

Becoming a Woman of Proverbs

HER RELATIONSHIPS
To the LORD





Proverbs

HER RELATIONSHIPS: *To the LORD*

SIX LESSONS ON THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE WISE WOMAN'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LORD

I had blown it big time. I was ordering new kits for my employer. Each one cost \$900 but came with two sets inside. I had told my boss to order nine in all my figuring and calculating, but I now realized I only needed six. That was yesterday. I debated with myself. Had he already ordered it? Would a few extra sets be a big deal? Was it better to let it play out—or own up to my poor math skills? (By the way, math was in my job description, so it wasn't very comfortable!)

I didn't wrestle for too long. It was too much money just to let it fly, so I quickly composed an email detailing my mistake and clarifying the correct number to be ordered. It turned out that my boss hadn't gotten to it yet, so it all turned out fine, and he assured me he had also miscalculated on occasion. He didn't even make me feel guilty about making a mistake, and I was glad I didn't try to cover it up.

I've always been grateful that my boss is human and he has been able to relate to my mistakes. As terrible as I feel when I have something to confess, the relief is equally great when my error is out in the open and our relationship holds firm.

What an amazing God we have Who put on flesh, made His dwelling among us, and understands our weaknesses (John 1:14 and Hebrews 4:15)! It's incredible to me that the more I submit to and follow the Lord, the more I can look back and see the blessing He pours out, regardless of my failings and weaknesses.

This week we are looking at how a wise person relates to God. It is broken into six mini-lessons on each aspect, so you can spread them out if you like or double up; they're short!

SHE FEARS THE LORD

OBSERVATION

1. Read Proverbs 9:10 in the New Century Version (below), then copy it in the New King James or a version you are more familiar with.

"Wisdom begins with respect for the Lord, and understanding begins with knowing the Holy One." (NCV)

2. Finish these verses in the NKJV:

Proverbs 14:16: *A wise man fears and _____ but a _____ and is _____.*

Proverbs 15:33: *The _____ is the instruction of wisdom, and _____ is humility.*



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INTERPRETATION

Solomon would have been familiar with how his half-brother Absalom acted foolishly and in self-confidence (you can read it in 2 Samuel 15-18).

Absalom had been listening to people's complaints for four years and insinuating that he would be a better leader than King David. Telling his father he was going to Hebron to worship, he invited two hundred guests to go along with him, knowing it would look like massive support for his leadership. He also sent secret messengers throughout Israel to proclaim that he was king as if it had already happened!

As the story unfolds, it becomes clear to the reader that God is working things out for David in a way that establishes him even more firmly as God's anointed leader. Absalom's rebellion is short-lived, and he dies without honor.

3. How would Absalom's story have ended differently if he had feared the Lord and departed from evil?
4. Read 2 Chronicles 1:6. What was Solomon doing right before God gave him ultimate wisdom?
5. In 2 Chronicles 1:10, what is his attitude or posture as he asks for wisdom?
6. How does this illustrate the truth found in Proverbs 15:33?

APPLICATION

7. What are some things in life (such as fire, high voltage power lines, or wild animals) that you have a healthy respect for?
8. Take a moment to sit in awe of God's mighty power. Write down a few things that feel out of your control. Let the fear of the Lord saturate you as you think of these situations.



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SHE TRUSTS IN THE LORD

OBSERVATION

9. Match the couplets to the correct ending:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.
(Proverbs 16:20)

Commit your works to the Lord,

And your thoughts will be established.
(Proverbs 16:3)

He who heeds the word wisely will find good,

And lean not on your own understanding;
(Proverbs 3:5)

10. Define **commit**:

INTERPRETATION

11. What are some weaknesses or flaws of one's *own* understanding?

12. In whatever tasks one does throughout the day, what would it look like for someone to commit them to the Lord?

APPLICATION

13. Commit your next task to the Lord. Ask Him how He can use it in His kingdom.

14. Is there a verse that has stuck out to you? Write it out below. Take the time to memorize it this week. Heed that word wisely, and you will find good will follow.



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SHE IS EVER MINDFUL OF THE LORD

OBSERVATION

15. Read Proverbs 3:6 out loud three times. Which word stuck out to you? Write the verse out and make the word or phrase you noticed bigger.

INTERPRETATION:

Direct (*yashar*): *to straighten, even, make right or pleasant, or upright.* (Strong's definition)

16. Look up your word from question #15 in the dictionary. Write the definition here:

APPLICATION

17. Where is God in the way you go about your morning? In your afternoon? In your evening? Where will He be in your tomorrow? Acknowledge Him and ask Him to direct your paths.

SHE CONFESSES HER SIN

OBSERVATION

18. Fill in the blanks for Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV)

“He who _____ his sins will not _____, but whoever _____ and _____ them will have _____.”

19. Write two synonyms for **cover**:

20. Describe the opposite of **prosper**:

21. What does 1 John 1:9 say God is faithful to do if we confess our sins?



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22. What does **forsake** mean?

INTERPRETATION

23. What are one or more reasons why covering up mistakes or sins might cause someone to fail even worse down the road?

APPLICATION

Confess to God right now: Be blunt and honest about how you rebelled against God's way and tried to do it your way instead.

SHE SUBMITS TO THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE

OBSERVATION

24. Read Proverbs 1:2-3. The purpose of these proverbs is to know what?

25. To perceive what?

26. To receive what four things?

27. In 3:11, what should the son not despise?

28. What should he not detest?

INTERPRETATION

The Holman Bible dictionary (c 1991) defines **justice** as: *the order God seeks to reestablish in His creation where all people receive the benefits of life with Him.*

Judgment: *The Hebrew **mishpat** brings together the ideas of judging and ruling into a single concept focused on the authority of God as Sovereign over the nation of Israel and over creation. Thus He instituted divine law, rendered righteous verdicts based upon it, and enforced its requirements.*

Equity: *uprightness* (Strong's definition). My paraphrase would be *on the level or above board.*

29. Read the story of Solomon's wisdom with two women who couldn't agree in 1 Kings 3:16-27. How did Solomon demonstrate these three traits?



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30. **Chastening** is defined as:

APPLICATION

31. Where in your life do you have to make a judgment call or an important decision?

Pray:

Lord, I want to know wisdom and instruction,
 To perceive the words of understanding that come from You,
 To receive the instruction of wisdom. Help me to see where I need to give justice, make a sound judgment, and know what is right for each person I encounter;
 Heavenly Father, I do not despise Your chastening,
 Nor detest Your correction; show me any errant way and lead me on the path everlasting. Amen.

SHE CHOOSES THE LORD'S WAY/WISDOM

OBSERVATION

Read Proverbs 8:10-11:

*Receive my instruction, and not silver;
 And knowledge rather than choice gold;
 For wisdom is better than rubies,
 And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

32. Underline the things culture values.

33. Circle the contrasting ways of wisdom.

34. For Proverbs 7:24, highlight the commands:

*Now therefore, listen to me, my children;
 Pay attention to the words of my mouth...*

35. Whom do we listen to?

36. What do we pay attention to?



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INTERPRETATION

Read 2 Chronicles 9:22. If you want additional study, read all of chapter 9.

37. In terms of riches, such as silver, gold, or rubies, how did Solomon compare with other worldly kings?

38. Reread Proverbs 8:10-11. Which did Solomon say was better?

Hebrews 3:13-15 says, “...*exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’*”

39. How often were the believers to exhort or encourage each other?

APPLICATION

40. Ask God to soften your heart to hear and pay attention to what He has to say today. Record it when you hear it.

41. Bonus: How does God speak to you? In what format do you most often hear from Him? (Words, dreams, pictures, etc.)