

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 2

Proverbs 1

Proverbs 1

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word

Objective To introduce verse-by-verse study to the students through the study of Proverbs 1 and show concepts of wisdom and folly.

Key Verses

Proverbs 1—Main Teaching Passage
1 Kings 3:1-14

Memory Verse - Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Proverbs 11:14.

On the board write the words “Wise” and “Fool.” Tell the class that we are going to make our own list that describes what wise people are like and who foolish people are like. Have the students give descriptions of wise people (what do wise/foolish people do?) and fools. When you have compiled a good list, ask the students if they want to be wise people or fools?

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK Proverbs 1 sets the stage for the whole book. The first seven verses outline the theme for the book of Proverbs, then the remaining verses encourage us to seek wisdom and then to embrace it, turning from the words of the wicked and heeding the words of wisdom itself.

Verses 1-7 introduce us to the author, Solomon, and also the reason that these proverbs are being collected. The Proverbs are given to us to gain wisdom and instruction, so that the simple (unlearned) can grow in learning, and so that we can all learn what is prudent, right, just, and fair. These verses also introduce us to the two paths that we can walk down, the path of wisdom and the path of folly. We are told in 1:7 that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and instruction. We are told very clearly that we can be the fool or we can be a wise man. Therefore, we should do whatever we can to grow in wisdom. Verses 8-19 shows the path of the fool. The one who listens to the words of wicked men will end up just like those he listens to. If you spend time with violent people, violence will likely come upon you.

Verses 20-33 personify wisdom. They make wisdom a person or a character who actively speaks to them. She (wisdom) tells us that if we have been the fool, we can repent and reject foolishness to seek after wisdom. If we don't we will eat the fruit of our foolish labor and reap the whirlwind (Hosea 8:7). The one who listens to however will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my
life?

LOOK

The book of Proverbs is a guide for practical, everyday living. It is a book which presents the right and wrong ways to live, and then lets us choose what we are going to do with the information it has provided. Proverbs is going to repeatedly set up a scenario and then will tell us how the wise man acts in that situation, and also how the fool behaves when faced with the same problem. In that way Proverbs is like a mirror: it shows you how the wise man and the fool act, and then asks you, "Which one are you? The wise man or the fool?"

Solomon gives us the key to the whole book in verse 7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." You might remember that in 1 Kings 3, the Lord appears to Solomon and offers to give him whatever he asks. Solomon responds saying that only the Lord has true understanding and he asks that the Lord would make him wise to rule over the people of Israel and to be able to

LOOK (Continued)

judge right from wrong. Solomon knew that wisdom was more valuable than gold and jewels and more important than a long healthy life. Solomon became the wisest man on the earth, and here in the book of Proverbs, he is attempting to share some of that godly wisdom with us. After explaining why he is writing the book to us, Solomon starts his wise counsel by telling us who we should and shouldn't be hanging around. In verses 10-19, we read a simple, yet profound truth: if we hang around 'bad' people, bad things are probably going to happen to us. We read that if violent people ask us to go with them to hurt others and to steal their belongings, we shouldn't go with them. If we do, eventually violence will come upon us as well. Solomon is telling us that if we hang around with bullies they will probably eventually bully us. If we hang around with liars they will probably lie to us. If we sit next to the kid in class who always gets in trouble for talking, eventually they will be talking to us when they are not supposed to, and we will get in trouble too. By the same token, if we spend time with people who love God, who honor their parents, who tell the truth, we will be encouraged to do the same thing.

Finally in this chapter we see that God wants us to walk in the way of the wise. Solomon creates a character, a woman called wisdom who is crying out for us to listen to her. She warns us of the problems we face when we don't, and encourages us with the benefits of prudent living.

TOOK

As a class, memorize Proverbs 1:7.

Have the students think about the people that they associate with. Ask them if those friends are encouragers or discouragers. Are they the kinds of people that Proverbs tells us to spend time with?

Ask the students, "How does the fear of the Lord encourage us to be wise?"

Pray: Thank the Lord that He grants wisdom to those that ask without finding fault. Ask Him for direction and guidance to walk prudently through the world in a way that honors Him.

Parent Question: Why did Solomon write the book of Proverbs?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Proverbs 1 by Chuck Smith

The first six verses are sort of a preface to the book, as authors many times write a preface to their work.

The Proverbs of Solomon the son of David, the king of Israel (Pro 1:1);

When Solomon first came into the throne of his father David, the kingdom of Israel had come really to the zenith of its glory, of power. It was at that point one of the strongest kingdoms in the world. Blessed of God mightily. And when Solomon became king, God said unto Solomon, "Ask of Me what you will." And Solomon prayed unto the Lord and said, "Lord, I ask You that You would give me wisdom in governing over these Your people." And so the Lord said unto Solomon, "Inasmuch as you did not ask for fame or riches or honor, but you asked for wisdom, I will grant unto you that which you have asked, but I will also give to you that which you did not ask. I will give to you wealth and honor and glory." And so the scripture said that God gave wisdom unto Solomon.

Unfortunately, in Solomon's later years, he did not really follow his own counsels and advice that he had given here to his son in the first eight chapters. It's sort of ascribed or defined, "To my son." And he did not even follow his own advice. He did not follow after wisdom and we see the tragic results of it as is reflected in his writing of the book of Ecclesiastes, a man who had everything and yet had nothing. A man who had everything in life that anybody could possibly wish for, and yet cried out against the emptiness and frustration of life, because he did not continue in wisdom. We'll get to that a little bit more as we get down to verse 7.

But Solomon was a very prolific writer. He wrote several songs. He wrote 3,000 proverbs. He wrote books on biology, zoology, and many different fields. People came from all over the world to sit and to hear his wisdom, as he would expound on plants and animals and things of this nature. So these proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, the king of Israel. Now the purpose of a proverb is

To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding (Pro 1:2);

For the most part, they are put in such a way as they can fasten their selves upon your memory. In little words of contrast or in such a way picturesque or compared to, so that they really fix themselves in your mind. And the purpose of the proverb is to know wisdom, to receive instruction.

To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. Now a wise man will hear, and will increase his learning; a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings (Pro 1:3-6).

So now he begins with the proverb with this first and foremost.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: [in contrast] but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Pro 1:7).

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning." Now, the word beginning here in Greek, or in Hebrew rather, the Hebrew here means sort of the head or the sum total. In other words, the fear of the Lord, this is knowledge all wrapped up. It's the summation of knowledge, the fear of the Lord. We come to chapter 9 and he says again there, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge or the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). It sounds like he's saying the same thing but he's not.

In chapter 9, verse 10, the word beginning there is a different Hebrew word, which does mean more what our word beginning means, is the first steps of wisdom. So the fear of the Lord is the first step, but it is also the total.

Now, what is meant by the fear of the Lord? As you get into chapter 8, verse 13, "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil." That's what the fear of the Lord is all about, to hate evil. So this is really the beginning, the sum of real knowledge, is that of hating evil. It's the first steps towards wisdom, the hating of evil.

We live in a very tolerant age, and unfortunately, our tolerance level has become very high. We've become very tolerant of evil. What we are really lacking today is a real hatred of evil. We've been taught, you know, we're not to hate anything, and so hate has been put as one of those intolerant words and people who have hatred are put in a category, so we want to accept everybody. "Live and let live," you know, and to develop a tolerance towards evil things. Evil is always seeking to be tolerated. It always is looking for you to compromise and to accept it. The real beginning and the sum of knowledge is really a hatred of evil because God hates evil.

If I am to fellowship with God, I must also hate evil. I cannot tolerate evil in my life if I'm to have true fellowship with God. So, the fear of the Lord is the summation of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

My son (Pro 1:8),

And he addresses this whole first part to, "My son."

hear the instruction of thy father, forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not (Pro 1:8-10).

All of the invitations of evil that we are presented with week by week, but don't consent. If sinners entice thee, consent not.

If they say, Come with us (Pro 1:11),

And, of course, these guys are really real robbers and all.

let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privately for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down to the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast our lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way of them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood (Pro 1:11-16).

Now we have an interesting little proverb, and I don't know just why it's put right in this particular place. But he said,

Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird (Pro 1:17).

Now if you're going to try and catch birds, if you set the net right out while they're watching you, it's in vain. They won't come into it. But then he goes right back to the wicked.

They lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privately for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which takes away the life of the owners thereof. Wisdom crieth without; she utters her voice in the streets: She cries in the chief place of the concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she utters her words, saying (Pro 1:18-21),

Now wisdom at this point, from verse 20, he gets into a discourse on wisdom, and he personifies wisdom. Makes it a... actually personifies, and some see in the personification either God or Jesus Christ, but there are certain dangers in this likening it to God or Jesus Christ, as you'll discover as we get further into the personification of wisdom. But here again, the personification of wisdom. As she cries in the streets, she says,

How long, ye simple ones, will you love your simplicity? and the scorners delight in scorning, and [how long will the] fools hate knowledge? Turn at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and you have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But you have set at nought all of my counsel, and you would not heed my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear comes as desolation, and your destruction comes as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you. Then shall they call unto me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD (Pro 1:22-29):

So the scriptures speak of the calamity that will ultimately call to those who reject wisdom, which is to hate evil. Ultimately, calamity will come. God declares that when the calamity comes, then there would be no one to help you.

They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of the fool shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from the fear of evil (Pro 1:30-33).