



Growth Group Curriculum Week 1 – January 9, 2022 – Proverbs 2:1-11

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

Over the next eight weeks we are going to be taking up the topic of wisdom. We begin in Proverbs and then will work our way through different texts in both the Old and New Testament, reflecting on what it looks like to walk in the path of wisdom.

The book of Proverbs is unlike any other book in the Bible. *A proverb is a short pithy saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice.* The Biblical proverbs remind us of the importance of centering our entire being on God. They tell us what we are to do once we trust our lives to God. The book of Proverbs offers us insights on how to live a wise life.

Proverbs 2:1-11 speaks of both our pursuit of wisdom, as well as the way in which God gives us wisdom. We work to discover wisdom and yet God is the one who gives us wisdom. We are told that if we search for wisdom, then we will find it. But we are also told that God is the one who simply grants wisdom. This proverb provides a paradox about wisdom. This paradox “gives us enough incentive and enough assurance to pursue the knowledge of God all our life long.” (Tim Keller)

The text hinges on the word “if” which is found numerous times in verses 1-4. If the son does certain things then he will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. We are all given a choice. We can pursue the path of wisdom and find life and joy and hope or we can choose to not walk in the way of wisdom and find isolation and anxiety and frustration.

Verses 5-11 show us that a wise person discerns how God cares for God’s people. A foolish person cannot see this, but a wise person notices the way in which God provides and protects. As wisdom enters our hearts, our souls are pleased and we find ourselves at peace.



Exploring the Text

PROVERBS 2:1-11

2 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 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. **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. **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.

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) What was the highlight of your Christmas or New Year's?
- 2) How do wisdom and knowledge differ? How are they related?
- 3) Share about a wise person that you know or have known. What was it about them that made them wise?
- 4) Can you think of a time in your life when you “called out for insight or understanding (v.3)? What were the circumstances? Did you hear anything in response?
- 5) Proverbs 2 tells us that if we look for wisdom, and search for it, we will “understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.” We also read, earlier in Proverbs, that the “fear of the Lord” is the beginning of wisdom. What does it mean to you to “fear the Lord?” Why do you think this imagery is used at different times in the Bible?
- 6) How do you reconcile the paradox that we are to pursue wisdom and yet verse 6 tells us that it is God who gives wisdom? What is our role and what is God's role as it relates to wisdom?
- 7) What does it mean, in verse 7, when we read that knowledge will be “pleasant to our soul?”
- 8) Is there a place in your life right now where you could use some “wisdom” or “discernment?”

