

PROVERBS

Bible Text: Proverbs 1:7; 2:1-6; 3:1-6

Lesson Focus: God’s word encourages us to seek wisdom, honor, beauty, and order—and work for justice.

Big Question: Why do smart people do such dumb things?

Key Words: WISDOM, PROVERB, COMMANDMENTS

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] Proverbs is part of a group of books in the Old Testament called Wisdom literature. Other Wisdom books are Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs.
-] A proverb is a wise saying.
-] For the writer of Proverbs, all wisdom begins and ends with an understanding of God and God’s commandments.
-] The core of wisdom is reliance on God, awe before the greatness of God, and trust in God’s intent for us and for all history.
-] In the book of Proverbs, Wisdom is personified as female and a teacher. That is, Wisdom is pictured in a poetic way as a person who is God’s companion from before creation, mediator between God and humanity, and prophet.
-] The book of Proverbs was used as a teaching tool for young people.
-] Jesus’ teachers no doubt used proverbs to teach him.
-] From the beginning of the church, Christians such as St. Paul came to identify Jesus as Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] How do you usually react when someone says, “It’s for your own good”?
-] What are some of the rules in your home?
-] What might happen if there were no rules at all in your home, or anyone else’s home, either?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 155: Seven Important Things Luther Said (And One Funny One) and What They Meant

-] Could any of these eight sayings of Luther be called proverbs?
-] Do they teach “wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity”?

LIFE CONNECTION

Find a person in your congregation who seems wise to you. Ask them if you could meet with them to talk about faith matters. Make a list of questions you might have or just ask them to tell you about their faith. We learn by asking and listening.

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Word Search

Find and circle these words about Wisdom literature in the word search puzzle.



1. Defense of God's goodness in view of the existence of evil.
2. Accumulated philosophic learning.
3. The state of acting in accord with divine or moral law.
4. Something that is empty or valueless.
5. Supreme power.
6. A religious truth that one can know only by revelation and cannot fully understand.
7. Egyptian goddess whose name means "Truth."
8. Canaanite goddess who bears a resemblance to "Lady Wisdom."
9. The divine wisdom manifest in the creation, government, and redemption of the world, and often identified with the second person of the Trinity—Word made flesh.
10. Means "congregation" in Hebrew.

Answers: 1. theodicy 2. wisdom 3. righteousness 4. vanity 5. sovereignty 6. mystery 7. Maat 8. Asherah 9. Logos 10. ecclesiastes