

Getting Started

- Share what you know about Solomon and the Book of Proverbs.
- What are some of the most challenging areas of life where you wish you had more Godly wisdom?

Discussion

¹ The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: ² To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, ³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; ⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ⁶ to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Discuss the differences between knowledge, understanding, discernment and wisdom.
- There are four character traits that we should look to develop continual. Discuss each of these first from God's perspective and then what each looks like in our daily lives.

To receive instruction in ...

1. Wise dealing
2. Righteousness
3. Justice
4. Equity

- If Solomon was so wise, what contributed to his deviation from “practicing what he preached” in the later half of his life? What is the word of warning for us?
- Explain how Pr 1:7 along with Pr 8:13, 9:10 and Col 2:2-3 provide the key to living a life that is honoring to God and not just a moral life.

To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. (Pr 8:13)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Pr 9:10)

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3)

Prayer

Review the list of themes below and ask God for a teachable spirit this summer as we grow in wisdom and understanding and the fear of the Lord.

There are several important themes addressed in Proverbs, which are offered in random order and address different topics, so that it is helpful to study proverbs thematically as illustrated. (John MacArthur)

1. Man's Relationship to God

- a. His trust (Prov 22:19)
- b. His humility (Prov 3:34)
- c. His fear of God (Prov 1:7)
- d. His righteousness ((Prov 10:25)
- e. His sin (Prov 28:13)
- f. His obedience (Prov 6:23)
- g. Facing reward (Prov 12:28)
- h. Facing tests (Prov 17:3)
- i. Facing blessing (Prov 10:22)
- j. Facing death (Prov 15:11)

2. Man's Relationship to Himself

- a. His character (Prov 20:11)
- b. His wisdom (Prov 1:5)
- c. His foolishness (Prov 26:10-11)
- d. His speech (Prov 18:21)
- e. His self-control (Prov 6:9-11)
- f. His kindness (Prov 3:3)
- g. His wealth (Prov 11:4)
- h. His pride (Prov 27:1)
- i. His anger (Prov 29:11)
- j. His laziness (Prov 13:4)

3. Man's Relationship to Others

- a. His love (Prov 8:17)
- b. His friends (Prov 17:17)
- c. His enemies (Prov 16:7)
- d. His truthfulness (Prov 23:23)
- e. His gossip (Prov 20:19)
- f. As a father (Prov 20:7; 31:2-9)
- g. As a mother (Prov 31:10-31)
- h. As children (Prov (3:1-3)
- i. In educating children (Prov 4:1-4)
- j. In discipling children (Prov 22:6)