
THE VALUE OF WISDOM

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 39; Proverbs 2

Focus Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-11

*Key Verse: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."
Proverbs 2:6 (NRSV)*

PROVERBS 2:1-11 (NRSV)

- 1 My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you,
- 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;
- 3 if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding;
- 4 if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—
- 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.
- 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
- 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,
- 8 guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
- 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;
- 10 for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
- 11 prudence will watch over you; and understanding will guard you.

PROVERBS 2:1-11 (KJV)

- 1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
- 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
- 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
- 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
- 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.
- 6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
- 7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.
- 8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.
- 9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.
- 10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;
- 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:...

KEY TERMS

- **Incline** – To lean towards.
- **Faithful** – Active practice of kindness or piety, loyalty rooted in belief.
- **Scoffers** – Those who make fun of/show contempt.
- **Upright** – Morally correct behavior or thinking.
- **Good** – Pleasant and agreeable.
- **Fear** – Reverence, deep respect.
- **Blameless** – Having integrity/without fault.
- **Soul** – Inner being of a person.
- **Complacency** – Self-satisfaction accompanied by unawareness of deficiencies.

INTRODUCTION

Growing up, children played a lot of games that required active listening and obedience. Games like *Simon Says* taught children the importance of listening, in particular to the one who was giving commands. In order for children to engage certain behaviors, they had to listen for the two words “Simon Says...” If Simon did not say, they

had to remain still and take no action, but when Simon “said,” they had to move.

Other games like *Mother May I?* taught children the importance of asking permission and seeking council before making decisions. Because they were limited in their questions, children had to carefully consider each question they would ask in order to get closer to their goal. Each question built on the previous one, and cleared a path towards victory. Impulse and impatience caused players to be removed from the game until the next round. Though very simple in nature, these games and others like them were fun ways for children to learn obedience and how to tune their ears to listen for who was speaking: not only for safety’s

sake, but for the sake of accomplishing the goal at hand. The same can be applied to gaining wisdom.

There are many people talking and lots of advice being given. Bookstores are loaded with self-help books, and it seems a new book or blog or podcast is always being released and launched. With this

over saturated availability of books, blogs, etc., how does one learn to tune their

With this over saturated availability of books, blogs, etc., how does one learn to tune their ears to God, the One with the ultimate plan?

ears to God, the One with the ultimate plan? Or get the courage to listen and follow? What are the benefits of doing so? How does listening to wisdom and seeking understanding help one along life’s journey?

Wisdom is acquired as one grows and engages in various life experiences, and it happens in stages.

The scriptures provide clear instructions for how we are to go about acquiring wisdom, and tell us what happens when we do. Wisdom is acquired as one grows and engages in various life experiences, and it happens in stages. Hence the “If-Then”

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

Just like childhood games, Proverbs 2 is filled with several “if-then” statements.

IF...	THEN...
you accept my words...	you will understand the fear of the Lord.
you treasure my commandments within you...	you will find the knowledge of God.
you make your ear attentive to wisdom...	you will understand righteousness, justice, equity.
you incline your heart to understanding...	you will understand every good path.
you cry out for insight...	wisdom will come into your heart.
you raise your voice for understanding...	knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
you seek wisdom like silver...	prudence will watch over you.
you search for wisdom as for hidden treasures...	understanding will guard you.

statements. For example, if one cries out for insight, he or she will find the knowledge of God. Using the chart above, match the IF... statement with the THEN... statement.

SANKOFA

In the previous lesson, we discussed Harriet Tubman’s sister. Today we look at the woman called Moses. Born Araminta Ross, she was the daughter of an enslaved couple. After suffering a traumatic head injury, she began to experience episodes of dizziness and spells, which led to her having strange visions. Moses saw these visions as messages from God and committed her life to God’s following. After refusing to allow herself to be sold and her family broken up, she fled her master’s home and ran away to freedom. Having only the direction of the pastor,

Moses made it all the way from Maryland to Philadelphia. It would not be long until Moses started to receive messages again from God about the state of her family. She returned to Maryland only to find a group of family members awaiting escape. Not sure of how to move so many people at once, she knelt down and prayed to God waiting for a word or sign. By following God's wisdom and maintaining constant communication throughout her journey, Moses was able to move several people from enslavement to freedom.

CASE STUDY

The Ball brothers, Lonzo, LiAngelo, and LaMelo Ball, have been playing basketball since they were able to hold a ball. Their father, a former basketball player himself, had an unorthodox way of playing the game. From the way the boys shoot, to the way they play, to the teams they play for, they have been unconventional. Having a natural talent for basketball, they could have easily decided to follow the methods of Jordan

or Johnson or Hardaway, but they took heed to their father's voice. They listened to the advice and instruction he gave. Though sometimes grueling, the boys followed his practices, and it has generated great reward for them. Not just money or fame, but drive, perseverance, and trust.

What their father was instilling in them was something that will bring them much success, on and off the court. It will sustain them, even after basketball is long gone. It is not about the sport as much as it is about commitment, dedication, and hard work. The value of wisdom is using the teachings and lessons you have been given, to work for the life you want, while maintaining your integrity and character along the

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LIFE APPLICATION

"Things My Momma/Poppa Taught Me"

Think about some things a parent or guardian said to you when you were

younger, or is probably still saying. Did you take heed? And if you didn't, how did things turn out? As we grow and mature, we place more value on those words of advice and guidance than when we heard them in our maturing years. Our maturity and perspective affect how we apply those long-taught teachings, and we appreciate their value as we mature. This might be a good time to reflect on these teachings and if still applicable, apply them to your life.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the value of having wisdom?
2. How does wisdom guide your everyday life?
3. What are some ways to teach others about the value of wisdom?

CLOSING DEVOTION

Lead me, guide me along the way,
 For if you lead me I cannot stray.
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
 Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

This is my prayer today and every day.
 Amen.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

June 8 – June 14

Monday	Galatians 6:1-10 (Work for the Good of All)
Tuesday	Romans 15:1-6 (Live Together in Harmony)
Wednesday	2 John 4-11 (Wisdom Is Walking Together in Love)
Thursday	Genesis 39:6b-18 (Joseph Resists Temptation)
Friday	Proverbs 2:12-19 (Wisdom Saves from Temptation)
Saturday	Proverbs 2:20-22; 4:24-27 (Walk on Just and Good Paths)
Sunday	Proverbs 2:1-11 (Following Godly Wisdom Pays)