Proverbs 8:8-14

8 All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
9 They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge.
10 Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;
11 for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.
12 I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion.
13 The fear of the Lord is hated of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

14 I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight, I have strength.

17-21

17 I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.
18 Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and prosperity.
19 My fruit is better than gold,
even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.
20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,
21 endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.
VOCABULARY

- **Wisdom** – The ability to judge rightly.
- **Righteousness** – Behaving according to God’s Word.
- **Instructions** – Teachings.
- **Arrogance** – Pride, overconfidence.
- **Prudence** – Carefulness.
- **Perverted** – Deviating greatly from what is accepted as right or proper.
- **Prosperity** – Well-being, success.
- **Justice** – Doing that which is right and fair.

INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Barnes shouted from downstairs, “Scott, don’t forget you promised our neighbor to assemble his daughter’s bicycle this afternoon.”

“Okay, mom. Thanks for reminding me.” But Scott had already planned to work a couple extra hours at his job on Saturday afternoon. He went into Carla’s bedroom and sat on the floor.

“Carla, I totally forgot I was supposed to go and assemble Mr. Tim’s daughter’s bike. I have to go to work. I need the money. Can you do it?”

“How can I? I don’t know how to assemble a motorized bicycle. It is far too complicated for me to do. You’re the one who made the promise, not me.” Carla continued reading her magazine.

“Okay, I’ll do it myself! If I do it quickly enough, I can still go to work.” Scott jumped up quickly and left the house.

Scott completed assembling the bike for Mr. Tim’s physically challenged daughter in less than an hour. Mr. Tim was very
happy Scott was able to do the work. But afterwards, the bike’s wheel came off. Fortunately, his daughter did not harm herself since she was wearing a helmet and harness. Mr. Tim called Mrs. Barnes and described to her what happened.

On Saturday evening when Scott returned home from work his mother told him Mr. Tim called. “I feel so bad about that, mom. I was in such a hurry to go to work I did not pay attention to the instruction manual. I thought I could do it on my own since I work on bicycles all the time. I was wrong. I’ll go and apologize to Mr. Tim and repair the bicycle tomorrow. This time I’ll read the instructions.”

Why is it important to follow instructions? What are some of the consequences we can suffer from being prideful and arrogant? In today’s lesson, we learn that adhering to instructions allows us to gain wisdom and act righteously.

BIBLE STORY

Wisdom is once again personified. But instead of being a “seducing woman” like in chapter 7, she is a woman who provides guidance and helps us to succeed. Wisdom is a gift from God ever since creation. All that wisdom speaks is right and just. If we gain wisdom, our behavior will be righteous and just.

Adhering to instructions helps us gain wisdom. Where are instructions for life found? The Bible holds all the instructions we need for life. Along with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can obtain God’s knowledge and wisdom. Godly instruction and wisdom is more valuable than any worldly materials. Even silver and gold are not as valuable as wisdom. Nothing we want can compare to wisdom.

If we truly desire to have wisdom, knowledge, and instruction, a reverence and love for God are necessary. We have to turn away from all evil. How can we say we are seeking godly wisdom
but still act prideful, arrogant, and curse all the time? These behaviors do not demonstrate to others our reverence and love for God. Moreover, these behaviors can only lead to destruction. Wisdom, knowledge, and instruction lead to a fruitful life. Our lives will be marked by righteousness and fairness towards all. And God will absolutely bless us.

**LIFE APPLICATION**

Job exemplified wisdom throughout his life. Read Job chapters 1 and 42. We are going to divide the class up into two groups. Group one will read Job 1. Note how Job demonstrated wisdom. Group two will read Job 42 and note how God blessed Job.

Using Google, research the current value of an ounce of gold and an ounce of silver. Which one is more valuable? If you had to decide between an ounce of gold or silver, which would you chose? What would you be willing to do to receive it? What would you do if you had to deny or reject God, before you could get the gold or silver?
God requires us to use fair and just behavior when interacting with others. This shows our reverence and love for God. What does being fair and just mean to you? Write down one word in each arrow. Write the word God in the heart.

SUMMARY

We demonstrate wisdom by listening to and obeying God’s good advice in scripture. This means valuing wisdom above all else, including the materialistic things of the world. We have to be fair and just in our dealings with others. All evil must come to an end. The choice is clear. If we choose wisdom, God blesses us.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: Creator, we love and reverence you. Your Word contains good advice. We need good advice for our lives. Help us to be fair and just in all we do. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “He Leadeth Me” (#395 - AME Church Hymnal)