



# gracefellowship

Series: Letters to My Children  
Date: October 16, 2022

Title: The Search for Wisdom  
Passage: Proverbs 2

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 2

When is the last time you searched intently for something?

- Maybe you lost something important to you and had to search everywhere for it.
- You might have been on a search for the perfect gift to give someone for an anniversary or Christmas.
- Has anyone ever lost a pet...or worse, a child...and had to frantically search for them?

That's the same way we are instructed to pursue godly wisdom in the book of Proverbs. The first 7 chapters of Proverbs are letters of instruction Solomon wrote to his son. We can think of these letters as God writing to us; He is our Father and we are His children. Like any good father, God wants to show us how to best live our lives. He wants us to know there are dangers out there- and sometime we are our own worst enemies in bringing pain into our lives because we don't live in the wisdom He provides. But God wants us to be able to avoid some of the pitfalls that trip so many people up. So, He preserved these letters for us to be able to read and learn from in our pursuit of Him and His wisdom.

This morning let's look together at Proverbs 2 and read the first 5 verses together to start off.

**:: Proverbs 2:1-5**

**1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,  
2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—  
3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,  
4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,  
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.**

Here's the first thing I notice when I read this passage: the word "if" pops up several times.

"If you accept my words..."

"If you call out for insight..."

“If you look for understanding...”

**God makes His wisdom available to us. The question is whether or not we desire it?**

Do you have a great desire in your life for the wisdom of God? Or do you feel confident operating in your own wisdom?

Answering the “if” statements in this passage might save you from “if only” moments in your life. God’s wisdom can save you from looking at your life and saying, “If only...”

- If only I hadn’t dated/married that guy/girl...
- If only I hadn’t gone into business with that partner...
- If only I hadn’t made that unwise financial decision...
- If only I hadn’t run from God when I was young...
- If only I hadn’t... (You fill in the blank)

**If only I hadn’t \_\_\_\_\_!**

What regrets could God’s wisdom applied to your life have spared you from?

Here’s the next question we need to ask ourselves today:

**How do we gain the wisdom God offers?**

The answer is found in the text we read a few minutes ago. Let’s go back and read it again.

**:: Proverbs 2:1-5**

**1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,  
2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—  
3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,  
4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,  
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.**

- Call out
- Cry aloud
- Look for it as for silver
- Search for it as for hidden treasure

**There is effort that is required on our part to attain the wisdom God offers.**

You’re not going to wake up one day and realize you are suddenly very wise! It doesn’t work like that. You have to be willing to spend time searching for wisdom. You have to cry out to God and call aloud in prayer for wisdom.

When is the last time you were in a situation where you were literally crying out to God in prayer saying, “God I don’t know what to do! I need your wisdom! Please show me the path you want me to take so I don’t do harm to myself and others. Give me wisdom or I’m afraid I will make a mess of my life.”

We need to learn, as Christians, to be desperate for the wisdom of God and to seek for it with all our hearts. I’m reminded of the stories Jesus told of people who searched diligently for things.

**:: Matthew 13:45-46**

**45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.  
46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.**

Jesus is making a comparison to what the Kingdom of Heaven is like and He says it’s like a merchant who is out looking passionately for fine pearls. This person doesn’t just stumble upon something, he is pursuing it. Every day he wakes up with one thought on his mind, “What do I have to do to find a huge, rare, valuable pearl?” And then he would go out on the water and spend enormous amounts of time and effort to hunt for a priceless pearl. Then when he finds it, he sold everything he had to buy it, because it was the most valuable thing he could get his hands on.

Then Jesus tells a story about a woman who lost a coin in her house.

**:: John 15:8-9**

**8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?  
9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’**

Here we have a situation where something gets lost in the house. Maybe you’ve lost your keys before, or you forgot where you put your airpods or the remote for the TV, and you spend your next half hour on a scavenger hunt!

*Illustration:* Last year I was at WetLands Water Park with the West Ridge football team where I spoke to the team during their team meal while everyone was taking a break from the pools and slides. On my way home I stopped to get gas and then headed to my house. When I arrived home I had several things I needed to get out of my truck and my arms were loaded down, plus I had some trash to get out of my truck and dispose of. Later that night I went to put my keys and my wallet in the cabinet where I always keep them. My keys were in my pocket, but my wallet was not. I figured I had left the wallet in the truck, so I went back out to get it. The wallet wasn’t there! I looked all over my truck. I looked all over my house. I looked in the clothes I put in the dirty clothes basket. Nothing. Next thing you know I’m back looking in the garage and I’m using a flashlight to

look under the seats in my truck as I retrace my steps since getting home. It's nowhere to be found.

I know I had my wallet when I left the water park because I paid for gas. So, I looked up the gas station and called them to see if a good Samaritan had turned in a wallet. Nothing. Now it's time to start thinking about cancelling credit cards! I was in full panic mode! Next thing you know, I'm praying, "God, please help me find my wallet!" Finally, I decided I was going to think back and retrace every step I had taken since I pulled into my garage. That's when it hit me...there was one place I had been that I hadn't looked- the trash can! I went to our big, green trash can outside the garage, opened the lid, and sitting right on top, with the water bottles I had thrown away, was my wallet! Crisis averted! I went inside with a smile on my face to celebrate with my family!

The woman in the story Jesus told had a similar experience. She had something that was valuable to her and she searched intently until she found the coin that was lost. It may have taken her all day, but she wasn't going to stop until that coin was found. She searched with great diligence. Proverbs is telling us to search for wisdom with that same kind of intensity.

- Call out
- Cry aloud
- Look for it as if for silver
- Search for it as if for hidden treasure

*Illustration:* I love the movie National Treasure. The Gates family has been searching for a hidden treasure for generations. Most people think it's a fairy tale, but Ben Gates hasn't lost hope that it's real. He dedicates his life to finding our nations greatest hidden treasure. And boy does it cost him! It costs him financially; it costs him relationally; it costs him his reputation (most people- even his own family- think he's crazy). But Ben doesn't give up. He searches the globe for clues to find the hidden treasure. And after years, Ben finally finds the treasure he's been seeking after. Check out this clip from the movie that shows his team seeing the treasure for the first time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCJ6tGBZiH8> From *National Treasure* (2004)

For us to gain the wisdom God desires us to have and live with, we must seek after it. So, where do we seek? Who do we ask for wisdom?

**:: Proverbs 2:6-8**

**6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.**

**7 He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,**

**8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.**

If you want wisdom, you go to the source.

**Wisdom is unequivocally from God.**

Look at the pronouns in this passage. God is sovereign and He alone gives wisdom that leads to eternal life. But I want you to notice what the wisdom God provides does for us:

- Brings success
- Acts as a shield
- Guards the course of the just
- Protects the way of His faithful ones

Wisdom comes from God. If you don't feel like you have the kind of wisdom in your life this passage is talking about, the book of James, in the New Testament, tells you the next step to take.

**:: James 1:6**

**5 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.**

Who can ask? Any of us! If you feel like you lack wisdom, you need to ask God. You need to seek wisdom from the One who gives it generously.

We talk about being disciples of Jesus here at Grace Fellowship. We believe we are personally responsible to carry out the final command of Jesus: Go and make disciples.

**A disciple of Jesus is someone who follows Jesus, is being changed by Jesus and is on mission with Jesus.**

This may be one of the areas you need to allow God to change you. Some of us go through life walking in our own wisdom. We take our life experiences and the valuable lessons we have learned from watching other people and we consider that the highest level of wisdom we can have. But God has wisdom that comes directly from Him to you. He doesn't hold out on you when you ask in faith.

God uses wisdom in our lives to protect us. When we apply wisdom we have fewer of those moments where we look back and say, "If only I had known," or "If only I had done something different."

**Wisdom keeps us from taking foolish paths.**

**Wisdom allows us to live pursuing justice and righteousness.**

**:: Proverbs 2:9-11**

**9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.**

**10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.**

**11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.**

Throughout the remainder of the chapter you will find words of caution about relationships with men and women who are on paths of destruction. We aren't going to talk about that today because those same conversations are going to happen in the coming weeks. We will focus more on them as we move through these letters God has written to us. In your own time, I encourage you to read this chapter for yourself this week every day and see what God says as warnings to us about relationships with people who have left the path of wisdom to walk on foolish paths.

As we close today I want us to take some time and pray. We are going to pray for God's wisdom in our lives and seek the things from Him that He desires for us to have as we walk in faithfulness.

- Guided prayer and reflection time