counsel provides guidance to those who hear it.**

*“...but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”*

- Because we are meant to live life with other believers, we can enjoy the benefit of hearing their advice and suggestions. We can learn from them and grow from them. This provides guidance to us.
- This type of wise counsel offers us guidance from older and more spiritually mature believers. As we live our lives, we can learn from those who are older and have already experienced what we have experienced. They can offer godly counsel to us and guide us along the way.

**Wise counsel provides safety.**

*“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”*

- Not only does wise counsel provide guidance, but it also provides safety. To have the support and counsel of others means that you have protection. To have a group of people around you who love you and desire what is best for you means you have people who are always on guard for you.
- Wise counsel keeps you from making poor choices and it keeps you from danger. It protects you from life-altering decisions and mistakes. This is life-giving and provides safety for you.

SAFETY IS FOUND IN  
GODLY COUNSEL**BIG IDEA #1: OUR UNDERSTANDING, INSIGHT, FEELINGS, AND THOUGHTS ARE LIMITED AND OFTEN BROKEN.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Every person is created in the image of God. This means we reflect God's image. We reflect certain aspects of God's nature and character, but we are not God. To reflect something isn't the same as being that thing. Just like our reflection in the mirror isn't our face, we aren't God. Because of this, we are not infinite or unlimited. We are finite and our understanding is limited. Our ability to have insight and to understand situations and people is limited because we are just humans. God, on the other hand, is not limited. His understanding and insight are unlimited. He holds all understanding of every situation and person. His insight is immeasurable. Our insight isn't perfect. We may gain discernment and grow in our ability to see a situation fairly clearly, but we will always have skewed vision because of our sin nature. Our sin nature is the thing that causes us to have a distorted understanding and a lack of insight into ourselves and the world around us. Without the help of God and His truth, we would be lost entirely.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What in our world today reveals the limits of our understanding and insight?**

That we have so many disagreements reveals that we have limited understanding and insight. We often can't agree with one another because we can't understand each other. Job 11:7, Psalm 139:6, and 145:3 teach us that only God has unlimited understanding and insight. He alone knows all and understands all.

**[ THIS ]**

Not only is our understanding and insight broken and limited, but our thoughts and feelings are limited as well. Often, we wrongly assume our thoughts are always right or valid just because we think them. We give our thoughts power over us and others, but this is a fallacy because they are so broken and limited. We may think we understand a situation, but instead, we have little to no understanding. It's as if we are examining something through a broken magnifying glass, but we do not realize that the glass is broken. To truly understand ourselves and this life, we must approach every situation and person with the knowledge that our understanding is finite and is constrained by our humanness. When we approach our lives this way, we aren't tossed "to and fro" by constantly changing emotions. We allow the truth of God to guide us, and we rely upon His wisdom and knowledge to lead us to true understanding, knowing that without the help of His Spirit, we never achieve it.

**[ THEREFORE ]****When have you thought you understood a situation or person and realized later that you did not fully understand? How did this help you see your limited understanding?**

Job 11:7, Psalm 139:6, and Psalm 145:3 teach us that God's ways are unsearchable. This doesn't mean that we cannot grow in our understanding, but it does teach us that we are not all-knowing as He is. This should teach us that we do not hold all understanding of any situation. Our understanding is limited.

**How have your feelings deceived you?**

Proverbs 12:15 tells us that we may think we know the right way, but we do not really know. Our feelings lead us astray because they are limited and deceptive.

1. Proverbs 28:26: *Our understanding, hearts, and feelings are deceptive and lead us astray. They cannot be trusted without the power of the Holy Spirit.*

SAFETY IS FOUND IN  
GODLY COUNSEL**BIG IDEA #2: WISDOM WILLINGLY EMBRACES DEPENDENCE AND RECOGNIZES OUR NEED FOR HELP.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

To depend upon something or someone requires humility and an acknowledgement that we need something. This is difficult for us because of the pride that is natural to our sin natures. We naturally think of ourselves as independent and lacking in nothing, but the truth is that we are created to need one another and most importantly, to need God. Wisdom is a willingness to embrace dependence upon God first and second upon our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. When we embrace this, we begin to live in community, and we grow in our Christlikeness. As long as we try to live in isolation or independently, we cannot really grow spiritually. When we realize that leaning on God and others for counsel and help is what truly makes us stronger not weaker, we begin to grow more mature in Christ. This is contrary to the world's perspective of dependence, but it is how we are created to live.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some negative ideas about dependence have you held before? How does our culture contribute to these ideas?**

Our culture teaches that dependence equals weakness. If we are not independent making our own decisions, we are weak. If we are not in charge of our own lives, we are imprisoned, but this is contrary to how we are created. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 shows us the value of living life in community with other believers.

**[ THIS ]**

Psalm 1 teaches us that those who live life in community and Godly counsel prosper. This doesn't mean they prosper in a worldly way, but in a spiritual way. When we walk in Godly counsel, our lives are better. When we recognize our need for help and submit to this need, our lives are enriched. Living life with others makes us better. It is hard to admit that we need help from others. Often, we'd rather struggle to do it all ourselves than allow others to help us, but the better thing is to allow others into our lives. When we do this, we allow the body of Christ to function as it is meant to function. When we depend upon one another, we are operating as Christ intends us to operate. We can use our spiritual gifts to help one another and build one another up. We can show the love that we are meant to show. This brings God glory because He works in us to make Himself famous through us as we sacrifice for one another.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some reasons that it is difficult to admit you need help from others?**

Pride is the main reason we struggle to admit we need help. We lack humility and do not want to admit we need others. Proverbs 28:23, 18:12, and 8:13 teach us that pride leads to our downfall.

**How has wisdom helped you admit your need for help from others within the body of Christ?**

When we seek God, we realize that we are created for community within the body of Christ. This leads us to lean upon this community. Proverbs 18:24, 24:6, and 27:9 help us see that we all need one another and we learn from one another.

2. Proverbs 27:17: *We need one another because when we live life together, we grow together.*

SAFETY IS FOUND IN  
GODLY COUNSEL**BIG IDEA #3: WISDOM VALUES AND FINDS SUCCESS IN GODLY COUNSEL.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Psalm 1 teaches us that there is value in Godly counsel. This means that when we have Godly friends, we have Godly counsel. We have people around us who can offer us wise advice and encourage us to follow God. A wise person values these types of relationships. Wisdom teaches that having these types of people in your life is necessary and important. It leads a person to seek these types of relationships out and to pursue people who will give Godly counsel and are like-minded. We all face difficult decisions in this life, and these are made easier when we live life with other believers. When other people are reading and studying God's Word, we can trust the advice they give us just as they can trust the advice we give them because we are all gaining wisdom from the only true source of wisdom—God's Word.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Do you value the Godly friendships you have in your life? How have these friendships provided Godly counsel to you?**

Proverbs 12:26 shows us that our Godly friends can guide us to live for God. These friendships can lead us to obey God and grow in our spiritual maturity. When we value these friendships, we will invest in them and make spending time with these friends a priority.

**[ THIS ]**

When we define success as living obedient lives for God and expanding His kingdom, we find success by living life with other believers. We will value Godly friends who offer us Godly counsel because they will help us do what is best for the kingdom of God. Our friends who do not love God or follow Him will offer us advice that is worldly. This type of advice builds up an earthly kingdom that is temporal and will pass away one day. We could listen to them and seemingly find success here on earth, but it would not be eternal. When we listen to Godly counsel, we find eternal success because we are investing in the kingdom of God and building into our eternity. We live lives that please God. There is nothing better than living in harmony with God and choosing to live each day in obedience to Him. We have no greater joy than walking in obedience to Him and seeking to bring Him glory. Our lives will be fulfilled and our hearts full of joy when we seek to please Him over pleasing ourselves. Godly friends lead us to live this way and this is the way to success.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How do you discern what is wise counsel? How do you respond when you receive counsel you do not like?**

Proverbs 19:20-21 teaches us to hear counsel and accept it. We can discern wise counsel by checking it by God's Word. When we receive counsel that aligns with God's Word, then we know we have received wise counsel. Our hearts should receive this and walk in it.

**Does your life reveal that you value God's view of success over man's view of success?**

Listening to Godly counsel reveals if we value God's view of success. Proverbs 15:22 teaches us that when we have Godly counsel, we find success. If we listen to this Godly counsel, we reveal that we value this type of success.

3. Proverbs 27:17: *We need one another, and iron sharpens iron.*