

BY WISDOM GOD FOUNDED CREATION

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

BIG TRUTH: BY WISDOM GOD FOUNDED CREATION

Proverbs 8:22-30; 30:3-4; Isaiah 40:12-15, 21-23, 28; 55:8-11; Romans 11:33-35; Psalm 104:5, 24; 136:5

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 3:19

"The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens;"

BIG IDEAS

- All things that exist are a part of God's wise purposes.
- All creation displays the wisdom of God and resounds with the praise of God.
- God's wisdom is beyond our understanding.

BIBLE PASSAGE: PROVERBS 3:19-20; JOB 38-40; PSALM 19

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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BY WISDOM GOD
FOUNDED CREATION**BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 3:19***"The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens;"***God is the wisest of all beings.***"The Lord by wisdom..."*

- God is the highest being of all beings. He is wisdom and holds all understanding. There is no other being who is as wise or all-knowing as He is. He holds all understanding and wisdom.
- All of Scripture speaks of God's great wisdom and His understanding. He alone knows all things and understands all things. This makes Him the wisest being of all. From Him, we can gain understanding. Without Him, we know very little and have skewed and limited understanding and wisdom.

God created all things by wisdom.*"The Lord by wisdom founded the earth..."*

- When we look at creation, we are seeing the wisdom of God on display. When we examine the intricacies of created things, we are seeing God's great wisdom and knowledge. All of creation declares His glory and it reveals His knowledge and wisdom.
- It is by His wisdom that He created the heavens and the world the way He did. He alone understands the order of life and how it should function. We can look at creation and know that God is all-knowing and holds all wisdom.

God understands all things and created all things by this understanding.*"...by understanding He established the heavens;"*

- Creation also shows us that God has all understanding. He knows the way in which life should exist on earth and in the heavens. He created the heavens and the earth perfectly. In His understanding He created an order to this life that is perfect. It is our sin that has broken it.
- Because God holds all wisdom and understanding, we look to Him for understanding and wisdom. We look to His Word to know how we should live and what our lives should look like.

BY WISDOM GOD
FOUNDED CREATION**BIG IDEA #1: ALL THINGS THAT EXIST ARE A PART OF GOD'S WISE PURPOSES.¹****[THIS]**

In Job 38-40, God responds to Job's lament of his difficult circumstances with a series of rhetorical questions. As God questions Job, He reminds Job that it is God who holds all wisdom and understanding, and He points Job to the truth that God has a purpose in all that He does. God's purposes are perfect and good. In Job 38, God's questions reveal that in His great wisdom, He has a plan and purpose for every single thing on earth and in heaven. In our finite, human minds, we cannot possibly fully understand the way that God works or even comprehend totally His purposes and plans. In His great mercy, He reveals so much about His great wisdom as He answers Job in his distress. These three chapters are full of revelation about the depth of God's knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. In Job 40:4-5, Job responds by acknowledging that he is tiny compared to God and he promises that he will not speak again. When we understand the grandness of God's wisdom and knowledge, we, too, will respond as Job did—we will stand in silence before the God of the universe in humility.

[THEREFORE]

Read Proverbs 8:22-30. Why does it matter that we recognize that God is the wise Creator of all things?

When we recognize that God holds all wisdom and that from that wisdom He created all things, we can humbly submit to His plan and purposes. It is when we take this posture toward Him that we can live in humble obedience to Him daily and bring Him glory with our lives.

[THIS]

God is the wise Creator. He is wisdom and from Him, we get understanding. Everything that exists is part of His plan and purpose. Because He is wise all that He created is part of His wise plan and purpose. Even when we don't understand parts of His creation, we can trust that there is a purpose and plan for them. Even when we don't understand circumstances or situations, we can know without a doubt that God has a wise purpose in all that He is doing on earth and in heaven. All that is made is made for Him and for His purpose. When God answered Job's lament, He revealed in great detail the intricate way that He made the heavens and earth and how in this intricacy, He placed His wise purpose for all of creation. Mankind is part of God's wise purpose. Every person exists for His glory and is part of God's plan. We can rest in that truth and know that all that God does is for His glory and the good of those who love Him.

[THEREFORE]

Why does it matter that we understand all things are part of God's wise plan?

In Psalms 104:5 and 24, we see the Psalmist praise God for setting the earth on its foundation and for creating all creatures. When we understand that everything is a part of God's wise plan, we will have a right view of created things and our own purpose. We will recognize God's rule and reign over creation.

How does a secular view of created things clash with the truth that God has a wise purpose for all created things?

Romans 8:7 tells us that the mind of the flesh is hostile to God, and it doesn't submit to God's plan. The secular view of created things doesn't submit to God's purpose and plan for the world. On the contrary, it works against His plan. God has a wise plan for His creation, and we must live according to His plan, not the world's.

1. Proverbs 3:19: God created all things by His wisdom.

BY WISDOM GOD
FOUNDED CREATION**BIG IDEA #2: ALL CREATION DISPLAYS THE WISDOM OF GOD AND RESOUNDS WITH THE PRAISE OF GOD.²****[THIS]**

There are things that can be known by God by looking at His creation. When He made the heavens and the earth, He created them in such a way that they reveal certain aspects about Him. Not only do they reveal certain things about Him that can be known to mankind, but they also declare that He is a glorious and righteous God. When we look at the natural world, we get a glimpse of the magnificent glory of God. These things are present in the created world for all to see. Because creation displays God's glory, it resounds with praise for Him. In Psalm 19, we see a picture of the ways creation declares praise to God. He is the perfect Creator who spoke all things into existence and sustains them for His great purpose. There are innumerable ways that created things praise God. The birds singing in the morning, the crickets in the evening, and the sound of the wind in the trees all point to the great Creator who made all things.

[THEREFORE]

Read Psalm 19:1-3. How has the created world produced a heart of praise in you?

The opening verses of Psalm 19 tell us that the heavens are declaring the glory of God and that the days and nights are speaking of His glory. To declare and speak of His glory is to praise Him. Even if our eyes and ears are dull to the sound of it, creation still resounds with praise to the God of glory!

[THIS]

The created world and mankind reveal God's wisdom. When we examine the intricacies of creation, we can see just how detailed and involved God's creation of the heavens and earth was. When God made the heavens and the earth, His speaking them into being was not a haphazard action. It involved His perfect design birthed from His perfect wisdom and limitless understanding. Isaiah 40:12-15 speaks of God's great wisdom and the way He created the world through this wisdom. He didn't have to consult anyone to create a sun to warm the earth. He didn't need instructions to know to set a boundary for the ocean or to give order to life on the earth. Through His great wisdom, He knew and understood how to make all things and set them in action. Every tiny detail is in place by His design and for His purpose. When we look at creation, we see this wisdom and can know that He is higher and greater than we could ever imagine or even understand. We can only grasp a little of who He is because our human minds are too small and finite.

[THEREFORE]

How does the world's explanation for creation take away from giving God glory?

When the world explains away creation as a random act or evolution, it removes glory from God because it detracts from His great wisdom. Romans 11:36 and Psalm 72:19 remind us that all was made through Him and by His great wisdom for His glory.

How can you join creation in declaring His glory this week?

Revelation 4:11 and Psalm 66:4 help us understand how to give God glory for His creation. Just by acknowledging that all things are made by His great wisdom and for His glory, we can praise His name. We can live lives that give Him glory when we acknowledge that all things exist because He has made them in His great wisdom.

2. Psalm 19:1: Creation declares God's glory and His wisdom in creating all things.

BY WISDOM GOD
FOUNDED CREATION**BIG IDEA #3: GOD'S WISDOM IS BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING.³****[THIS]**

As humans we don't like to think of things being out of our reach. When we're young, we spend a lot of our time desiring to be older, longing to grow taller, bigger, and stronger. We measure ourselves and seek to know more and mature. The desire to hold all knowledge is in our human nature and is seen in the very first disobedience in the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they did so because they desired to have His knowledge and understanding—to be like Him. Though their sin did shatter their innocence and give them a knowledge of good and evil that they did not previously have, it did not make them like God. Since that day in the garden, humans have believed the lie that they hold all knowledge and understanding. Though all good gifts come from God, including the ability to discover and understand our world, people have taken the credit and falsely believed that their conclusions are absolute and will stand the test of time. Only God's wisdom stands the test of time. Only He holds all wisdom. Just like that day in the garden, He alone knows all and understands all. His ways alone are right.

[THEREFORE]

What are some specific examples of ways that humans have done what is right in their own eyes?

Romans 1:25 shows us that it is not a new thing for humans to exchange God's truth for a lie and to believe that they know better than He does. When we begin to redefine creation and the order of life on earth, we are believing that our knowledge is greater than God's.

How does the world around you show you that God's wisdom is beyond your understanding?

In Job 38-40, Job heard the many ways that God created the world. Job's response to God's revelation of Himself was humility. As we look around at creation and see the intricacies and the created order, it should humble us and make us realize how little we really do understand.

[THIS]

The lie that God can be understood, and His wisdom comprehended is the same lie that Satan whispered in the Garden of Eden and the same lie embedded in the heart of all humans. God's wisdom is beyond our understanding. This doesn't mean that we can't know God or even gain His wisdom from Him. It does mean that we will never be as wise or knowledgeable as God. We could spend all of our lives studying His Word, yet we would still only have just begun to know Him and understand Him. God is more than we can even comprehend because He is not like us. Isaiah 55:8-9 tell us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways. His ways are higher than ours. Our human understanding can only achieve so much, yet we continue to believe the lie that God is keeping something from us, that somehow, we can become like Him. Worse yet, we reject Him altogether and choose instead to believe that we know better. This is folly and foolishness and leads to death and destruction. God is the wisest of all beings and His wisdom is above all.

[THEREFORE]

What behaviors and attitudes in your life reveal that you think you know better than God?

In Proverbs 30:3-4, we read the words of Agur and understand that all humans fall short of the wisdom and knowledge of God. He holds all wisdom and understanding.

3. Proverbs 30:3-4: God alone holds great wisdom and knowledge. It is too great for us to understand.