

WISDOM IS SWEET AND SECURE

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

BIG TRUTH: WISDOM IS SWEET AND SECURE

Proverbs 3:21-24; 18:10; 29:25; Psalm 19; Micah 5:4

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 24:13-14

"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off."

BIG IDEAS

- The wisdom of God is satisfying to the soul.
- The wisdom of God provides security for the soul.
- Experiencing the wisdom of God creates a desire for more of Him.

BIBLE PASSAGE: PSALM 119

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 24:13-14

"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off."

God's wisdom brings joy to the believer.

"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul;"

- The way we define joy matters. If we define joy according to the world's standards, then we can only find happiness in material, temporal things. Joy to the world is something that cannot be kept forever. It is found in pleasing ourselves and fulfilling our sinful desires.
- When we define joy according to God's truth, we will find that His truth and wisdom bring us everlasting happiness and contentment. When we understand that real joy is not something that is lost because it is rooted in our relationship with Jesus, then we have everlasting joy. God's wisdom brings this joy to us. When we know Him, we gain wisdom and understanding, and this brings joy to our lives.

God's wisdom satisfies the believer.

"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul;"

- To be satisfied is to not have a desire or want. When we are fulfilled and satisfied, we are not lacking at the moment. To find satisfaction in God is to find eternal satisfaction.
- God's wisdom satisfies the believer because it brings eternal peace and comfort. When we grow in knowledge and understanding of who God is and what He desires from us, it settles our hearts and grounds us. This satisfies any longing we have and fills us up.

God's wisdom gives hope to the believer.

"if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off."

- Knowing God means that we have a future. It means that even if we lose everything in this life, we have an eternal home to look forward to. We do not lose hope because this life is not our everything. This world is not our final resting place. No matter what we face here, we can always have hope because we are grounded in God.
- Knowing God brings this type of hope to His children. Resting in Him produces a hope in every circumstance. It makes His children strong and gives them a faith that endures anything they face in this life. It helps them navigate this world because it teaches them that they are just passing through. His wisdom guides them to not live for this life, but to seek to live for the next.

BIG IDEA #1: THE WISDOM OF GOD IS SATISFYING TO THE SOUL.¹**[THIS]**

We all spend our lives looking for things to satisfy us. Because of our sinfulness, we look to the things of this world to make us happy, to bring us satisfaction. We seek to follow our hearts and plan our lives to reach some pinnacle of success that the world around us tells us will bring with it great satisfaction. We look to other people to bring us satisfactions, seeking in our relationships what can only really be found in God. We look to our extracurricular activities and hobbies to give us a sense of fulfillment. We even look to ministry and serving in our local church or on mission as a way to find satisfaction. None of these things really bring lasting satisfaction unless we are finding our hope in Christ. If we are not first seeking wisdom from above, then everything else is just a futile attempt at happiness. These things may make us happy for a moment, or even for many moments, but they do not last. They do not truly satisfy us in the way that really knowing God and growing in our Christlikeness does.

[THEREFORE]

What does it mean to be satisfied? How have you tried to find satisfaction in your hobbies or relationships?

To be satisfied is to not long for something more. It is to not desire or want something else. Our sin natures lead us to seek satisfaction in our hobbies. We look to extracurricular activities to make us feel complete. We seek satisfaction in our relationships, too. 1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4, and Romans 12:2 teach us that friendship with the world is in opposition to living for God. We can't do both.

[THIS]

When we read Psalm 19:7-10, we read a list of just how satisfying the wisdom of God is. Wisdom from above is found in God's Word, His commands, and the way He guides us to live for Him. Psalm 19 speaks of the soul-satisfaction we can find in following God's Word. There are many things to tempt us in this world. Many things that will seem like they can offer satisfaction to us, but as Psalm 19:7-10 teaches us, only God's law is perfect and revives the soul. Only knowing God and being known by Him can bring true satisfaction to a person. When we follow God and live our lives for Him, we will find satisfaction for our souls. This pursuit is a constant striving towards Him and a desire to grow in our knowledge of Him. It's not a one-time acquisition. We are satisfied in Him when we pursue Him daily and fill ourselves with His Word. In order to do this, we must cast off the things of the world. We can't try to find satisfaction in the world and think we will satisfy ourselves with God's wisdom, too.

[THEREFORE]

How has knowing God's Word and your relationship with Him brought you satisfaction?

Psalm 19:7-8 tells us that the law of the Lord is perfect, and His testimony is sure. We can be satisfied when we are trusting in someone who is perfect and trustworthy. God is perfect, and He can always be trusted. When we grow in our relationship with Him and pursue Him, our souls will be satisfied.

What are some obstacles that keep you from finding your satisfaction in God?

1 Peter 5:8 tells us that Satan prowls like a lion seeking to destroy us. We can be sure that unless we are actively pursuing God, we will face temptations every day. These will show up in the form of good things, but they will keep us from God.

1. Proverbs 24:13-14: Finding wisdom brings joy and peace to our souls. It gives us hope and keeps us at peace.

BIG IDEA #2: THE WISDOM OF GOD PROVIDES SECURITY FOR THE SOUL.²**[THIS]**

The idea of security and safety is something that people long for and look for in this life, especially in America. We like to think that we are secure from the attack of other nations. We feel safe if we have the proper equipment and gear designed to keep us safe. We take the proper precautions to make sure we remain safe and that we keep others safe. We spend a lot of money to make sure that we are safe. We plan our lives around the idea of getting an education so we can have a good job that produces an income that ensures we are secure financially. We do all of these things, yet we can never really know if any of them will bring lasting security to our lives. No earthly thing is forever or sure. Though we may place our faith and trust in our education or bank account, both of those things are shaky foundations that can fall away at a moment's notice. Security that isn't founded on a relationship with God is a mirage. We are kidding ourselves if we think we are 100% safe. The only sure security we have is what God brings to our lives. He is a sure and firm foundation that brings rest and security to our souls.

[THEREFORE]

How does an ease of life in this country lead us to believe that we are more secure than we really are? How does this keep us from trusting God above all else?

Psalm 46:1-2 teaches us that though the earth gives away, and it will, God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 28:7 teaches us that God is our strength and shield. He alone is trustworthy and can bring true security. All other things are false security and can disappear in a moment.

[THIS]

In Psalm 46:1-3, the psalmist writes several statements dealing with great calamities. He states that even if these things happened, we do not have to fear because God is our refuge and strength. He is our hope and help in our times of trouble. There is nothing else in the world that gives this kind of assurance. No bank account, education, job, or relationship can offer us this kind of assurance. When we trust in God, we are trusting in His wisdom, and this brings security to our souls. This means that we are at peace with God, and we have nothing to fear. We do not have to fear eternal life or facing God on judgment day. We do not have to fear our bank accounts drying up or our jobs going away. Regardless of what we face, God is always present and there to help us. Knowing this brings security to our souls and gives us rest in a way that earthly things cannot.

[THEREFORE]

Read Psalm 46. How has God been a refuge for you?

When we read the psalmist's words in Psalm 46, we see that God is ever present and always there for His people. When we face the most difficult times, God is present to offer us security and hope. We can trust Him because He is everlasting and perfect.

How does the truth that God gives security to His children help you to trust in Him instead of the world?

Proverbs 14:26-27 and 18:10 show us that God is secure and our help when we face trouble. He gives us security. Knowing Him and His Word brings us great security. This should lead us to trust in Him and not the things of this world.

2. Proverbs 14:26-27: Fearing God is a fountain of life to those who seek the wisdom of God.

BIG IDEA #3: EXPERIENCING THE WISDOM OF GOD CREATES A DESIRE FOR MORE OF HIM.³**[THIS]**

God's wisdom leads us to pursue God even more. It is wise to seek the Lord because it is only a knowledge of God that brings true hope and satisfaction to a person's life. Because wisdom leads us to pursue God, the more we know Him, the more we will want to know Him. Psalm 63:1-3 shows us that knowing God creates a thirst and hunger to know Him more. The psalmist isn't talking about a casual knowledge of God. He isn't writing about a basic understanding, but a deep knowledge of God. When we really, truly pursue God, it will lead us to thirst to know Him more. He is holy and good and the more we see this about Him, the more we will want of Him. Just as we desire more of any good thing we experience in the world, we will desire more of God as we experience His goodness. Experiencing His goodness leads us to live in a way that allows us to pursue Him and to grow in a knowledge of Him.

[THEREFORE]

Read Psalm 63:1-2. Can you describe a time when you have thirsted for the Lord and desired to know Him?

In this Psalm, we read of the psalmist's great desire to know God. When we really experience Him, this is the type of emotion we will experience. We will desire Him above all else. We will want to gain a knowledge of Him and grow in His wisdom.

[THIS]

Experiencing God's wisdom leads us to live our lives differently. When we experience His wisdom, we no longer live for this life. Instead, we live for the next. The reason we live for the next life is because we have experienced the glory and goodness of God and we know that our eternal home is fully of His glory and goodness. We desire to be with the Lord above all else because we have tasted and seen that God is good and greatly to be desired above all other things. We aren't satisfied with anything else but knowing God and gaining a knowledge of Him. The things of this world do not bring us the joy they once did. Instead, we give up our idols and the foolish things of this life in order to pursue God. We willingly sacrifice what we have that we might know God and live for Him because He is greater to us and sweeter than anything else. This is experiencing God's wisdom and having our lives transformed by it.

[THEREFORE]

What idols have you given up because of the goodness of knowing God?

Colossians 3:5 shows us that we should flee idolatry and turn our eyes to the things above. When we experience the goodness of God, we will flee idolatry and seek to know Him and live for Him.

What are some daily habits you can establish to help you experience the wisdom of God? How can you turn your heart toward desiring to know God and experience Him more?

Proverbs 4:25-27 speaks of keeping our gaze fixed forward on our destination. Hebrews 12 speaks of fixing our eyes upon Jesus and our heavenly home. When take our thoughts captive and seek to daily pursue God, we will experience Him and desire to know Him more.

3. Psalm 34:8: God is good and knowing Him is sweet. The more we know Him the more we will want to know Him.