Lesson 1  
June 7, 2020

THE CALL OF WISDOM

Lesson Scripture: Proverbs 1  
Focus Scripture: Proverbs 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33  

Key Verse: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33 (NRSV)

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
2 For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight,
3 for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity;
4 to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young—…

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
8 Hear, my child, your father’s instruction, and do not reject your mother’s teaching;…

10 My child, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

20-22  
20 Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.
21 At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
22 “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?”

32-33  
32 “For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them;
33 but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”
VOCABULARY

- **Wisdom** – The ability to judge rightly.
- **Righteousness** – Behaving according to God’s Word.
- **Equity** – Acting fairly.
- **Shrewdness** – Cleverness (at judging people or situations).
- **Prudence** – Carefulness.
- **Entice** – To persuade.
- **Scoffers** – Those who ridicule others.
- **Complacency** – To be satisfied.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Barnes was deeply concerned about the recent disappearance of three 15-year-old girls in a nearby community. But he had promised to let his daughters go to the school dance.

“Carla and Carmen, we expect you to be home by your curfew of 10:00 p.m. This means no matter what your friends decide to do after the school dance, you must come home.”

“Yes, daddy,” they said in unison. Carla and Carmen kissed their father on the cheek as they rushed out the door.

Carla and Carmen met with their friends at the dance. They enjoyed dancing and having fun. An hour before the dance ended, Carla and Carmen left with their friend to go to hang out at the local ice cream shop.

“Mario, what time is it?” Carmen was worried about missing their curfew.

“9:30,” Mario replied.

“Carla, we have to leave. We promised dad to be home by
curfew.” She stood up and grabbed her sister by the arm. Carla yanked her arm away from Carmen.

“I’m not ready to leave yet. I still have some of my ice cream sundae left.” Carla continued eating.

“Ok, I’m leaving. I hope you have a good story to tell dad about missing curfew. Bye.”

Who made the right choice? What do you think happened when Carla returned home after her curfew? In today’s lesson, we are going to discuss the importance of using wisdom when making life choices.

**BIBLE STORY**

Solomon was the third king of Israel and the son of King David. When God said God would give Solomon whatever Solomon wanted, he asked for wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-14). God honored Solomon’s request but also gave him great riches, power, and peace. Solomon wrote most of the proverbs in this book. Proverbs is a book of wise sayings to teach us how to live godly lives. Solomon wanted to teach us how to be understanding, just, and fair in all we do (vs. 1:1-4). He was directing his words to youth, but all people can learn from his wisdom. We need to apply godly wisdom to our daily lives. Wisdom is found in God’s Word.

Verse 7 states, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” The most important factor in gaining wisdom and having a successful life is a deep reverence for God. This means demonstrating a loving respect for God that includes submission to God’s authority, and the commands contained in scripture. Fools are those who hate knowledge and correction, are quick to start arguments, rage with anger, and trust in themselves rather than God.

God has placed people in our lives to guide us. When we refuse to listen to our parents or others who are offering warnings and wisdom about proper life decisions (8), we can
end up experiencing awful consequences. This is why in verse 10, Solomon warns not to let others entice us. Sin seems so attractive until we are faced with the consequences.

In verses 20 through 33, wisdom is personified (given human qualities). Wisdom becomes a prophetess and teacher. Wisdom is God speaking and revealing God’s self to us. Wisdom is in the streets, corners, and cities shouting for the “simple ones” to stop and listen to godly advice (vs. 20-22). The simple ones refuse to receive advice from God. They are prideful and arrogant. We each have a decision to make, listen to God or follow ourselves. The decision will impact the direction of our lives and future (vs. 32-33).

LIFE APPLICATION

Wise Versus Foolish

Think about three people who have given you wise advice. Write down the advice they gave you under the Wise heading. Now, think about the opposite behavior for each and write it down under the Foolish heading. Circle which ones you chose to follow.

| WISE                                      | VS                                    | FOOLISH
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The Bible is the guide for godly living. All the wisdom we need is contained in God’s Word. Many people in the Bible would be considered wise. Read the following scriptures and note why the person was considered wise. These scriptures can be models in our own pursuit of wisdom.

1. Exodus 31:1-5 ____________________________
2. Deuteronomy 34:9

3. 1 Samuel 25:3ff

4. Acts 6:1-10


What scriptures do you often refer to when making life choices? Do you have a favorite scripture?

**SUMMARY**

Our parents have been given wisdom to know how to raise us. When we obey our parents, we are obeying God. God desires for believers to use wisdom. We can only gain wisdom through obeying God’s Word. If we desire to have wisdom, we can ask God. The Holy Spirit is present with us to give us guidance. It is our choice to listen or rebel.

**CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we rejoice and thank you for giving us wisdom. Please help us to make right decisions and live according to your Word. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” (#282 - AME Church Hymnal)