

Liberating Faith Studies

Summer Quarter – 2020

MANY faces of **WISDOM**



The focus is the many faces of God's wisdom
& God as sovereign, liberating, and all wise



LIBERATING
FAITH STUDIES



MANY
faces of
WISDOM

Summer Quarter 2020

➤ **Unit 1:** The Book of Proverbs – Explores the nature of God's Wisdom

June 6: **The Call of Wisdom**, Prv. 1:1-4, 7,8,10,20-22,32,33

June 13: **The Value of Wisdom**, Prv. 2:1-11

June 20: **The Gifts of Wisdom**, Prv. 8:8-14, 17-21

June 27: **Wisdom's Feast**, Prv. 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18

➤ **Unit 2:** Jesus' teachings as presented in the Gospels

July

➤ **Unit 3:** The New Testament letter attributed to James

August

The Book of Proverbs

- Solomon wrote most of this book, with Agur and Lemuel contributing some of the later sections.
- “Proverb” means “to be like”

Purpose:

To teach people how to attain wisdom, discipline, and a prudent life, and how do what is right, just, and fair—in short , to apply divine wisdom to daily life and to provide moral instructions

- Proverbs is a book of comparisons between common, concrete images and life’s most profound truths.
- Proverbs are simple, moral statement (or illustrations) that highlight and teach fundamental realities about life
- Solomon sought God’s wisdom (2 Chronicles 1:8-12) and offered simple saying designed to make people contemplate:
 1. the fear of God, and
 2. living by His wisdom (1:7; 9:10)
- **The sum of God’s wisdom is personified in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30)**

Seeking God's Wisdom

Solomon Asks God for Wisdom

(2 Chr. 1:8-12)

⁸ Solomon replied to God, “You showed great and faithful love to David, my father, and now you have made me king in his place.

⁹ O LORD God, please continue to keep your promise to David my father, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth!

¹⁰ **Give me the wisdom and knowledge** to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?”

¹¹ God said to Solomon, “Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather **you asked for wisdom and knowledge** to properly govern my people—

¹² **I will certainly give you the wisdom and knowledge you requested.** But I will also give you wealth, riches, and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future!”



God's Wisdom

➔ **Manifest in Christ** (2 Cor 30)

30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

Key Verses

- Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. **Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)**
- For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. **Proverbs 2:6 (NLT)**
- Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. **Proverbs 8:10-11 (NRSV)**
- Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight. **Proverbs 9:6 (NRSV)**



The Value of Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 39; Proverbs 2

Focus Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-11

Key Verse:

For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6 (NLT)

The BENEFITS OF WISDOM

(NLT)

- 1** My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands.
- 2** Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.
- 3** Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding.
- 4** Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures.
- 5** Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God.

The BENEFITS OF WISDOM

(NLT)


- 6 For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
- 7 He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.
- 8 He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him.
- 9 Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go.

The BENEFITS OF WISDOM

(NLT)

10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.

11 Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.



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

Simon Says

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.




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

Mother May I?

This game 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.

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- Wisdom is acquired as one grows and engages in various life experiences, and it happens in stages. Hence the “*If-Then*” statements.

IF

- ▶ you accept my words...
- ▶ you treasure my commandments within you...
- ▶ you make your ear attentive to wisdom...
- ▶ you incline your heart to understanding...
- ▶ you cry out for insight...
- ▶ you raise your voice for understanding...
- ▶ you seek wisdom like silver...

THEN

- ▶ you will understand the fear of the Lord.
- ▶ you will find the knowledge of God
- ▶ you will understand righteousness, justice, equity.
- ▶ you will understand every good path.
- ▶ wisdom will come into your heart.
- ▶ knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
- ▶ prudence will watch over you.



IF

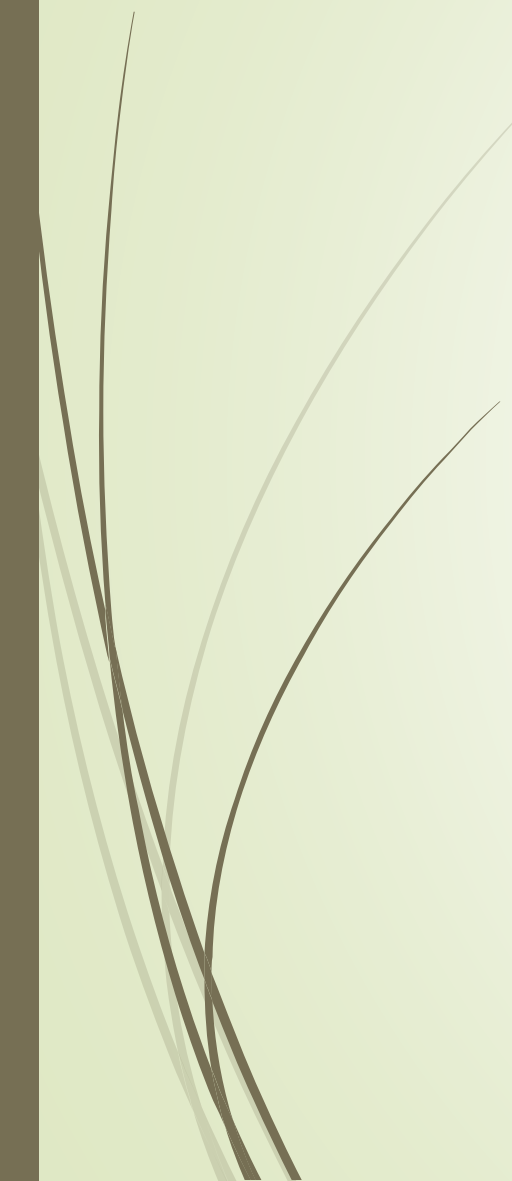
- ▶ you search for wisdom as for hidden treasures...

THEN

- ▶ understanding will guard you.



Wisdom 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.