

# WISDOM BUILDS A SOLID LIFE

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

## BIG TRUTH: WISDOM BUILDS A SOLID LIFE

Proverbs 4:11-12; 9:1; 12:7; Psalm 127

## BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 24:3

“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;”

## BIG IDEAS

- Everyone builds their life on a foundation.
- Wisdom builds its foundation on God’s kingdom.
- Wisdom results in flourishing and thriving.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 7:24-27

## 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 24:3**

*“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;”*

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**We build our lives on a foundation.**

*“By wisdom a house is built...”*

- Everyone’s life is built on some type of foundation. The foundation isn’t necessarily something tangible, but it is a set of beliefs or a worldview that drives how that person lives his or her life. How a person arrives at his or her worldview may differ from one person to the next, but everyone establishes a worldview at some point.
- How we view the world is how we come to interact with the world and how we make decisions. This is the foundation that our lives are built on. Based upon what we believe, we make certain choices. Everyone lives according to this principle whether they hold to an established faith system or not.

**Wisdom builds a foundation on faith in Christ.**

*“By wisdom a house is built...”*

- Wisdom is from God, and it builds a foundation on God. To build a foundation on God is to build on a faith in Christ. This means that our worldview is built around God’s Word and what He has revealed to us through it.
- When we build our foundation on faith in Christ, our foundation is solid and secure. We are building into our eternity because Jesus gives us eternal life. We can rest in Him and know that our foundation is not based on anything temporal in this life.

**Wisdom establishes a life built on understanding from God’s Word.**

*“...and by understanding it is established;”*

- When we build our lives on the foundation of Christ, we will gain understanding. Wisdom seeks to gain understanding so that we may strengthen our foundation and build our life on God’s Word.
- Wisdom seeks to establish a life of understanding, not just grow in understanding. This means that we are always in pursuit of knowing God and growing in understanding and knowledge that we might grow in Him so that our foundation is strengthened.

**BIG IDEA #1: EVERYONE BUILDS THEIR LIFE ON A FOUNDATION.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Foundations are necessary for all structures. If we want a building to hold up over time, then a foundation must be laid first. Even when building a company or ministry, a foundation must be laid in order for the company to be successful. Because foundations are necessary, everything has a foundation—even if it's weak or poorly laid. When we build our lives, we all build upon something. For most of us, we built upon the principles and ideas that we grow up with in our childhood homes. Our parents teach us about the world around us, either purposefully, or subliminally. We draw upon our experiences and interactions with others in the world and these things together make up the way we view the world. Our worldview is the foundation upon which our life is built. From this foundation, we make decisions and choices about our future and the course of our life is set. This foundation dictates how we see everything in the world around us. It is the lens through which we encounter the world and made decisions about it.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How have your parents and friendships shaped your worldview?**

1 Corinthians 15:33 and Proverbs 13:20 tell us that the people we spend time with have a direct influence on our attitude and behavior. Our parents and friends will influence our worldview. We will be shaped by the people we spend the most time with and the people who have the most influence over us.

**[ THIS ]**

The foundation we build our lives on sets the course for our lives. Because we all have a worldview, that perspective shapes how we live our lives. It also shakes how firm our foundation is. If our worldview is built on worldly things, our foundation is not firm. Instead, it is shaky and vulnerable to cracks as the culture of this world shifts and changes. The firmer our foundation the more steadfast our lives will be. If we draw upon worldly experiences and friendships that lead us away from a firm foundation, our lives will not be secure. Instead, our opinions will shift and change just like our culture does. This type of life doesn't give us more security. It doesn't bring greater happiness. It does the opposite. Because it is a weak foundation, it causes us to feel shaky and uncertain, leading to feelings of anxiety and often despair. A foundation built on this world is not a firm foundation. It is on sinking sand and cannot last. Only a life built on God's truth can last forever.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How do changing cultural views and idea often bring feelings of anxiety instead of real hope?**

The opinions of the world are always changing. When things are always changing, they do not bring trust or produce security. Instead, they produce the opposite. Colossians 2:8 and Hebrews 13:9 remind us to not become caught up in these things. Instead, we are to flee these foolish things and cling to God's truth.

**How can a daily prayer life and time of reading God's Word help you build your life on the foundation of God's truth?**

Romans 8:26 and Philippians 4:6 tell us to pray when we are anxious and in need. When we establish a daily habit of prayer, we will build our life on the foundation of God's truth. Proverbs 3:1-2 and Psalm 119:11 teach us that storing God's Word in our hearts also helps us build on a firm foundation.

1. Proverbs 24:8-9: We all are building our lives on some sort of foundation—good or evil.

**BIG IDEA #2: WISDOM BUILDS ITS FOUNDATION ON GOD'S KINGDOM.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

God's kingdom is sure and steadfast. It is eternal and everlasting. In Matthew 7:24, Jesus taught that a wise man is the person who hears His words and builds his life upon them. This means that a wise person will build the foundation of his life upon Christ's kingdom. Building a foundation on God's kingdom is building our lives on God Himself. God is eternal, perfect, and trustworthy. He is the only person who always does what He says He's going to do. The kingdoms of this world do not last. They are here for a moment and then gone the next. God's kingdom is not like any other kingdom. It is centered on Jesus and rests on the work that He did on the cross. His work is perfect and satisfied the sin debt that we owed. Now, this kingdom is sure and steadfast. When we build our lives upon this kingdom, our foundation is firm and unshakeable.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What are some of the world's kingdoms we often build our foundations upon?**

Hebrews 13:5 and Matthew 6:24 warn us of what the love of money can do to us. The pursuit of money is a kingdom that the world offers us, and it is a shaky foundation to build our lives on. The world offers us a false sense of identity and success. True identity and success can only be found in knowing Jesus and being known by Him.

**How is God's kingdom different from the kingdoms of the world?**

Proverbs 12:7 tells us that the wicked are overthrown, but the righteous remain firm. The difference between God's kingdom and the world's kingdoms is that God's lasts and the world's does not. God's kingdom is firm and steadfast. His kingdom cannot be shaken, but the world's will be.

**[ THIS ]**

God is our source of wisdom and when we seek Him, He leads us to build our foundation upon Him. Psalms 127:1-2 tells us that it is God who builds the house and unless He does it, it is done in vain. Wisdom teaches us that unless we submit our lives to God, all that we do is done in vain. We can build a seemingly successful life according to the world's standards, but if it's not done according to God's Word, then it's done in vain. God builds our house by making us new creations when we have saving faith. He begins by transforming our lives and giving us His Spirit to dwell inside of us to guide us and sanctify us. As we live for Him, His Spirit renews us and makes us more and more like Christ. As we grow spiritually, our foundation becomes firmer and our lives are built upon God's kingdom because we no longer live for this earthly life, but instead, we live for our eternal home.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What are some daily habits you can remove from your life to help your focus be on building your life on God's kingdom?**

Galatians 5:16-18 tells us to not give into our flesh nature. When we walk by the Spirit, being led by Him, we will not do the things our flesh nature wants us to do. Ephesians 4:22-23 and Romans 6:6 remind us that we have died to our flesh nature and should live with our minds and hearts set on the things of God. When we do this, we will make room to build our lives upon God's kingdom and not the world's kingdom.

2. Psalm 127:1-2: When we build upon God's truth and for His kingdom, we build upon a firm foundation that cannot be shaken.

**BIG IDEA #3: WISDOM RESULTS IN FLOURISHING AND THRIVING.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In Matthew 7:24-27, the wise person builds his house on the rock and his house withstands the storm. The image presented in this story reveals that wisdom leads to a life that isn't easily moved or shaken by the storms of life. It also reveals that wisdom results in a life that flourishes in the power of God. To flourish in the power of God is to live a life that is safe and secure in His arms. This doesn't mean that the person who builds his or her house upon God's wisdom never faces difficulty or struggles, but it does mean that whatever that person faces, they are held safely in the arms of Christ. Their hearts remain steadfast and sure because they know they are anchored in Christ. To flourish in God's power is different than flourishing according to the world. It doesn't mean to have an abundance of material things or earthly success. It means to grow in Christlikeness and to increase in faith and trust in Jesus. To flourish in Christ is to live a life full of faith that no matter what comes your way, God will carry you through. It means to live fully for Him, casting off the things of this world, exchanging the fleeting joy of this world for the eternal joy of knowing and living for Jesus.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How does the world's definition of flourishing differ from God's definition?**

John 10:10 gives us a definition of the life that Jesus came to give to His people. He came to give a full life to those who believe in Him. To live in Him is to live forever. Eternal life in Christ means to have a full life that is lived exactly as God created us to be. Just as John 10:10 tells us, the world steals life from us as it takes from us more than it gives to us.

**[ THIS ]**

Growing up in America, we all face the temptation to live for the American Dream. To have the American Dream, we must live a life that is thriving. This means that we fulfill our dreams and achieve worldly success, whatever that may be at the time we are trying to achieve it. When we define thriving according to the world's standards, we would live our lives seeking something that was always right out of reach. Because the world's idea of success is always changing, we can never really achieve it. To thrive according to God's Word, we must die to ourselves, our dreams, and live for Him. When we do this, we live for His kingdom. By doing this, we are actually living for ourselves. God is a perfect Father who does what is right and good for His people. When we live for His kingdom, we are investing in our eternal home. We are also living as we were created to live.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How have you sought to thrive according to the world's standard? Have you sought God's will for your life when making decisions about your future?**

Proverbs 8:17 tells us to seek God continually and we will find Him. Deuteronomy 4:29 also tells us to seek God. When we seek Him, we will find Him and when we do, we will discover His will for our lives. When we seek to know how He'd have us to live, we will thrive according to His will and not the world's.

**What part does prayer and studying your Bible play in helping you build your life upon God's wisdom?**

Isaiah 55:6-7, Psalm 14:2, and 9:10 show us that those who seek God find Him and when we do, we will build our lives upon His Word. This is wisdom and without a knowledge of Him, we will not build upon His solid foundation.

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3. Proverbs 24:5: *The one who gains wisdom is full of strength and knowledge.*