

# WISDOM COMES FROM GOD

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

## BIG TRUTH: WISDOM COMES FROM GOD

Proverbs 15:3; 16:1, 9; 21:1, 30-31; 30:5; James 1:5

## BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 2:6

*"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;"*

## BIG IDEAS

- Wisdom cannot be earned or attained; it is a gift.
- God delights to give wisdom to the weak and undeserving.
- God gives wisdom through His Word and His Spirit.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: PROVERBS 2:6-10; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-2:16

## 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 2:6**

*"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding,"*

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**God is the source of all wisdom.**

*"For the Lord gives wisdom..."*

- God holds all wisdom and understanding. Because He is first and before all other beings, He alone knows all things and understands all things. Because all things have their origin in Him, He is the source of all knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.
- God is the only source of wisdom. Any other wisdom is not true wisdom. All wisdom comes from God, and it is only by knowing Him can we gain wisdom.

**God freely gives wisdom to His people.**

*"For the Lord gives wisdom..."*

- Though God is the supreme being, He does not keep His wisdom from His people. For those who desire to grow in wisdom, He freely gives knowledge and wisdom to them. Those who ask for wisdom and seek wisdom from Him, receive it.
- God delights in giving wisdom to those who seek Him. When a person humbles themselves before Him, He generously gives His wisdom to them. Those who seek God find Him and in finding Him, they find wisdom.

**God gives knowledge and understanding through His Word.**

*"...from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."*

- God is wisdom and His Word is wisdom. From His written Word, we can gain all knowledge and understanding. Wisdom is found in studying and knowing His Word.
- When we seek God in His Word, we will grow in wisdom. His written Word is full of His wisdom and through it, we can understand who God is and who we are. This knowledge helps us grow in wisdom and understanding.

**BIG IDEA #1: WISDOM CANNOT BE EARNED OR ATTAINED; IT IS A GIFT.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Many things in this life can be earned and bought, but God's wisdom cannot. We can work hard and achieve many goals. We can make a plan and set our minds to achieve it, and make it happen, but if we want Godly wisdom, we must depend upon God. No human effort can give us the wisdom that God gives. From a worldly perspective, wisdom is attained by doing and living. This type of wisdom is not from God. It is a worldliness that doesn't result in Godliness. This type of wisdom doesn't help us live for God or make us more like Christ. Instead, it fools us into thinking that we are more than we really are. It convinces us that we are more deserving, and it often leads us away from a dependency upon God. We tend to depend more upon ourselves when we are wise in the ways of the world. This type of worldly wisdom costs us our holiness and relationship with God and His people.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What is the difference between worldly experience and Godly wisdom?**

Worldly experience is defined as living in this world and experiencing life here. Often, people mistake having lived many years with Godly wisdom, but a person can live a long time and still not have Godly wisdom. Godly wisdom is from God as James 1:5 tells us. It is a gift from Him.

**[ THIS ]**

In Proverbs 2:6-8, we see that wisdom is given from God. Because it is given from God, it is not something that we earn or attain as we live life here on earth. Apart from God, we cannot grow in wisdom. People can live long lives and have many experiences and still be foolish and unwise. A person can be young and seek the Lord diligently and have great wisdom because it comes from God. In order to get wisdom, we must know God and seek Him diligently. As we seek Him, we will receive wisdom from Him. He is the source of all wisdom, and it is impossible to seek Him with a humble heart and not grow in wisdom. Attaining a knowledge of God will give us wisdom because He is the Holy One who has all wisdom and understanding.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What is the danger in thinking that wisdom can be attained apart from God?**

In Proverbs 16:9, it says that man may think he plans his way, but it is God who establishes his steps. The danger in thinking that we can grow wise apart from God is that we will miss wisdom altogether. God is the one who controls all things and has all wisdom. Unless we pursue wisdom by pursuing Him, we won't become wise.

**What are some things that distract you from seeking Godly wisdom?**

Romans 8:6 tells us that when we set our minds on the flesh, we will fail. When we are thinking only of earthly and temporal things, we will be distracted from seeking Godly wisdom. When we live by the Spirit as Galatians 5:16 tells us to do, we will not be distracted. We will pursue Godly wisdom because we will pursue God.

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1. James 1:5: God gives His wisdom to His people. Wisdom is not something that is earned.

**BIG IDEA #2: GOD DELIGHTS TO GIVE WISDOM TO THE WEAK AND UNDESERVING.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

The way of the world is not the way of God. According to the world's standards, only those people who have earned rewards or are seemingly deserving of something should receive it. The world judges people based upon their performance, and their judgment is often skewed and flawed because people are broken and fallen. Often those who are the strongest receive the best from the world in this life. God does not operate that way. God delights to give His wisdom to the weak. In Matthew 11:25, Jesus declares that God has hidden His truth from those who are wise in the ways of the world and instead, revealed it to those who are child-like. This truth goes against the expectations of the world. It reveals that God is a benevolent God. It also reveals a truth about all of mankind. In reality, no one is deserving of God's gift of wisdom. We all are fallen and broken. No one can earn the right to receive God's wisdom; therefore, anything God gives, He gives out of His great mercy and grace.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How are we all weak? Why is it good news that God delights in giving wisdom to the weak?**

We are all weak because we are all sinful. No one is able to overcome his or her sin nature on their own. Romans 3:23 and Ecclesiastes 7:20 teaches us this. Because of this, it is good news that God delights in giving us wisdom when we seek Him diligently.

**[ THIS ]**

Not only does God delight to give wisdom to the weak, He delights to give wisdom to those who are undeserving. This, too, is good news because we are all undeserving of any gift God gives us. No one deserves any good thing God does for us. We are all sinful and deserve only to be punished for our sin, but God in His great mercy delights to show us grace. God gives His wisdom to those who least deserve it. Those who humble themselves before Him and turn to Him will receive His wisdom. He will pour out Himself to them and allow them to grow in a knowledge of Him and His Word. Because we all are undeserving, everyone fits into this category. There is no one who measures us and is worthy to receive wisdom. No one is more worthy than someone else. God doesn't measure His people in the same way that the world does. Those who turn to Him and seek Him will find Him and they will receive His wisdom.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Knowing that we are all undeserving, how does the truth that God delights to give you wisdom help you seek Him diligently?**

Knowing that God delights in giving us wisdom should produce joy and utter dependence upon Him. When we understand that we all are undeserving of anything He gives us, the truth that He actually delights to give us His wisdom should lead us to praise Him.

**How do pride and an inflated sense of self prevent us from receiving the gift of wisdom from God?**

When we are prideful and think more highly of ourselves than we ought, we miss out on receiving the gift of God's wisdom. This is because we are too focused on ourselves and not on seeking God. James 4:6, Matthew 23:12 and 1 Peter 5:6 help us see the danger in allowing pride to invade our lives.

2. Matthew 11:25: God reveals His truth and gives His wisdom to those who humble themselves. He doesn't give it to those who seemingly deserve it according to the world's standards.

**BIG IDEA #3: GOD GIVES WISDOM THROUGH HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

It can be tempting to think that wisdom is attainable by just living for God, but it requires a pursuit on our part. If we want wisdom, then we must seek it by seeking God in His Word. The Bible is God's written Word given to us and by it we know how to live for Him. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that every part of God's Word is profitable for teaching us and correcting us. There is no part of the Bible that isn't worthy our effort to study it and know it. As Paul writes to Timothy, he tells him that the Word of God is how we become more like Christ. It is through a study of the Bible that we gain wisdom. It is impossible for a Christian to grow in wisdom if they do not study God's Word. A Christian can attend church regularly, participate in many Christian activities, and live a good life, but if they do not seek God in His Word, they will not gain wisdom because wisdom is found in God's Word. In the Bible, we learn who God is, how He interacts with His people, and how we are to live for Him. We learn how to live in this world and how to live for the next. The Word is living and active and it gives life to us as we seek to bring God glory with our lives.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**What is the mistake in thinking that we can gain wisdom apart from a faithful study of God's Word?**

Proverbs 30:5 tells us that every Word of God proves true. Psalm 119:105 tells us that God's Word is a lamp for our path. When we seek wisdom apart from studying His Word, we will miss wisdom altogether. We find God when we study His Word and when we find God, we find wisdom.

**[ THIS ]**

In John 14, as Jesus prepared to leave His disciples, He promised to send the Helper to them. The Helper is the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and be a Helper to everyone who believes in Him. Every person who has saving faith has the Holy Spirit inside of them. This Spirit of God lives inside of His believers and gives them wisdom. The Spirit helps God's people discern what is right and wrong and He also illuminates the Word of God to them. Through this illumination, they are able to know how to live for Him. The Spirit guides God's people and directs their path. He makes their way straight and guides them in truth. The truth is the Word of God, and it is the Spirit who reminds them of the Word that they have studied. When we combine the Spirit with a faithful study of the Word of God, we will gain wisdom.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How has your personal study of the Word helped you gain wisdom for your daily life?**

In Proverbs 16:9 and 21:30-31 help us see that wisdom comes from the Word of the Lord. When we study God's Word, we gain wisdom for our daily lives. We will know how to make the best decisions and we will grow in our discernment and understanding of situations.

**How has the Holy Spirit given you wisdom to make decisions or corrected a wrong attitude or behavior?**

In John 14 and 16, Jesus taught that Holy Spirit works in His people to correct them and to help them live for Him. As we live for Christ, we grow more and more sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The more we learn to hear His voice, the more obedient and wiser we become.

3. Psalm 119: God gives wisdom to His people through His Word and His Spirit, who lives inside of His people.