

# WISDOM SPEAKS THE TRUTH

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

## BIG TRUTH: WISDOM SPEAKS THE TRUTH

Ephesians 4:15; 4:25; Zechariah 8:16; Proverbs 12:22; Ephesians 4:29; 6:14

## BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 8:6-7

*“Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right, for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.”*

## BIG IDEAS

- Truth is precious.
- Those who speak and believe lies cause division and discord.
- Wisdom loves the God of truth and hates lies.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: PROVERBS 6:19, 8:6-13

## 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 8:6-7**

*"Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right, for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips."*

**Wisdom knows truth.**

*"Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right..."*

- A wise person recognizes truth and knows it. Their lives are grounded on and based in God's truth. They do not hide from it or deny it. God's truth is part of their everyday lives.
- Wisdom knows that truth is good and true and worth pursuing. A wise person seeks truth and implants it in their hearts in such a way that it flows from them in a God-honoring way.

**Wisdom speaks truth in a right way.**

*"...and from my lips will come what is right, for my mouth will utter truth..."*

- When a wise person knows truth and loves it, he or she will speak it correctly. A wise person will not hold truth back or keep it hidden. A person who really understands the value of truth will value speaking truth to others.
- This person will do so in the right way. This means that he or she will speak it in love, but in a way that presents it correctly. To do this, the person must know it fully and understand it. Wisdom seeks truth to know how to present it in a right way that makes it possible for another person to hear it and believe it.

**Wisdom rejects falsehood.**

*"...wickedness is an abomination to my lips."*

- Knowing truth and loving it involves rejecting what is false. To know truth is to recognize what is false also. It is not enough to see truth and then to also want to accept falsehoods.
- If we want to walk in the truth and speak the truth faithfully, we must reject falsehood and live a life that is known for speaking the truth consistently and in the right way.

**BIG IDEA #1: TRUTH IS PRECIOUS.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

When we find something to be precious or valuable in life, we hold onto it and spend our money to buy it. We protect it and even talk about it. Proverbs 8:10-11 tells us that truth and wisdom are precious. They are more precious than jewels or any other thing the world places great value on. Truth is not easily come by. We are not born with truth in our hearts. We are born separated from the One who is the source of all truth. We are born blind to truth. Our flesh natures lead us away from Him and lead us to believe the lies of this world. Naturally, we do not value truth and instead reject it. We value the things of this world over truth and only when the eyes of our hearts are opened by the Holy Spirit do we see the value of God's truth. This revelation is what leads us to repentance and salvation. When this happens in our lives, we are no longer blind, and we begin pursuing God's truth. It grows in value to us and becomes more and more precious to us.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some lies of the world that are easy to believe? How can you learn to identify these lies and reject them?**

Psalm 58:3 teaches us that our hearts are deceitful from birth. We are not prone to knowing truth or understanding it. We naturally believe the lies of the world. Colossians 2:8 reminds us that there are lies in the world and that we must work to protect our minds and hearts from the lies.

**[ THIS ]**

God's truth is valuable and precious to His people. It is by His truth that we are saved and by His truth that we learn how to live for Him. His truth sets us free. His truth sanctifies us and makes us more and more like Him, preparing us for our eternal home. Proverbs 8:6-13 teaches us that wisdom and truth are precious because they lead us to a life lived for the glory of God. When we live a life that brings God glory, we are fulfilling our created purpose. God's Word is how we find truth and hide it in our hearts. When we grow in a knowledge of His Word, we grow in our knowledge of truth. The more we learn truth, the more valuable it will become to us. Those who walk in God's truth find it precious.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some things you find valuable and precious in the world now? Why are they precious to you?**

We often value the things that we see others valuing or the things that bring us pleasure or happiness. Often, this happiness is fleeting. Matthew 6:19 tells us to not store up this kind of treasure. Instead, we should value truth because it is the most valuable.

**What attitudes and actions in your life reveal that you find truth to be precious?**

John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is the truth. When we live pursuing Him and valuing our relationship with Him, we reveal that we find truth to be precious. 2 Timothy 2:15 teaches us to know truth and to learn truth. When we study God's Word and hide truth in our hearts, our lives reveal that we find truth to be precious.

1. Proverbs 8:11: Truth and wisdom are more valuable than anything else we gain in this world.

## BIG IDEA #2: THOSE WHO SPEAK AND BELIEVE LIES CAUSE DIVISION AND DISCORD.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

God is a God of truth. He does not lie, and He is the source of all truth. To be like Him, we must put off lies and put on truth. Satan is the father of lies. He spends his time trying to convince us that his lies are truth, and that God is a liar. This causes division and discord and leads to chaos. Walking in the truth is the opposite of chaos. Walking in the truth leads to a life of steadfastness and faithfulness. It leads to a life of consistency and honesty. It also leads to a life of peacefulness and harmony with others as much as it's possible with us. Proverbs 6:19 tells us that those who spread lies also spread discord. Scripture teaches us that God hates a liar. These words seem harsh at first, but they reveal the importance of truth and the necessity of God's people being people of truth. Lies and dishonesty lead to hurt and sorrow. Living a life of dishonesty does not end well for anyone. It only causes harm and hurt for those involved. It may seem like the easy answer at first, but in the end, it leads to much pain and sorrow.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How have you seen lies cause division? What harm does this division cause?**

Romans 16:17-18 and Titus 3:9-11 warn us against causing division and being a part of divisive things. Lies lead to division because they separate and cause harm. They lead people to believe untruths and divide people against one another.

### [ THIS ]

Living in harmony with one another is something that is required of God's children. He requires that His people seek peace and are peacekeepers. He desires that they live in harmony within His body and His Spirit enables them to do so, even in the most difficult of situations. A person who speaks lies works against this. That person spreads division and discord. A person who believes lies also works against this harmony. Believing lies is harmful just like spreading lies. When we believe lies, we are still participating in the preservation of them instead of squashing them to death. Those who speak and believe lies are part of division and discord. Wisdom rejects these things and seeks to believe the truth and speak only the truth.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Why is it so important to guard what we believe? Why does it matter that we consider the foundation our beliefs are based upon?**

1 Corinthians 3:11 and Psalm 18:2 teach us that Jesus is the foundation upon which our faith and belief system should be based. It matters that we guard what we believe because the world will quickly draw us away from the truth. Our hearts are prone to wander and if we are not careful, we can easily believe the lies of the world over the truth of Scripture.

**What are some ways you can speak truth in place of lies to people in your life this week?**

Ephesians 4:15 teaches us to speak the truth in love and Psalm 25:5 reminds us that God's truth is our salvation. When we walk in His truth, we will speak the truth in love and tell others the truth. Speaking this truth will be challenging at times, but we will share with others the truth of Christ in love because we love Him.

2. Proverbs 6:19: Those who do not love truth or value it sow seeds of discord and have wicked hearts.

**BIG IDEA #3: WISDOM LOVES THE GOD OF TRUTH AND HATES LIES.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In John 14:6, Jesus says that He is the way and the truth. Jesus is the truth because He is the Word of God in the flesh. He is the only way for a person to know the Father. Loving truth is loving Jesus. A wise person loves truth because he or she loves Jesus. Wisdom comes only when we are set free from the sin of this world. Only then can we grow in the wisdom and discernment that comes from a personal relationship with Christ. This relationship results in a love for God and His truth. Truth will fill us up and we will desire to know more and more of it. As we know more truth, we will know more about God and our love for Him will grow. This love will deepen, and we will increase in our desire to obey Him and follow Him.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read John 14:6. How does knowing truth lead to a greater love of God?**

Because Jesus is the truth, the more we know truth, the more we will know Him. The more we know Him, the more we will love Him. It's impossible to grow in our knowledge of Jesus and not love Him more and more.

**[ THIS ]**

As we grow in our knowledge of truth and our love for the God of truth, we grow in our hatred of lies. Lies are in opposition to the God of truth. Satan is the father of lies and we can't pursue Christ and live for Him, and love lies and falsehood. Hating lies is more than the emotion; it involves situating our lives in a way that we are living truthfully and not embracing any falsehood. This type of life involves knowing truth so well that we recognize falsehood and we put it away from us. It's so easy to embrace a thread of falsehood and before we know it, it has entrenched itself in our lives and we are believing a full-blown lie. To hate lies, we must put away all falsehood. We must not embrace any part of untruth and we must not allow it to be a part of our lives. We must walk in the truth at all cost and hide God's truth in our hearts and minds.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What are some ways that falsehoods creep into our daily lives?**

Proverbs 13:5 and Colossians 3:10 help us understand the importance of putting away falsehood. If we aren't careful, the lies of this world can creep into our daily lives. Because we live in this world, we are inundated with the lies of the world. The falsehood of this world often seems like truth and when the majority around us is believing it, we can easily be swayed, but we must remember what is truth and hold fast to it.

**How can we hold fast to truth and remain steadfast in truth in this world?**

John 8:31-32 offers us the way to remain steadfast in truth. When we abide in Jesus and remain in Him daily, we will hold fast to truth. As we abide in Him and seek Him daily, we will grow in truth and our love for Him. His truth will be so hidden in our hearts that we will recognize the lies of this world and not be swayed by them.

3. Proverbs 8:13: *Those who are wise love truth and hate lies.*