

The Benefits Of Wisdom

Proverbs 3:3-35

MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A sheet each of red and green construction paper and scissors.

The God’s Love Sunglasses template for each child, poster board, scissors, markers and red or blue cellophane.

A large sheet of butcher paper and markers.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Stop to Listen to the Lord!

For this activity you will need a sheet of red construction paper and a sheet of green construction paper. Cut out a large circle shape from each sheet. Hand out the two “stop” and “go” signs to a volunteer in your class. Have the rest of the children form a line. Tell them that we are all going to pretend to drive a car around the room. But it is very important to obey the traffic signs. Red means stop and green means go. Let the children “drive” their pretend cars around the room. Have your sign volunteer switch the signs often.

After playing for a few minutes have the children gather in a circle. Ask them a few questions about the activity. Ask questions like, “Why do we have traffic signs? Why do we have rules? What happens if people don’t obey the rules? What good things happen when we do obey the rules? Can you think of some good rules that will protect us?” Explain that God has given us His word to lead and direct us. He loves us and wants what is best for us so when we

listen to His wisdom and obey Him then good things will happen in our lives. **Good things come from following God's wisdom.**

LESSON TIME!

Today we're going to look at Proverbs chapter 3. It is one of the most precious chapters in the entire book. Some call it the wisdom chapter. What is wisdom? Why does God's Word say it is more precious than gold and rubies? Why does His Word say we need it? How do we get it? What is it going to do in our lives? The book of Proverbs answers all of these questions.

We have been learning a lot about wisdom and we also find out that God has a lot to say about wisdom in the Bible. Today we are going to discover that there are many benefits that come from living our lives according to God's wisdom. Benefits are good things that happen in our lives. We are going to learn today that **Good things come from following God's wisdom.**

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

We begin our study by learning about how God shows us His will and plans for our lives. We find out here that we first of all need to trust in the Lord with all of our hearts. We can always trust Him to be faithful. He is for us and would never do anything that would harm us. He may allow certain things to come into our lives to help us to learn how to be more like Jesus, but He would never do anything to hurt His children.

Next we see that we should never lean on our own understanding. Maybe we are faced with a really important decision. We should

never try to figure it out on our own without praying and asking the Lord what He thinks about it. If we rely on our own thinking and understanding about something then we will only get into trouble.

Then we are told to acknowledge the Lord in all of our ways. Do we understand all of the time that the Lord is with us and is interested in every detail of our lives? He is! We need to acknowledge His presence in our hearts and commit our ways to Him.

So if we trust in the Lord, we do not need to worry; we can go directly to Him in every situation. He says that He will direct our paths. Let us seek Him in everything that we want to do and He will lead and guide us. It is wise to seek Him. One of the benefits of wisdom is receiving direction from the Lord. **Good things come from following God's wisdom.**

PROVERBS 3:13-18

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding;

For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.

What do you think wisdom is? Is it the same as “knowing” something? The dictionary says “knowledge” is being acquainted with the facts, that you are familiar with something from experience. Like knowing how to make your bed. Or knowing that you should not put your hand on a hot stove. Or knowing how to spell the word OBEY.

Then the dictionary says that wisdom is doing something with that knowledge. It means that you take the knowledge that is in your mind and apply it to your life. It means being able to compare the facts in your mind and make a “judgment,” or a decision, about your own life and behavior.

So you know how to make a bed. Would it be wise to make your bed every morning when you got up? Would it be “wise” to never put your hand on a hot stove? Would it be “wise” to O-B-E-Y instead of just saying “I will, I will!” Every decision you make in life will show whether you have wisdom or not. (Also see Proverbs 20:11).

Proverbs 3 is asking us to desire to be wise in this life, no matter how old we are. A new car or computer or bike or anything else we really, really want this year cannot compare with having wisdom. Those things cannot give us long life or help us become richer. Wisdom does that. We are told to desire it more than anything else. Wisdom will bless our lives. We will be much richer men and women when we grow up if we are filled with God’s wisdom.

Verse 17 says that wisdom’s ways are peaceful and pleasant: it is a tree of life. We will be blessed to have wisdom in our lives. Verse 14 says wisdom is better than the stock market! That means you should invest your heart, mind, soul, and body (everything you have to give) into “getting” wisdom. How can we “get” wisdom, you might ask? Well, let’s see where it comes from first of all, so we will know where to go to get it. **Good things come from following God’s wisdom.**

God's Love Sunglasses

For this craft you will need the enclosed template, poster board, scissors, markers and red or blue cellophane. Cut out a 6"x 20" piece of poster board for each child. Fold the poster board in half to make a 6"x 10" piece. Use the template as a pattern for the glasses. Make sure that the edge of the "nose piece" is on the folded edge of the poster board. Cut out according to the pattern. Unfold to make a pair of glasses. Cut out the center hearts.

Using small squares of red or blue cellophane glue onto the inside rim of the glasses. Make sure to leave enough room on the squares to glue onto the glasses. Allow the children to decorate the glasses using markers or stickers. You can also have the children write Proverbs 3:5,6 on the glasses to remind them that as we acknowledge the Lord, He will show us the path on which to walk.

PROVERBS 3:19-20

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens;

By His knowledge the depths were broken up, and clouds drop down the dew.

God's wisdom was responsible for all of creation. If not for God's wisdom none of us would even be here. God has all the wisdom of the whole universe. Through His Holy Spirit He blesses and gives wisdom to those who ask. He used wisdom to create the universe and the earth too. (See also Proverbs 8:22-31.)

True wisdom is the mind of God. Does not the Bible say to put on the mind of Christ? When we put on the mind of Christ, we will make good decisions every day. We will begin to love the Father as Jesus loves the Father and serve others as Jesus did. We need God's wisdom to properly serve Him.

We need wisdom to be able to walk in this world and live the way that God wants us to. If we ask God to share His wisdom with us, do you think He will? He invites us to have it. We read in James chapter 1 that when we lack wisdom all we need to do is to call upon Him. He will then give us all of the wisdom we need. So are you having a difficult time making the right choices and doing the right things? Just call out to God to receive His wisdom. **Good things come from following God's wisdom.**

PROVERBS 3:21-35

My son, let them not depart from your eyes—keep sound wisdom and discretion;

So they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck.

Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble.

When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet.

Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;

For the LORD will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.

Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you have it with you.

Do not devise evil against your neighbor, for he dwells by you for safety's sake.

Do not strive with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm.

Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways;

For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, but His secret counsel is with the upright.

The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just.

Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.

The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools.

Proverbs 3:21 talks about sound judgment (wisdom) and discernment (discretion). Those are more words that mean wisdom. Discretion is to see or understand, to detect, and to identify. The Word of God is clear, do not let wisdom out of your sight.

Is not the goal of our life to love God, to serve Him, and to love others? To serve others? How could we do all the things in His Word without His help? That's why He wants to share His wisdom with us!

Verses 22-26 are all good verses that show us benefits of wisdom. We find that wisdom will be life to our souls. It will be grace around our necks. We will walk safely in our way and our feet won't stumble. We won't be afraid of things. We will sleep well.

The Lord will be our confidence. These are just a few of the many benefits of God's wisdom. **Good things come from following God's wisdom.**

Earlier in the chapter in verse 7, the Lord gave us a warning to remember: "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil." How do we know if we are being wise? James 3:17 (also read verses 13-18) gives us some very helpful hints about God's wisdom. If we memorize that list, we will be able to tell if we are walking in His ways.

Our verse in Proverbs 3 also gives us a good "to do" list. Verse 27 says to do good to people. Our parents, teachers, pastors and neighbors and family members all deserve to have kindness poured out on them. Verse 28 says, "be generous." Share today!

We can see wisdom is VERY important, isn't it? It teaches us how to treat other people; it helps us make good decisions every day; and verse 33 says He blesses our house because wisdom lives there. Verse 35 says, "the wise inherit honor!" Remember verse 14 and 15 said that wisdom is better than if you had inherited gold, silver or rubies! Let's remember to thank the Lord for wisdom. Thank Him for blessing us with it and for the fact that it comes from Him. Also thank Him for the power that it has to help our life bless others.

You can never go wrong when you follow God's plan for your life. He knows best since He made us. Our lives will be great if we will do what He has planned for us. Remember, acknowledge the Lord in all your ways, and He will direct your paths.

Wisdom's Benefits

You will need a large sheet of butcher paper and markers. At the top of the paper write, "Wisdom's Benefits." Have the children review the passage and pick out how many benefits can be found. Go around the room and ask who can find a benefit. When they answer have them write their answer on the list. Post the list on your bulletin board or wall and refer back to it in coming weeks as we study Proverbs.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for providing wisdom and the good things in our lives that come with it. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

