

WISDOM IS AN INVESTMENT

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

BIG TRUTH: WISDOM IS AN INVESTMENT

Proverbs 2:3-5; 7:1; 10:14; 12:27; 14:23-24; 17:16; Ecclesiastes 5:9-12

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 23:23

"Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding."

BIG IDEAS

- The pursuit of wisdom comes at a price.
- The pursuit of wisdom is worth the cost.
- The pursuit of wisdom will yield a great reward.

BIBLE PASSAGE: PROVERBS 8:12-21

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 23:23

“Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

Believers desire to invest in truth.

“Buy truth...”

- When the psalmist writes that God’s people should buy truth, he is saying that God’s people should desire to spend their time and money gaining a knowledge of God’s truth. When we grow in God’s Word, we grow in truth.
- Believers desire to grow in God’s truth. They recognize the value of God’s truth for their lives, and they understand that it is an investment. They do not see their time wasted if they spend it pursuing His truth.

Believers desire to invest in wisdom.

“Buy wisdom...”

- A follower of Christ also understands the value in finding wisdom. Wisdom is life to the believer and the one who grows in wisdom will establish their lives upon the solid rock of Jesus. Believers see their growth in wisdom as an investment.
- Believers desire to invest in wisdom which means they desire to know God and grow in this knowledge. They aren’t content to know Him a little. They desire to know Him as much as they can. They willingly give up other things to grow in this knowledge.

Believers understand and value their investment in truth and wisdom.

“Buy truth, and do not sell it. Buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

- Believers recognize the value of God’s truth, wisdom and instruction. They recognize the value of understanding and they invest in these things. They willingly spend their time and money gaining these things that they might live lives pleasing to the Lord.
- Believers pursue this knowledge because they know that knowing and growing in a knowledge of God are the most important things in life. They do not take lightly the knowledge they gain, and they seek to continue growing in wisdom and truth.

BIG IDEA #1: THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM COMES AT A PRICE.¹**[THIS]**

Throughout Scripture, we read of the folly of the sluggard, or lazy person. This person doesn't gain anything of eternal value because he or she doesn't work hard or put in the necessary effort. The same can be true in the world. Those who work hard usually see results of their hard work. When you study hard in school, your grades reflect the hard work you put in. When you work many hours at your job, your paycheck reflects the amount of work you put in for that week. This cycle of working hard and then seeing the result is something that is necessary to gain wisdom. This idea of working hard to gain something valuable is from God and not the world. Our hard work towards knowing God doesn't earn salvation or make us sinless. Instead, it brings us closer to God because it increases our knowledge and understanding of Him. Just as babies aren't born knowing all they need to know to live and thrive in this world, we aren't redeemed and then immediately know all we need to know to obey and thrive in our relationship with Christ. Just as babies are always pursuing the next stage, whether it's walking, running, or talking, we have to pursue a constant knowledge and gain of wisdom from God's Word.

[THEREFORE]

How have you worked hard at something and seen the reward of that hard work?

When we work hard, we typically see the reward of that hard work. Proverbs 14:23 and 12:24 teach us that this principle is from the Lord. Those who work hard see a good result of that hard work typically. When we work hard to know God, we will see the reward of that hard work.

[THIS]

Wisdom requires that we invest our time and energy in pursuing God. To make an investment is to give our resources to something in expectation of getting a return on it. We can't expect a return on something we make no investment in. We cannot expect to receive money from stocks we haven't invested in. The same is true in our pursuit of wisdom. If we want to see a return, then we must make an investment. This comes at a cost to us just like any investment does. When we invest in money markets, it costs us something. We pay the price because we hope the return is greater than what the cost to us is. We can pay the cost of investing in wisdom and know without a doubt that the return we get will be greater than the price we pay. When we invest in wisdom, we will spend our time and effort seeking to know God and to grow in His Word. This pursuit is a worthy pursuit that yields a great return.

[THEREFORE]

How does it help to think of a pursuit of wisdom as an investment? What type of investment are you making into your relationship with God?

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith we can't please God. If we aren't making any investment in our relationship with Him, then we aren't pleasing Him. 1 Chronicles 16:11 and Proverbs 8:17 teach us that those who seek God will find Him.

What are some of the things your pursuit of wisdom costs you? Why should you count the cost of these things in your pursuit?

A pursuit of God costs us everything. Luke 14:33 and 9:23 show us that in order to follow Jesus, we must give up everything. Mark 8:34 tells us that to be Jesus' disciple means to die to ourselves. A pursuit of wisdom costs us all that we have.

1. Proverbs 13:4: Wisdom requires hard work; the diligent get the reward.

BIG IDEA #2: THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM IS WORTH THE COST.²**[THIS]**

Proverbs 8:17-18 shows us that those who seek wisdom and pay the cost for it find it cost worth it. Solomon writes in these verses that wisdom loves those who love it and those who seek it will find it. James writes the same promise in James 1:5. Those who lack wisdom have the promise that if they ask for it, they will receive it. Knowing that we have this promise, paying the price for wisdom is worth the cost of our lives. It is a worthy pursuit to give up all we are and have in order to grow in the wisdom of God. To know Him and be known by Him more and more each day is worth whatever price we have to pay. If it costs us our time, our earthly pursuits, and dreams then it is worth it all in order to become more and more like Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

In counting the cost of pursuing wisdom, what are some things you haven't been willing to give up?

1 John 2:15-17 shows us that we cannot love the world and follow God. We must be willing to give up everything in order to follow Jesus. The pursuit of wisdom is worth the cost that is required. Whatever it takes for us to grow in wisdom, it is worth the cost.

[THIS]

Living for Jesus requires dying to ourselves and giving up the plan we have for our life. What this looks like practically is that we no longer live according to our own plans, but instead, we seek God first and live for His kingdom. Our greatest desire is to see His kingdom expanded and His name made famous in all the world. Doing this requires that we give up our earthly dreams. Earthly dreams are the hopes and desires we have that concern worldly things or our lives here on earth. This doesn't mean that we don't ever have a desire or hope, but it means that instead of planning our lives on earth as if this life is all there is, we plan them to bring God glory and do so in a way that brings Him the most glory. When we do this, we will pursue His wisdom because we can't live for Him without wisdom. Whatever we give up for Jesus is worth it because our eternal home is heaven, and our eternal lives are far greater than anything we could ever imagine.

[THEREFORE]

How have you found the price of wisdom worth paying in your own life?

Lamentations 3:25 tells us that the Lord is good to those who wait for Him and seek Him with their whole heart. Psalm 119:2 and 10 remind us that when we do seek God, we find Him. Finding God is finding wisdom, and this means that whatever we've paid to do this has been worth it.

How can you leverage your daily life to make an investment in your pursuit of wisdom this week?

James 4:8 tells us that God is near to those who draw near to Him. Psalm 9:10 reminds us that God does not forsake those who put their trust in Him. When we intentionally live for Him daily, drawing near to Him and putting our trust in Him, we are making an investment in our pursuit of wisdom. This means we will yield a return on this investment and grow in our knowledge of Him.

2. Proverbs 8:11: Wisdom is worth whatever it costs us because God is the most valuable thing we could ever have.

BIG IDEA #3: THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM WILL YIELD A GREAT REWARD.³**[THIS]**

Many pursuits in this life yield rewards. When we pursue an education, we receive a reward for all of our efforts. When we work hard, we usually receive compensation for our work. We are used to our investments yielding some type of reward. Our pursuit of wisdom yields the greatest reward. Proverbs 8:17-21 teaches us that there is no reward like the reward we get from pursuing wisdom. In Proverbs 8:19, Solomon says that the fruit of wisdom is better than fine gold. In verse 21, he writes that wisdom grants an inheritance to those who love it. Throughout Scripture, we see that wisdom is greater and more valuable than the most valuable jewels. Our pursuit of wisdom will yield a great reward for us. We will receive a great treasure for dying to ourselves and paying the cost of seeking God with our whole heart.

[THEREFORE]

Read Proverbs 8:17-21. How have you found wisdom to be better than anything else you've gained in this life?

These verses teach us that nothing is as great as receiving wisdom. Solomon himself asked for wisdom when he could have asked for all the wealth in the world. Having wisdom is better than having wealth because wisdom leads to right living and obedience to God. Nothing is better than living in obedience to God and having a right relationship with Him.

[THIS]

In Proverbs 8:21, Solomon speaks of the inheritance that wisdom gives. When a person pursues wisdom, that person will receive the inheritance of eternal life. Eternal life is possible because of a relationship with Jesus. When we have a relationship with Jesus it is because we've experienced saving faith. After we experience saving faith, we abide in Christ. As we abide in Christ, we grow in Christlikeness. Our pursuit of wisdom yields the reward of knowing Christ and being more and more like Him. God is our Creator and the Savior of the world. He is unlike any other being. Before the beginning of time, He existed and when He spoke the world into being, He did so for His glory and the good of mankind. To be known by Him and to be made more like Him is the greatest thing that could ever happen to us. Growing in wisdom brings our lives more joy and happiness than any other thing ever could. This joy and happiness last forever because it is eternal. It is a treasure that can never be taken from us.

[THEREFORE]

Read Proverbs 12:27. How have you seen the reward of diligently seeking wisdom?

Scripture teaches that those who diligently seek God find Him. When we seek His Word and pursue wisdom, we will find it. Finding wisdom means we find a rich reward because we learn how to please God and live for Him. This brings joy and peace to our lives.

Read Proverbs 10:12. How can you seek to lay up knowledge this week?

What things do you need to remove from your life so you have room to study and pray?

To lay up knowledge requires time and seeking God in His Word and through prayer. In order to do that, we must make room in our lives for time with God. This means we have to give up some of our hobbies and extra things in order to have time to seek Him in His Word and to spend time praying.

3. Proverbs 8:17-21: Getting wisdom leads to a great reward for those who make the investment.