

WISDOM IS A PURSUIT

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

BIG TRUTH: WISDOM IS A PURSUIT

Proverbs 2:1-5; 8:33-36; 9:9; 22:1-5; 28:5; Ecclesiastes 8:16-17

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 4:7

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

BIG IDEAS

- Wisdom desires and values the pursuit of wisdom above everyday distractions.
- The desire for wisdom is a desire to know, love, and obey God.
- The pursuit of wisdom is work.

BIBLE PASSAGE: PROVERBS 4:4-9; EPHESIANS 5:15-21

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 4:7

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

Wisdom is a valuable possession to the Jesus follower.

"Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

- Often, we mistakenly place great value on earthly possessions. We value material things and hold them as precious, but they all will pass away. God's Word teaches us that what is valuable is wisdom. When we grow in wisdom, we are growing in our knowledge and understanding of God Himself.
- This knowledge of the Holy One is a valuable possession to the Jesus follower. This knowledge is what keeps us and helps us remain steadfast and faithful in this life. It is what guides us in this life when we face trials and difficult times. It is how we grow more like Christ, and it is what prepares us for our heavenly home.

Wisdom must be pursued daily.

"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom..."

- Wisdom is not something that comes naturally to mankind. It is not something that just flows into us. Wisdom is something that we must seek daily. We cannot seek it once; we must seek it daily.
- Growing in wisdom is a life-long, daily pursuit of knowing God and growing more like Him. This pursuit is never complete in this life. It is something that we are always moving toward.

Wisdom must be valued highly and pursued with a humble heart.

"Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."

- Wisdom should be pursued as if it is the most valuable and most important thing we are seeking. Every believer should value wisdom as a prized possession. In order to do this, we must humble our hearts before the Lord. If we don't believe we need wisdom, we won't value wisdom.
- When we are humble before the Lord, we will see the great value in having His wisdom. The more we value His wisdom, the more we will seek Him to gain wisdom. The more we understand this truth, the greater value His wisdom has to us. This is the only way we can live our lives for Him. We must value wisdom and pursue it with humble hearts.

BIG IDEA #1: WISDOM DESIRES AND VALUES THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM ABOVE EVERYDAY DISTRACTIONS.¹**[THIS]**

One of the greatest struggles for the Jesus follower is to resist distraction. There are many things in this life that are good things, and it is easy to quickly become entangled in this life. Before we know it, we are caught up in the pursuit of the American Dream and not really living on mission for Christ. Wisdom chooses a different path. Proverbs 4:7-8 shows that wisdom chooses to pursue a knowledge of God which results in gaining even more wisdom. There will always be distractions in this life. Every day we will face the distraction of life here on earth. We will face the distraction of choosing the pleasures of this world over living on mission for Christ. If we are to gain wisdom, we must reject this type of life. We must choose to cast off the things of this world and put on Christlikeness. We must set our minds on heavenly things and live for the next life.

[THEREFORE]

What are some distractions that you face every day? How can good things in your life (school, jobs, friends, etc.) become a distraction to your pursuit of wisdom?

Life is full of distractions, such as friends, extracurricular activities, and pursuing material things. If we aren't careful, we can become caught up in the pursuit of a good life here on earth and forget to pursue wisdom. Colossians 3:2 and Romans 8:5 show us that when we focus our minds on Christ, we can overcome the daily distractions that keep us from pursuing wisdom. Our pursuit can't be the distractions, but wisdom.

[THIS]

There are certain characteristics of a person who has Godly wisdom. One of them is desiring and valuing the pursuit of wisdom above other things. When a person arrives at a place of understanding the great value of Godly wisdom, they will value the pursuit of it in a way that they choose to pursue wisdom over doing other things. This means that they will sacrifice the pursuit of worldly things in order to gain wisdom. They will desire to grow in knowledge and understanding in order to grow in wisdom. In Proverbs 4:7-8, we see that the person who pursues wisdom values it as if it is a precious item. When we comprehend wisdom's value, we will treat the pursuit of it as the most important pursuit in our life. We will not let other things interfere with our pursuit of God and His wisdom.

[THEREFORE]

What are some things that have great value to you? How does your attitude and behavior toward them reveal that you value them greatly?

Matthew 6:21 tells us that wherever our treasure is our heart will be. This means that whatever we treasure, we will love. When we love God and wisdom, we will treasure it and pursue it. We will find great value in it.

Does your life reveal that you pursue wisdom and value it?

Proverbs 16:16 tells us that to get wisdom is better than getting gold. When our lives are lived pursuing God and seeking to know Him, we prove that we desire to get wisdom. When we are seeking to know Him and to grow in our spiritual walk, we reveal that we value wisdom and desire to gain insight.

1. Proverbs 4:7-8: Wisdom values the pursuit and attainment of wisdom above all other things.

BIG IDEA #2: THE DESIRE FOR WISDOM IS A DESIRE TO KNOW, LOVE, AND OBEY GOD.²**[THIS]**

In 1 Kings 3, when Solomon is told that he can have whatever he asks of God, he chooses to gain wisdom. This so pleases the Lord that God gives Solomon great wisdom. The desire for wisdom is the desire to know God and to love Him. Solomon's desire for an understanding mind was a desire to know God and to be able to discern how to obey Him and how to lead the Israelites to obey God. Solomon understood that he needed great wisdom to know how to lead the Israelites and he also knew that this wisdom came from God. It was not something that he could get from anyone else or anything that he could gain from the world. When we understand that this type of wisdom comes from a knowledge of God, we will desire to know God in order to gain wisdom. We, too, will want to seek God and have an understanding mind so we can obey God. This is how we can live a life that is pleasing to Him.

[THEREFORE]

Since wisdom is a pursuit of knowing God, how can you grow in your desire to know God?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 tells us that one thing a person should boast in is knowing God. John 17:3 also tells us that eternal life is knowing God and knowing Jesus. We grow in our desire to know God the more we know Him. The more we pursue Him, the more we will want to know Him.

[THIS]

The desire for wisdom is also the desire to obey and love God. As we grow in our knowledge of Him, we will want to obey Him. This is because we will grow in our love of Him. God is a beautiful Father who is perfect in every way. A knowledge of Him leads us to praise Him and causes us to understand just what a gift it is to know Him and to call Him Father. As we mature in Him, we will desire to obey Him. If you see a person who habitually disobeys God's Word, this person is not wise in the ways of God. Instead that person has rejected a knowledge of God and chosen not to love and obey Him. The person who chooses to obey God's Word is a person who loves God and chooses to obey Him out of that love. Real wisdom results in loving obedience to whatever God commands because the heart of that person trusts God completely.

[THEREFORE]

Are there areas of your life that reveal you do not completely trust God and therefore lack wisdom in that area?

John 14:15 and 21 teach us that those who love God obey Him. If there is an area of our lives that is disobedient to God's Word, then our hearts reveal that we are not loving God as we should. We lack wisdom in all of our life if we are not living in complete submission to Him.

Why is a pursuit of wisdom connected to a desire to know and love God?

Proverbs 2:6 and 8:35 tell us that wisdom is connected to knowing God and His Word. This means that the pursuit of wisdom is connected to knowing and loving God. The more we know God the more we love Him. We won't pursue something we don't desire and love. When we desire God, it is because we love Him and desire to know Him.

2. 1 Kings 3: King Solomon prayed for wisdom above all else he could have asked God for. He desired to have wisdom and God answered that prayer. When we desire wisdom, we desire to know and obey God.

BIG IDEA #3: THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM IS WORK.³**[THIS]**

In Proverbs 2:1-5, the pursuit of wisdom is presented as work. Work is not always seen as a positive thing in our culture. Often, it is seen as something mandatory that is necessary to live, but not necessarily as something that we enjoy. In these verses, the pursuit of wisdom is like work. It is seen as requiring great effort and not as something that is easy or accomplished in a short amount of time. Though this is true of the pursuit of wisdom, gaining wisdom is worth all of the effort required. Wisdom is seen as treasure and a shield. It is described as something valuable to gain and hold fast to forever. It adds greatly to a person's life and is something that makes them better and more like Christ. Work that we do here on earth often takes away. Though it may provide the money needed for the necessities of life, it takes away time and ages us. Our health is affected, and we often feel bound to our jobs. The work of pursuing wisdom is not the same type of work. The effort put forth in pursuing wisdom yields life and joy and it replenishes our soul, not takes away from it.

[THEREFORE]

Read Proverbs 2:1-5. How have you discovered the work required to pursue wisdom is a joy?

In these verses, we see that pursuing wisdom is work, but it is work that brings joy. It brings joy because knowing God brings joy to our lives. When we pursue God and gain a knowledge of Him, we gain joy that cannot be taken away. This makes the effort required to gain wisdom worth it.

[THIS]

Proverbs 2:1-5 also likens wisdom to a hidden treasure. When treasure is hidden, it must be searched for, and it requires great work to find it. This great treasure is God's Word and living in obedience to Him. We must put the work in of studying and searching for wisdom in God's Word and listening to and being led by His Spirit. As we are led by His Spirit and grow in our understanding of His Word, we will grow in wisdom. This is the work that Proverbs 2:1-5 is talking about. It is a work worth doing. We cannot think that we will acquire wisdom easily or without any effort. It will take daily effort on our part to learn and grow so that we might mature in our spiritual walk. As we do this, God will reward us with a knowledge of Himself and by giving us understanding of Scripture. This will give us wisdom and insight. As we spend a lifetime of searching and studying Scripture, we will gain wisdom, and this will be our greatest treasure.

[THEREFORE]

What daily habits help you to study God's Word? How have you been able to establish a daily time of prayer?

Psalm 5:3, 90:14, and 19:14 help us understand the importance of seeking God and making a pursuit of studying His Word and praying to Him a priority every day. As we do this, we will grow in wisdom. These things must become habits in our daily lives in order for our pursuit of wisdom to produce the treasure of everlasting wisdom.

How does the world offer a cheaper, easier version of wisdom?

The world offers a wisdom that seemingly requires only a life of experience and doesn't require sacrifice and obedience to God's Word. 1 Chronicles 16:11, Proverbs 8:17, and Jeremiah 29:13 tell us that those who seek God find His wisdom, the greater wisdom.

3. Proverbs 2:4: Finding wisdom requires hard work. It requires putting in the time and effort to grow in knowledge and understanding