

Perhaps you did not have the best of family situations when you were growing up. Or perhaps your father did not take the time to teach you about the Scriptures and the Biblical commands to “fear the Lord” and to store up Gods commands within you. Or perhaps you did not grow up with a father in your life at all.

Well, whatever your background, your Heavenly Father has much to teach you, and He invites you to sit at His feet and learn from him. You can do that by studying the scriptures on your own or, better yet, by joining a small group Bible study where you can have fellowship and study God’s word.

But to really grow in your walk with the Lord, you need to commit your life to following Jesus and let the Holy Spirit come into your life to lead and guide you in your walk of faith. Take time right now to ask Jesus to forgive you of always wanting to control your life and ask him to come into your heart and lead you on the path to a closer walk with Christ. Surrender your will to Christ and let the Holy Spirit lead and guide you in your daily walk with the Lord.

You will not regret it and you will begin that wonderful journey of discovering a spirit-filled walk with Christ that frees you from the worries of this world because you know that your future is certain in Christ.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon and can be picked up from the table at the back of the sanctuary and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>.

Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com

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The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 40

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passages that will be the basis of the sermon next week.

Topical Series: Wisdom Lived out in Community

This Week’s Key Passage: Proverbs 22:6

Sermon Date: July 20, 2008

. Fathers, Teach your Children

Remember when you were in grade school and were learning mathematics? At least in my day, admittedly quite some time ago, the basics of math, beginning with numbers and then addition, subtraction, multiplication and division were all learned by memorization.

However, at home in the family setting, much of what we learn is by observation, observing how our parents handle various situations. That is a good thing where parents exemplify a Christ-like approach to every situation. However, that of course is not always the case. In Proverbs, God exhorts fathers to teach their children. How can we best do this — how can we as fathers be the best teachers of our children?

God chose the home as the place where children learn the most — both good and bad. So how can parents be sure that our children learn the most important lessons, such as about God and how to live a Christ-like life in this world? Let’s study this most important lesson and see what the scriptures have to say.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.
The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Text: Proverbs 22:6 NIV</p> <p>⁶ Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.</p> <hr/> <p>Proverbs 2:1-22</p> <p>¹ My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,</p> <p>² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding,</p> <p>³ and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,</p> <p>⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,</p> <p>⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.</p> <p>⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>⁷ He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,</p> <p>⁸ for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.</p> <p>⁹ Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.</p> <p>¹¹ Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.</p> <p>¹² Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,</p> <p>¹³ who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways,</p> <p>¹⁴ who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,</p> <p>¹⁵ whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.</p> <p>¹⁶ It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words,</p> <p>¹⁷ who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.</p> <p>¹⁸ For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.</p> <p>¹⁹ None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.</p> <p>²⁰ Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.</p> <p>²¹ For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it;</p> <p>²² but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.</p> <hr/> <p>Proverbs 4:1-27</p> <p>¹ Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.</p> <p>² I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>³ When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother,</p> <p>⁴ he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live.</p> <p>⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.</p> <p>⁶ Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.</p> <p>⁷ Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.</p> <p>⁸ Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.</p> <p>⁹ She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor."</p> <p>¹⁰ Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many.</p> <p>¹¹ I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.</p> <p>¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.</p> <p>¹³ Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.</p> <p>¹⁴ Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men.</p> <p>¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.</p> <p>¹⁶ For they cannot sleep till they do evil; they are robbed of slumber till they make someone fall.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>¹⁷ They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.</p> <p>¹⁸ The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.</p> <p>¹⁹ But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.</p> <p>²⁰ My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words.</p> <p>²¹ Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;</p> <p>²² for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.</p> <p>²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.</p> <p>²⁴ Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.</p> <p>²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.</p> <p>²⁶ Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.</p> <p>²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.</p>	
<hr/> <p>Proverbs 20:7</p>	
<p>⁷ The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him</p>	

2. In Proverbs Study #39 (Children, honor your parents), we considered the question “who should be the primary instructor for a young person?” Looking at this week’s verses, what should we be teaching our children? Consider also Deut 6:1-9, 11:18-21 and 32:46-47

3. Someone said, “truth is always one generation away from extinction”. What are the consequences for failing to teach our children wisdom and understanding? Consider Deut 4:1-8 and Jdg 2:6-16.

4. Looking at Proverbs 2:1-4 and 2:4-8, write down the 8 great “ifs” of blessing and the 8 “blessings” for those who practice wisdom.

5. In Proverbs Study #2, we were urged to seek wisdom for ourselves. Now we are to teach it to our children. How do you teach a child wisdom?

6. What determines how effective a parent's instruction is? Consider Proverbs 20:7 and 20:11. When and how does what a parent teaches a child go from being just knowledge to becoming “wisdom”? Consider James 1:19-25.

7. Jesus spent his life on earth teaching, preaching and healing. What can we learn from Jesus about teaching our children and others? Consider Matthew 4:23-25 and Matthew 7:24-29.

8. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it.