

Renewing Your Mind: Walking Wisely Proverbs Study

Teaching Notes

The previous Process of Biblical Change study examined the heart by identifying the fruit on our "tree" and following it back to the root (our hearts).

The Walking Wisely study will alert us to practical, specific patterns of our fruit.

Assessing the fruit patterns in our lives reveals our likeness to either the wise man or the fool.

*Learn by comparison /
think opposites*

1 Corinthians 10:31

"We shall perceive the meaning and utility of the Proverbs in proportion to our experience in true religion, our acquaintance with our own hearts and with human nature, and the extent and accuracy of our observation on the character and affairs of men."

I. Genre of Wisdom Literature

a. Old Testament

i. Job

ii. Psalms

iii. Proverbs – Biblical wisdom – practical, moral, skillful living for the

Glory of God!

iv. Ecclesiastes – The example of Solomon teaches us that those who are wise can become fools.

b. Wisdom Literature places emphasis on practical living

i. Emphasis is on relationship with God as reflected in man's relationship to man, NOT mere personal benefit.

II. Authors of Proverbs 1 Kings 3:3-14

James 1:5, 3:13-17

1 Kings 4:32

1 Cor 1:26-27, 2 Cor 4:7, Col 2:2-3, 1 Cor 1:31, Col 1:2

III. What is a Proverb?

- a. Short, pithy statements (concise + forcefully expressive)
- b. Biblical proverbs hold currency only among those who fear the Lord. Biblical Proverbs are different for they speak to man's relationship and behavior BEFORE GOD.
- c. Biblical proverbs give you a standard by which you might judge your life.
- d. Terms for proverbs
- e. Portable truth
- f. Not promises, but maxims (general rules for life)
- g. Chiasm – a literary device in which a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated in reverse order. "mirror" effect/reflection by a repeated word
- h. Verbs, Subjects, Modifiers

IV. Wisdom in Wisdom Literature

- a. A Divine Attribute (1 Tim 1:7, Job 9:4, Job 12:13)
 - i. Through and in wisdom, God created the world!
- b. Wisdom is MORAL
- c. Wisdom is a communicable attribute (we can reflect it)
- d. Practical, moral, skillful living for the glory of God
- e. Wise conduct will always reflect godly behavior and godly behavior will always be wise.
- f. Wisdom is developed over time and steady obedience
- g. Wisdom is in a constant state of maintenance and upkeep.
- h. In summary, wisdom is divine, moral, practical and ongoing.

V. Fear of the LORD in Relation to Wisdom

- a. LORD-YAWEH
- b. "The Fear of the LORD is that affectionate reverence by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to His Father's law." – Bridges
- c. Holy awe and reverence which results from Knowing Him. (Proverbs 3:7, Proverbs 16:6, Rom 3:11-18)
- d. Ecc. 12:13
- e. We do not begin with the Fear of the Lord and then move beyond it.

VI. Type of Fools in Proverbs

- a. Simple/Naïve *ignorant - open to all influences*
- b. Fool *doesn't listen - obstinate*
- c. Scoffer *blatant disregard*
- d. Pattern of progression (Psalm 1, 2 Tim 2:14-19, 3:1-7,13, Rom 6:19)

VII. Literary Devices (handout)

- a. Parables *long analogy cast in the form of a story*
- b. Parallelism *synonyms/antithetical, repetition of like words, phrases or clauses*
- c. Comparison *simile using "like" or "as"
metaphor without "like" or "as"*

VIII. Perspicuity (clarity of the Scriptures)

- a. All Scripture is clear, but not all is equally clear. Some passages take more effort and work to understand. 2 Pet 3:15-16
- b. ...in order to fix their riches in one's mind once he understands them.
- c. Matt 13:13, Mark 4:11-12

Outline of Book

1. Ch 1-9 Intro/foundation of the book- call, pursuit, quality and value of wisdom
2. Ch 10-22 Proverbs of Solomon
3. Ch 22-24 Sayings of the Wise
4. Ch 25-29 More Proverbs of Solomon (Hezekiah Collection)
5. Words of Agur Ch 30
6. Words of King Lemuel Ch 31

WALKING WISELY LESSONS and Memory Verses

1. Ch 1 The Path & Call of Wisdom (Proverbs 1:7)
 - a. SG discuss tools to study Proverbs
 - b. Intro scenario and subject/category homework
 - c. AH parenting, discipline of kids, parent/home relationships, Wise man/Fool
2. Ch 2 The Value of Wisdom (Proverbs 2:6)
 - a. SG share insights/fav verses and how they applied to scenario
 - b. Intro new scenario and categories of study/observation
3. Ch 3 Benefits/Promises of Wisdom (Proverbs 3:5-7)
4. Ch 4 The Life-long Pursuit of Wisdom/Persevere in Wisdom (Proverbs 4:7,26)
5. Ch 5-7 3 Musketeers Against Wisdom: Sexual Sin, Surety & Slothfulness (Proverbs 5:21, 7:1-3)
6. Ch 8-9 Final Call Wisdom vs Folly (Proverbs 8:4-6)

At home topics for journaling/prayer (TEMPLATE):

Read one chapter of Proverbs a day. Utilize the templates provided to hone in on specific subject themes in Proverbs. These templates will help arm you with Proverbs to apply to the monthly scenario. By the end of this study you will have an organized systematic theology resource for the Book of Proverbs!

1. Discipline of Kids, Parent/Home Relationships, Wise man/Fool
2. Friendship/Companions, Giving Receiving Rebuke/Humility
3. Marriage, Anger, Mind/Body Connection
4. Speech/Tongue, Neighbors
5. Sexual Sin, Slothfulness, Surety
6. Diligence, self-control

Proverbs in prayer- pray a "big picture theme" and some specific Proverbs for self and family, friends!

Additional Helpful Resources:

- *Proverbs* by Charles Bridges
- *Opening Up Proverbs* by Jim Newheiser
- *Practicing Proverbs: Wise Living for Foolish Times* by Richard Mayhue
- *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The Book of Proverbs Ch. 1-15* by Bruce K. Waltke
- *A Commentary on Proverbs* by Peter A Stevenson
- *The Christian Counselor's Commentary: Proverbs* by Jay Adams
- *An Introduction to Wisdom Literature: The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job & Ecclesiastes* by Derek Kidner