

When Wisdom is Lacking

FAMILY THEME: The Need for Wisdom STUDY TEXT: Proverbs 8:5; 12:15; 29:16; 3:21-23
December 9, 2018

Proverbs 8:5

Gain wisdom from God's Word and share it with the simple. We all start out as simpletons. Newborns do not know much. They cannot even carry on a conversation. However, we expect them to grow and learn. We need not be mathematicians to help grade-schoolers learn about multiplication. We just need to be patient and remember the multiplication that we learned once upon a time. It is the same way with wisdom. We do not have to be infallible or all wise. We just need to be gaining wisdom from God's Word and sharing it with those who need it. **Discussion:**

- How can we share wisdom with others without sounding pompous?
- What are some pieces of wisdom our culture needs to put into practice?

Proverbs 12:15

Listen to God's Word and set a good example for fools. Fools do not want to listen or change. We should discuss this with those who are close to us, with people who love us enough to tell us the truth. How well do we listen to others? It may indicate how well we are ready to listen to God and follow His counsels. If we are wise we will make it our practice to listen to God's instructions and put them into practice each day. That will allow us to set a good example for people who live foolishly. **Discussion:**

- Why do people not want to listen to and submit to God's Word?
- How might God use our daily lifestyle and choices to speak to foolish people around us?

Proverbs 29:16

Turn away from sin and pray for God to convict those who are evil. The Lord and the Law must convince the wicked. It is not our job. God will take care of convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). It is crucial that we turn from all sin. We cannot afford to be numbered among the wicked. We do not leave the wicked behind without concern, however. We must actively pray for them, that God would convict them most effectively. The Spirit's convicting power in such hearts dwarfs any kind of human-induced guilt or reasoning. **Discussion:**

- Why is it so important that those who know Christ set the example of turning away from sin?
- What are some specific things to pray about for those who are living wicked lifestyles?

Proverbs 3:21-23

Learn and apply the wisdom of God's Word each day. As with good eating and exercise habits, we build habits of wisdom one day at a time. How often we slip is less important than how many times we get up and go back at it. One of the wisest things we can do is read and put into practice God's Word day in and day out. What we learn bit by bit and day by day stays with us better than what we learn cramming for a final exam. **Discussion:**

- Why does living out God's Word result in general blessings in the lives of believers?
- What do you do in your devotional time that helps you learn and put into practice God's Word each day?