



WISDOM

WISDOM: The Good Life

May 16, 2021 | Speaker: Armando Lopez, Associate Pastor

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Daily, we are confronted with choices that will impact our lives, some are small, and others are not so small. And in order to live a life we don't regret, a good life, we need wisdom.

We need wisdom to be good friends, good spouses, good teachers, to live justly, to manage our businesses, to not be broke, to post on social media, and a thousand other things.

So our hope through this series is to help you and I grow in wisdom, so that we can live lives that will reap the fruit of the gospel. Our desire is to help you become wise, so that you can navigate the seas of life in such a way that you honor God, and you honor others.

“As the course and bulk of biblical wisdom, the book of Proverbs remains the model of curriculum for humanity to learn how to live under God and before humankind. As a result, it beckons the church to diligent study and application. To uncommitted youth it serves as a stumbling stone, but to committed youth it is a foundation stone.”

~ Bruce Waltke

“A proverb (Hebrew *masal*) is a poetic, terse, vivid, thought provoking saying that conveys a world of truth in a few words.”

~Tim Keller

One of the objectives of the book of Proverbs is to get us to think, so that we become people who choose what is right, true, just, equitable.

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
for gaining wisdom and instruction;
for understanding words of insight;
for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;
for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—

let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—
for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
~ Proverbs 1:1-7

Solomon is pointing us forward to something greater than him: Christ.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God,
who gives generously to all without finding fault,
and it will be given to you.”
~James 1:5

The book’s purpose is to help us gain wisdom, or to know wisdom. This entails all the virtues mentioned in the passage. To be wise includes knowledge, insight, prudence, shrewdness, discretion, the ability to learn and give and get guidance.

The Hebrew word for Wisdom, *Hokma*, can be defined as “masterful understanding, skill, expertise.”¹ In other words, wisdom is something that we can sharpen and grow in. We are to do this both, individually and in community.

The fear of the LORD is to rightly understand who God is. He is God. He made the world. He possesses all wisdom and knowledge. Through his wisdom, he created the world. So, if we are to begin to be wise, it depends on knowing him.

The good life that we all desire to live is actually the godly life. It is a life rightly oriented towards him who made us. And when we are rightly oriented to him, we are rightly oriented to one another.

Is baptism your next right step?
Explore more info on this by visiting damascus.com/baptism.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

(for personal and small group discussion)

1. Share a story where a little wisdom might have been helpful.
2. What was most impactful to you from this weekend’s service?
3. Becoming wiser is about loving God and our neighbors more deeply and truly. How does wisdom help us do that?
4. What lessons about Solomon’s life impacted you the most?
5. To become wise, we must reflect, think, and apply. Is this an area where you need to grow?
6. Do you desire wisdom?
7. Pray over one another asking God for wisdom.

¹ Waltke, *Proverbs*, 76.

NOTES
