

WISDOM VALUES CORRECTION

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

BIG TRUTH: WISDOM VALUES CORRECTION

Proverbs 1:29-31; 5:11-14, 23; 6:23; 9:8-9; 12:1; 13:18, 24; 15:5, 10; 19:20; 27:5-6; 29:1, 15; Hebrews 12:5-13

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 3:11

“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of His reproof...”

BIG IDEAS

- We are prone to wander toward the path of folly and sin.
- Correction is a loving action on behalf of God and others to draw wandering hearts back to the path of wisdom.
- Those who pursue wisdom are thankful for correction.

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 SAMUEL 12:1-15

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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BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 3:11

“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of His reproof...”

The fool despises correction.

“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline...”

- To despise something is to regard something as worthless and to look down upon something. When we despise correction, we are saying that it is worthless to our lives. When we despise the correction of the Lord in our lives, we are making a statement about the condition of our hearts.
- The fool despises God’s correction. God loves us and He corrects and disciplines the people He loves. He is a good Father and disciplines His children to guide them and direct their lives. When we despise His correction of us, we are actually despising His work in our lives. This is foolish because He is the God of the universe and the Ruler of all things.

Wisdom values correction.

“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline...”

- Those who are wise are the opposite of those who are foolish. The wise do not despise God’s correction. Instead, they welcome it and value it. They see it as a way to become more Christlike. They do not necessarily enjoy God’s correction, but they understand the necessity of it and value God’s work in their hearts and lives.
- This means that those God uses to correct them are valued as well. God often uses His people to correct us. Fellow believers will be the people God uses to correct our attitudes and behaviors. When this happens, we shouldn’t despise those people or God. Instead, we should value the correction and reproof and grow from it.

Wisdom doesn’t grow weary of guidance.

“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of His reproof...”

- A wise person doesn’t grow weary of being reproved. In this life, we will receive correction often. We are sinful and broken. We will make mistakes and we will require God’s constant work in our lives to make us more and more like Christ.
- We should not grow tired of this correction or work. A wise person doesn’t grow weary of this. Instead, a wise person understands it and see the value of it. Though we may not enjoy it in the moment, we know that the end result is worth the pain of the moment.

BIG IDEA #1: WE ARE PRONE TO WANDER TOWARD THE PATH OF FOLLY AND SIN.¹

[THIS]

In 2 Samuel 12:1-15, we read the story of Nathan's confrontation of David after David has sinned against God with Bathsheba. David was a man after God's own heart, yet he wandered from God's commands and committed adultery with Bathsheba. David, the chosen king of Israel, turned from what he knew to be true and chose to fulfill his fleshly desires instead. Before we judge David too harshly, we must remember we are all sinful and without the grace of God and the power of His Spirit at work in our lives, we all wander from His truth. We are wanderers; it is in our nature to wander away from God and His truth. Our natural inclination is to sin and desire the things of this world. Sin seems fun and good to us. We enjoy it and think that it will bring us lasting happiness. Just like David gave in to his sinful desires in the moment, we give in and wander away from God's truth. Because we are prone to wander, we need the correction of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Just as Nathan confronted David over his sin, we need brothers and sisters in Christ who will confront us when we are in sin. Without them, we, too, may continue wandering away from the truth.

[THEREFORE]

What sinful things tempt you to wander away from God's truth?

Proverbs 21:16 warns us that the one who wanders from the truth will end up on the path of destruction. When we follow our sinful hearts that desire the things of this world, like material things, corrupt things, selfish things, and ungodly things, we will wander from the truth.

[THIS]

Folly is foolishness and the opposite of wisdom. Wisdom rejects folly and desires to grow in knowledge and discernment. Because we are naturally prone to wander toward folly, we need the reproof and correction of God in our lives. God uses other believers and His Word to guide and correct us. When we sin, His Spirit convicts us, and He uses His followers to point out the folly in our choices. If we reject this correction, we continue down the path of destruction. We continue to make foolish choices that lead us to death. Wisdom values correction and welcomes the reproof of a friend. Wisdom understands the importance of having our sin pointed out and appreciates the guidance of fellow believers. If we do not value this, we will wander away and end up living a life fully of foolishness. We will follow the way of this world and waste our time and the talents that God has given us.

[THEREFORE]

What are some of the foolish things you have wasted time doing?

1 Corinthians 3:19 tells us that what the world thinks is wise is actually foolishness. Often, we follow the things of this world thinking that they will lead us to happiness, but they lead us astray. We are prone to follow the foolishness of whatever is new and trendy, but wisdom teaches us to follow God and His truth.

Why are we prone to wander from God? How can you keep yourself from wandering so quickly from God's truth?

Proverbs 5:11-14 show us that those who hate discipline and correction are prone to wander quickly. When we hate reproof and correction, we will wander quickly from God's truth. We can keep ourselves from wandering quickly when we submit to God's truth and His correction of us. When we allow others to speak into our lives and help guide us, we will not wander as quickly.

1. Proverbs 5:23: *Those who lack discipline and correction are led astray.*

BIG IDEA #2: CORRECTION IS A LOVING ACTION ON BEHALF OF GOD AND OTHERS TO DRAW WANDERING HEARTS BACK TO THE PATH OF WISDOM.²

[THIS]

In 2 Samuel 12:1-15, Nathan confronted David and reproved him for his sin against God. Nathan was willing to risk angering David in order to keep David from continuing in his sin. Nathan was a faithful friend to David and a faithful servant of God. Correction from a friend is not a hateful act, but a loving act. To correct someone is the most loving thing we can do. It is the most loving thing that can be done to us. When we ignore someone's sin and allow them to continue in their sin, we show that we don't really care about them. We have to really dislike them to allow them to continue in their sin. To correct them on behalf of God is to show that we love them so much, we are willing to risk losing their friendship in order to draw them back. It shows that we value God and His holiness above our own friendships. Wisdom teaches us that the most important thing for us to be is to be a faithful servant of God and a faithful friend. Correcting others is not done out of frustration or anger. It's done out of love and with the intent of bringing people back to God. It springs from the desire to see people back on the path of wisdom.

[THEREFORE]

What is challenging about correcting a fellow believer? How can you overcome this challenge?

Proverbs 27:5-6 remind us that we are a faithful friend when we rebuke our friends who are on the path of folly. It is challenging to correct a friend because we are close to them and we do not want to upset them, but we must remember that the purpose is to bring them back to God. We are doing what is best for them.

[THIS]

Correcting a friend or fellow believer comes with its challenges because we often do it with the wrong motive or use the wrong tone. Nathan corrected David to bring David back to God. He didn't correct David to prove that David was wrong and Nathan was right. He didn't correct David to make a point, but instead, to save David from further sin. Often, we allow our emotions to control us, and we use the wrong tone of voice when we correct someone. We rebuke when we are angry or upset instead of waiting for a better moment. If we are correcting just to point out someone's sin, then we have the wrong motive. We must correct because we desire to see someone return to serving and following God. We do not correct someone just to show them that they are wrong. The end goal is always to bring them back into right relationship with God. It serves no purpose to just point out they are wrong. When we use the right tone and have the right motive, we are doing the most loving thing we can do.

[THEREFORE]

When have you experienced the correction of a friend and it helped you return to faithfully following God?

A friend who is willing to correct us when we are wrong is a faithful friend. When we have a heart that is open to correction, we will grow spiritually. Proverbs 6:22 teaches us that those who hear reproof and receive discipline walk on the path of life. This leads us to live lives that mature spiritually.

How can you grow in knowing when to correct someone else? How can you grow in boldness and willingness to correct them when necessary?

Proverbs 13:24 shows us that being willing to correct someone else is a sign that we love them.

2. Proverbs 27:6: *The faithful wounds of a friend help us not wander from God.*

BIG IDEA #3: THOSE WHO PURSUE WISDOM ARE THANKFUL FOR CORRECTION.³

[THIS]

When Nathan corrected David after he sinned with Bathsheba, David immediately repented and turned from his sinfulness. David's actions revealed that he valued correction and was pursuing wisdom. To seek God's wisdom is to be open to correction. It is to live a life that is available to correction. If we are always closed to reproof and correction, we reveal that we aren't really seeking God's wisdom. Instead, we reveal that we believe we know best, and we value our own thoughts and ideas above anything else. David didn't reveal this. When Nathan pointed out the wrong in David's life, he acknowledged that he was wrong and repented of it. A wise person lives open to the input of others. This is challenging because it can be painful and hurt our pride. It doesn't always feel good to have our flaws pointed out, but a wise person understands that opening up ourselves to the input of others helps us grow spiritually. God uses His people to grow one another and to encourage one another to live for Him.

[THEREFORE]

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-15. How does Nathan's example of correction encourage you to open yourself to being corrected?

When Nathan corrected David, it resulted in David repenting and his life transforming. Though David had sinned against God and much sorrow was felt over that sin, David was transformed because of it. When we are corrected, our lives are transformed, and our faith is increased.

[THIS]

Wisdom teaches us to be thankful for correction. This means we are not just open to it, but we are thankful for it. To be thankful for correction is to be thankful for the consequences of reproof. Sometimes this means we are thankful for the consequences of our sin. David suffered because of his sin, yet he grew in his relationship with God. Because of David's sin, we understand how to truly repent of our sin by reading David's response in Psalm 51. This doesn't mean that we sin in order to grow, but we understand that God uses our choices and the correction of those choices to mature us spiritually. A pursuit of God and His truth will result in a heart that is thankful for His work in our lives. We will be glad that He is correcting us and discipling us because it will result in our sanctification.

[THEREFORE]

Are you typically glad when you are corrected by other believers? Why or why not?

Hebrews 12:5-13 teaches us that those who understand the importance of God's correction are thankful for it. When God corrects us, He is treating us like His sons and daughters. It is a good thing to be treated like a son or daughter of God. This means that He cares for us and is involved in our lives. He uses other believers to correct us and guides us.

When would we be wrong to correct someone else? What motive and heart attitude make it wrong?

Proverbs 18:24 talks about a faithful friend who sticks closer than a brother. This person is a person who is always in our lives and when he corrects, we can trust it. When someone corrects out of jealousy or for spite, we know this is done for the wrong reason and motive.

3. Proverbs 12:1: *Those who love discipline are wise in the Lord.*