

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 “stop” and “go” signs to a volunteer in your class. Ask the rest of the children to 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. Tell your sign volunteer to switch the signs often.

After playing for a few minutes, ask 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, 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. 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? How will wisdom affect our lives? The book of Proverbs answers all these questions.

When we set aside our own ways and make a choice to let God's wisdom direct our lives, we will live our lives as God intended and enjoy His rich blessings. **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.

If we want God to direct our paths, we must put our trust in Him. Trust comes easy when you "know" God. If you are having difficulty with "trust," get to know God more. You will discover God is for you; never against you. "All things are working together for good" for those of us who love God. "Goodness" and "mercy" will follow us all the days of our life. We can safely trust in God.

Second, we are not to lean on our own understanding. Leaning on our own understanding and wisdom can get us into trouble. We need God's wisdom.

Third, we are admonished to acknowledge the Lord in all of our ways. God wants to be first in our hearts. In every decision and direction we take, are His will and His ways first priority?

God promises if we trust Him, do not lean on our own understanding, and acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will direct our paths. What a promise! It is God's desire to lead us and protect us. It is God's desire that we experience a fully blessed life! **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.

Do you remember the difference between knowledge and wisdom? The dictionary describes knowledge as being acquainted with the facts or being familiar with something through experience. You know "how" to make your bed. You know you should not put your hand on a hot fire. The dictionary describes wisdom as the application of knowledge—"doing something about what you know"—making a judgment or a decision about your life and

behavior. Every decision you make, every action you take, will show whether or not you have wisdom (See Proverbs 20:11).

Proverbs 3 exhorts us to pursue wisdom above all else. A new car or computer or bike or anything else we really, really want this year cannot compare with having wisdom. God's wisdom will bless our lives. Peace, joy, and blessing can come to the person who has gained wisdom and understanding. **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.

By His wisdom, God created the whole universe. (See also Proverbs 8:22-31.) How much wisdom did it take to create our universe? God offers to share His wisdom with His prize creation—man. What are we troubled, confused about? Is the God who created the heavens and the earth able to help? He is able and *willing*! God has given us His promise. He will give us the wisdom we lack, if we ask: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5). So, when you are having a difficult time making the right choices and doing the right things, call out to God and 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.

How important is wisdom in day-to-day, moment-to-moment living? Solomon exhorted his son to not let wisdom out of his sight.

Verse 21 talks about sound wisdom and discretion (discernment). Discretion is to see or understand, to detect, and to identify. In verses 22-26, we see the benefits of wisdom. 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 will not 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, verse 7, we are warned: "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil." How do we know if we are truly wise? James 3:13-18 (verse 17, most specifically) gives us a good picture of God's wisdom. If we hold the light of those verses up against our life, we will know if we are walking in His wisdom.

Proverbs 3:27 says, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due...". Can you think of a good list? Our parents, teachers, pastors, neighbors, and family members all deserve to have kindness poured out on them. Verse 28 says, "be generous." How are you at sharing and giving to others?

Wisdom is a great value to us—teaching us how to live and treat other people, helping us make good decisions. In verse 33, we are told that God will bless the house of the just—the house where God's wisdom is practiced. Verse 35 says the wise inherit glory (honor)! In contrast, shame is the legacy of fools.

The God who made us has a plan for us. Let us pursue His wisdom! May we value His instructions to us more than gold, silver, or rubies and come to experience the great blessings of living life as God designed it to be lived.

As we trust Him with our whole heart, lean not on our own understanding and counsel, and acknowledge Him in all our ways, we will experience the joy of a life led by God.

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, ask them to 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 His promise to direct us and freely give us His wisdom. May we walk in His wisdom and experience all the blessings God intended to bestow on our lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

