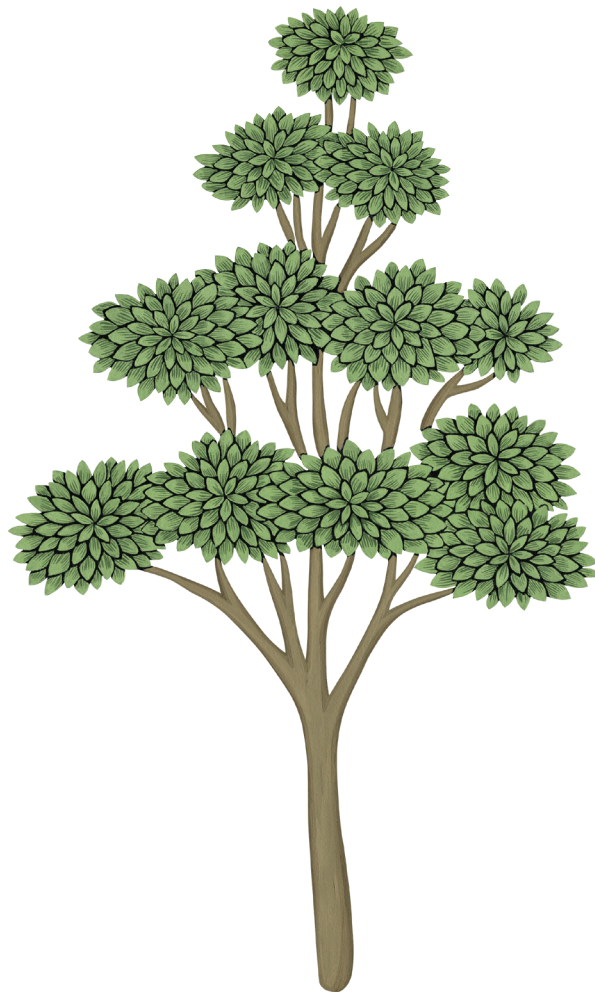
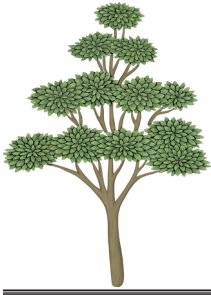


Proverbs

ENTICEMENT & WISDOM'S CALL





Proverbs

ENTICEMENT & WISDOM'S CALL

For many years my husband shaved every morning with a cream that came in a jar. I would watch each day as he would take the jar from the cabinet, carefully put two fingers in, and place the creamy white soap onto his face. His next step was to take the container and, with two fingers, smooth the white soap so it was perfectly level on top. I would laugh at him for taking as much time to level the soap as he did to shave his face.

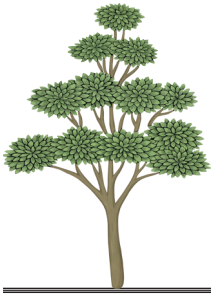
I have always been a rule follower, but I decided to mess with his process one morning. I took the jar and dug my finger in, drew a heart, and placed it back in the cabinet. I'm not sure what came over me, but I continued day after day to draw smiley faces, question marks, polka dots, etc.

It took my husband several months for that cream to be leveled and smooth once again. Both of us had a good laugh, and it certainly is a silly illustration, but I can honestly say it was temptation that led me to do it. How do I know this? Because I went back and forth about whether I should or not several times. My husband had not baited me, the jar and his process certainly had enticed me, but my sinful nature had taken over and "wanted to do what it wanted to do" no matter the outcome.

I have been tempted in many ways, big and small, and wisdom has indeed called my name to think twice before acting. Sometimes the flesh wins, and sometimes the Spirit that is within me wins.

I hear older people say, "I just say what is on my mind," or "I did it and didn't even give it a second thought." Isn't part of growing in our walk with Jesus, taking time to listen before acting? A literal second thought? A pause before answering or acting makes room to hear and heed wisdom's call.

*Thank You, Jesus, that You "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."
May I yield to Your daily leading and not my flesh. Amen*



Proverbs

ENTICEMENT & WISDOM'S CALL

Read Proverbs 1:8-19

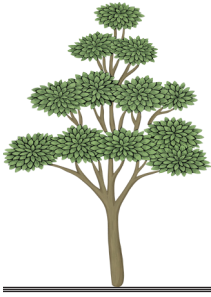
OBSERVATION - Match **enticements** to the verses: (The first one has been done for you.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <u> G </u> 1. v.8 What should you hear? | A. Do not consent |
| <u> </u> 2. v.8 Do not forsake? | B. Takes away its own life |
| <u> </u> 3. v.9 Where is the graceful ornament? | C. Possessions and spoil |
| <u> </u> 4. v.9 What is on your neck? | D. From their path |
| <u> </u> 5. v.10 When enticed? | E. On your head |
| <u> </u> 6. v.11 What do enticers say? | F. Evil |
| <u> </u> 7. v.12 How are they swallowed? | G. Instruction |
| <u> </u> 8. v.13 What do we find and fill our houses with? | H. Alive and whole |
| <u> </u> 9. v.15 Keep your foot from where? | I. Chains |
| <u> </u> 10. v.16 What do their feet run to? | J. Come with us |
| <u> </u> 11. v.19 Whoever is greedy for gain? | K. Law of your mother |

Read Proverbs 1:20-33

OBSERVATION - Match **wisdom's call** to the verses:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u> </u> 1. v.20 How does Wisdom call? | A. Wisdom will not answer |
| <u> </u> 2. v.20 Where does Wisdom call? | B. Aloud and raises her voice |
| <u> </u> 3. v.21 What does she speak? | C. The words of Wisdom |
| <u> </u> 4. v.22 What do fools hate? | D. Outside, open squares |
| <u> </u> 5. v.23 If we turn, what will be poured out? | E. You refused |
| <u> </u> 6. v.23 If we turn, what will be made known? | F. The spirit of Wisdom |
| <u> </u> 7. v.24 What happened when Wisdom called? | G. They will be left to their own ways and fancies |
| <u> </u> 8. v.25-26 Because we did not heed rebuke? | H. Slain and destroyed |
| <u> </u> 9. v.27-28 When terror, destruction and distress come? | I. Knowledge |
| <u> </u> 10. v.29-31 Because they did not choose the fear of the Lord? | J. Will dwell safely and be secure |
| <u> </u> 11. v.32 What will happen to the simple and fools? | K. Her words |
| <u> </u> 12. v.33 Whoever listens to wisdom? | L. Wisdom will laugh and mock |



Proverbs

ENTICEMENT & WISDOM'S CALL

INTERPRETATION

Proverbs uses four words throughout the book: learning, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. In English, they mean nearly the same thing, but in Hebrew they have four separate, distinct meanings.

Learning is the word *leqah* and it means *instruction or teaching*. Learning is information used at the moment, but when that moment passes, it is forgotten or unimportant.

Any information needed for later use or on a long-term basis is **knowledge** and it is the word *da'at*. Its Hebrew meaning is *perception or skill*; the facts and ideas will be used often or daily.

Wisdom is *information that leads to action*. It is actually *the ability to act based on knowledge*. Emphasis is on the **ABILITY**. We don't always choose God's way. The word for **wisdom** is *hakmot*.

Finally, the word **understanding** is *not only knowledge* but is also *the ability to pass on that knowledge*. You not only have to learn but hold onto that knowledge and use it so that you can then give it to others. The word in Hebrew is *bin*. It is to *perceive, discern, know (with the mind) give heed to, distinguish, consider, and have insight*.

Solomon, himself, had the gift of great wisdom that he passed to his sons. He unfortunately did not always walk in his gift. Fourteen scriptures in the Old and New Testament talk specifically about the wisdom of Solomon. 2 Chronicles 9:23 “*And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his **wisdom, which God had put in his heart.***”

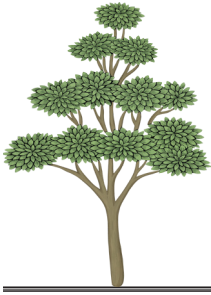
We too, if we are in Christ and have submitted our ways and will to Him, have been given great wisdom. The decision to answer wisdom's call daily is within our ability. If we choose folly, we are often left to live with our own consequences. It is never too late to turn and choose wisdom once again. In our passage this week, Proverbs 1:23 says, “***Turn at my rebuke;** Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my Words known to you.*”

And when we choose wisdom then we can be assured of God's grace and mercy!

2 Chronicles 30:9 says, “*...for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not **turn** His face from you **if you return to Him.***”

Turn back, Sweet Ladies, and see what God will do. His wisdom is available to all who ask.

1. Based on the **INTERPRETATION** of these passages, what are the four English words used throughout Proverbs?



Proverbs

ENTICEMENT & WISDOM'S CALL

2. Define **fool**, **foolish**, and **folly**. (Is your picture in the dictionary under this definition?)

3. Read 2 Chronicles 30:6-9 and write out verse 9.

4. What three things in verse 9 does God promise if we turn back to Him?

APPLICATION

1. Where are you foolish and not given to wisdom? Is it...

- How much TV you watch, or what you watch?
- What you are eating or drinking?
- Your mouth and language?
- Flirtations?
- Spending habits?
- Something else? _____

2. What is your plan to remove the foolish things in your life?

3. Do you hear wisdom calling you? Are you deaf to God's voice?

Praying and being in the Word is the best place to begin hearing His voice again. Confess where you have failed. Begin anew.