

7/5/2026 Proverbs 3 Study Guide: Walk Wisely

Author: Solomon (1 Kings 3) | Audience: everyone, young to old | Purpose: practical wisdom for living in God's world

1. Wisdom Working (v. 1-10) - Don'ts, Do's, Blessings

A father/son teaching: five instructions paired with the blessing of obedience. Solomon states how the world works when we live by God's wisdom.

2. Wisdom Meeting Us Where We Are (v. 11-20) - The Job Moment

These are principles, not promises - obedience is not a vending machine for blessing. When blessing seems absent, God may be disciplining and forming us (v. 11-12), not punishing us. Discipline is formative and corrective, aimed at making us good, since we cannot make ourselves good. Verses 13-18 celebrate wisdom's beauty; verses 19-20 tie wisdom to creation itself.

3. Wisdom Changes Everything (v. 21-35)

Wisdom brings security, sweet sleep, and confidence (v. 21-26); peace with God overflows into peace with others (v. 27-31); and the chapter closes with the stark contrast of blessing versus judgment (v. 32-35). Jesus, as our wisdom, fulfills verses 13-18.

Study Questions

1. Where have you seen the “don'ts, do's, and blessings” of verses 1-10 prove true in your own life? Where has it felt like it didn't work?
2. Why is it dangerous to treat these verses as promises rather than principles? How does the prosperity gospel misread this passage?
3. Read verses 11-12. Recall a time God's (or a mentor's) discipline felt painful in the moment but proved formative later. What changed in you?
4. The sermon says, “wisdom of God is not a formula, but a formation.” What is the difference, and why does it matter for how we relate to God?
5. How does peace with God (v. 21-26) lead to peace with others (v. 27-31) in your experience? Where is that link hardest for you?
6. Reread verses 13-18 with “Jesus” in place of “wisdom.” What does this reveal about who Jesus is to you?
7. Using the frozen-river illustration: are you approaching Jesus “crawling on all fours,” unsure He'll hold, or “barreling toward Him” in full confidence? What would move you toward the latter?