

# WISDOM'S VALUE IS BEYOND COMPARISON

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

## BIG TRUTH: WISDOM'S VALUE IS BEYOND COMPARISON

Proverbs 2:1-5; 3:13-15; 8:18-19

## BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 8:11

*"for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her."*

## BIG IDEAS

- Wisdom is more valuable than riches.
- Wisdom is more valuable than our greatest desires.
- The right response to true wisdom is joyful sacrifice.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: 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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# WISDOM'S VALUE IS BEYOND COMPARISON

## BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 8:11

*“for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.”*

### Wisdom is more valuable than material wealth.

*“for wisdom is better than jewels...”*

- Jewels are very valuable. People pay a lot of money for jewelry and keep it locked safely away to make sure no one steals it. Other things in this world are valuable to us, too. When we value something, we protect it and make sure it is kept safe because we do not want to lose it.
- Wisdom is more valuable than the most valuable jewel. It is more valuable than any material wealth we could attain. Wisdom is the most important and valuable thing we could ever acquire.

### Wisdom is more desirable than earthly treasure.

*“for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.”*

- We often find value in things that are one-of-a-kind. We think of unique things as things that hold more value. Things that are irreplaceable are seen as very valuable. We desire these things and desire to have earthly treasure.
- Wisdom is more desirable than any treasure we could have here on earth. We could gain the whole world and not have wisdom and we'd still be poor. Wisdom is the greater than anything else we could ever get on earth.

### Wisdom doesn't compare to temporal things.

*“and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.”*

- True wisdom is knowing God and being known by Him. True wisdom is a knowledge of God and a relationship with Him. This doesn't compare to anything we have here on earth. Nothing we gain on earth could ever compare with knowing God.
- God is the God of the universe. He is the Creator of all things and perfect in every way. He is the Savior and the One who created us to know Him and be known by Him. To be in a relationship with Him is the greatest treasure we could ever have and nothing will ever compare to that.

# WISDOM'S VALUE IS BEYOND COMPARISON

## BIG IDEA #1: WISDOM IS MORE VALUABLE THAN RICHES.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Whatever we value in this life, we spend our lives pursuing. We give our time, money, and energy to the pursuit of the things we value. We place value upon things based upon how we feel about them or how our world tells us to feel about them. Money and higher education are valued over jobs that require physical labor or pay less. The reason this is so not because there is something intrinsic about their value, but because society has deemed it to be this way. This makes what we pursue even more important. We can easily fall prey to the pursuit of earthly things if we are not careful. We can place a higher value on riches and material wealth instead of knowing and being known by God. We can value the things the world tells us to value instead of valuing what God says is precious and worth our pursuit.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What are some worldly pursuits that are futile that in the end lead us away from a pursuit of God's wisdom?**

James 5:3 reminds us of the futility in the pursuit of gold and silver. Riches do not lead to happiness. 1 Timothy 6:10 also teaches us that we should not pursue these earthly riches. Instead, we should pursue God's law and His wisdom. When we are pursuing earthly riches, we are not focused on Him, and our hearts are divided.

### [ THIS ]

Psalm 19 teaches us that God's Word, which is where we find wisdom, is more valuable than anything else. The psalmist writes of the perfection of God's law and the way in which His Word brings sweetness to those who hear it and heed it. His Word is valuable, and His wisdom is valuable. We may think that riches are to be desired, but God's wisdom is more valuable than any riches we could ever gain. Knowing God's Word and growing in His wisdom is more profitable and valuable to our lives than any wealth we could gain. When we do this, we become more like Christ. This not only helps us live for God here on earth, but it prepares us for our eternal home as it sanctifies us.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How do we assign value to things in the world? How should we as Jesus followers assign value to things in our daily lives?**

Value is often assigned to things according to whatever is popular or trendy in the world. We should assign value according to God's Word because that is where wisdom is found. James 3:17-18 teaches us about the wisdom we find in God's Word and the characteristics of it. When we view things through the lens of God's Word, we will value what He values above all other things.

**What is an example of how wisdom can be more valuable than having riches?**

Proverbs 16:16 shows us that wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Matthew 6:19-21 teaches us that our riches will fade away. Wisdom is forever and anything that lasts forever is more valuable than things that fade away and disappear. Silver and gold could disappear in a moment, but the wisdom we gain is forever.

1. Proverbs 16:16: Wisdom is better than gold or silver. It is better to gain wisdom than to gain anything else.

# WISDOM'S VALUE IS BEYOND COMPARISON

## BIG IDEA #2: WISDOM IS MORE VALUABLE THAN OUR GREATEST DESIRES.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Our desires drive us to action. Mark 7:21-22 shows us that the desires we have within us are sinful. They lead us away from God and not toward Him. We can mistakenly believe that our desires should be the feelings that lead us. The world around us teaches us that if we feel a certain way, then it must be good. We wrongly believe that our hearts can guide us down the right path. We pursue the things that we desire, thinking that the value we feel toward them is real and lasting. Often, we discover, after gaining the things we desire, that they do not bring lasting pleasure or joy. All too often, we grow bored with the things we desired, and we begin to desire something new. This cycle continues in every person's life for as long as we are following our hearts and considering our desires as the most valuable things we can attain. Psalm 19:10 shows us that God's Word is desirable and sweet to the one who attains it.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How have you seen your heart fool you into believing something had value when it really didn't?**

Jeremiah 17:9 tells us that our hearts are deceptive and Luke 6:45 shows us the contrast of a heart that is seeking God and one that is not. Our hearts cannot be trusted to lead us or guide us. They are not good judges of what is valuable and what is not. We can really believe we want something, receive it, and then decide we really no longer want it.

### [ THIS ]

In Scripture, God's Word is synonymous with wisdom. In the Psalms and Proverbs, when we read God's Word or law, they both are used to mean God's wisdom. From Scripture, we know that wisdom comes from God. James 3 tells us that wisdom from above is what we should desire to exhibit. Because every good thing comes from God, we know that all wisdom comes from Him. This means that knowing God and growing in His Word is the most valuable thing we can do with our time. There will always be some other thing to draw our attention, time, money, and energy, but only the study of God's Word will result in our gaining the most precious thing we could ever gain—a knowledge of God. This knowledge cannot be taken away from us and by knowing God, we know how to live for Him. We gain wisdom and this wisdom directs and guides our lives. Our entire earthly lives are better because we gain wisdom. Even if we never gain earthly wealth, but we gain wisdom, we are far better off than if we have all the riches in the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What wisdom for your daily life have you gained from studying God's Word?**

By knowing God's Word, we learn how to obey Him. This is wisdom—learning obedience. Psalm 119:30 and 112:1 show us that those who love God and know Him keep His commands. They obey Him because wisdom teaches this.

#### **Why do we seek wisdom from the world? How does our sin make us choose the world's sin over God's wisdom?**

Proverbs 3:5-6 teaches us to not lean on our own understanding, but our pride leads us to believe that we know better. This leads us to believe that the world's wisdom is ok to follow. We wrongly believe that we can follow worldly advice and still live for God. Our sinful flesh natures lead us to choose man's wisdom over God's wisdom.

2. Proverbs 8:11: *Nothing is as valuable as gaining wisdom from above.*

# WISDOM'S VALUE IS BEYOND COMPARISON

## BIG IDEA #3: THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO TRUE WISDOM IS JOYFUL SACRIFICE.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Matthew 13:44-45, Jesus likens wisdom to a treasure hidden in a field by a man. The man covers his treasure in the field and then sells all that he has in order to buy the field. We relate to the man selling all that he has to keep his treasure because we understand the value of wealth. Jesus is teaching that wisdom is more important and valuable than earthly riches. The man in the story was willing to give up all that he had in order to buy the field with his treasure. This extreme sacrifice shows us just how valuable and important it is to gain wisdom from God's Word. We shouldn't just casually seek wisdom but do all that we can in order to gain it. Jesus taught that wisdom is worth all that we have. It is worth our material possessions and our time. It is worth the effort we have to put into gaining it.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How does the idea that gaining wisdom should be easy hinder you from growing in a knowledge of God's Word?**

Often, we think that studying God's Word should be simple and easy, but it requires effort. Romans 12:1-2 and Luke 9:23 speak to the commandment to sacrifice ourselves in service to God. This means that if we want to grow in His wisdom, we will have to sacrifice and work hard.

### [ THIS ]

In Matthew 13:44-45, the man buying the field did so joyfully. It was his pleasure to sell all that he had in order to buy the field with his treasure. True wisdom from God should evoke the same response in us. When faced with the choice of gaining wisdom or earthly treasure, we should joyfully choose to gain wisdom. When we do this, we prove that we know wisdom is more valuable than anything else. Our lies prove that we believe wisdom's value is beyond comparison. We will sacrifice time with friends, time earning money, time watching TV, and time doing other things in order to gain wisdom. Studying God's Word will not be a chore to us. Instead, it will be a delight and joy. We will joyfully spend time growing in wisdom.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How have you been willing to sacrifice your time to grow in wisdom?**

Colossians 1:10, Proverbs 1:7, and 2 Peter 3:18 show us that we are to sacrifice time in order to grow in wisdom. It is God's expectation and command that we increase in our knowledge of Him and by increasing in our knowledge of Him, we will increase in our wisdom. A knowledge of God's Word results in a growth in wisdom.

**What are some areas of your life in which you lack wisdom and need to grow?**

Ephesians 4:22-24 shows us that we should put off our old self and put on the new. 1 John 2:6 and 1 Corinthians 11:1 both teach us that we should grow in wisdom to become more Christlike. The goal for every Christian is to become like Christ. We do this when we grow in our wisdom.

3. Matthew 13:44-45: Those who truly find wisdom sacrifice to keep it.