

# Proverbs

How can you teach your child to be wise?

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# Biblical Wisdom

Wisdom is an abstract concept, it can be a difficult concept to teach a child. However, biblical wisdom and guidance are what children need in order to safely navigate this ever-increasing evil world.

These few verses from Proverbs will help guide your child.

Proverbs 20:11 states, "Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right."

"God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore" (1 Kings 4:29 NIV).

Solomon passed his great wisdom onto his children generously. Discuss these ten verses from Proverbs with your children.

# Ten Verses: Proverbs

All verses are from the NIV Bible.

1:7

**1 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

**Ask:** Why do you think fear will help you learn and gain knowledge?

Do you know what it means to be a fool?

What do you think the word despise means?

How can wisdom and instruction be good?

**Discuss:** When we fear something good, like fearing God, it can feel like standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon looking down. It is so wonderful and beautiful, but you are fearful as you don't want to make a mistake and fall off. God is wonderful and beautiful but we don't want to make a mistake by not obeying his commandments. If you fear God, you will listen, and by listening, you will learn the things God wants you to learn. Those who do not fear God do not have a great desire to obey and listen to him. That is a foolish thing to do, meaning not a smart thing to do. Therefore, they are called fools. God's wisdom and instruction help to keep you safe!

1:10

**2 My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.**

**Ask:** What do you think the word entice means?

How have you been enticed or tempted to do something wrong?

Do you know what sinful means?

Give an example of when you walked away from bad behavior?

**Discuss:** "Sinful men in the Bible" refers to anyone who does not obey God's commands. It's like when someone tells a lie, they are sinful because God said it is a sin to tell a lie. If someone is trying to get you to sin, that is what it means to be tempted or enticed. If your friend tells his parents a lie and then asks you, "Isn't that right?" your friend is trying to get you to sin by telling a lie. Say a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill you, helping you not to commit any sins.

### 3:1-2

**3 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.**

**Ask:** In this verse, whose teachings are we to remember?

How can you keep God's commands in your heart?

What do you think the word prolong means?

What does it mean to have peace and prosperity?

**Discuss:** God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will help you to remember God's teachings; just ask in prayer. You can know what is right and wrong, but in order to do what is right, you need to want to do it with all of your heart. This is how you can keep the commandments in your heart. When you desire to remember with all your mind and heart, God will bless you. He will give you peace (happiness, contentment) and prosperity (successful in earning money). He will give you not only the things you need, but the things you would like to have according to his will.

### 4

### 3:5-6

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

**Ask:** How can you trust the Lord?

What do you think the word submit means?

What does it mean to lean not on your own understanding?

Why do you think we need to submit to the Lord?

**Discuss:** We trust in many things. We trust the sun will rise and set in the sky. The best thing we can do is trust that God will take care of us. We need to not only understand this with our minds but also feel it in our hearts. Sometimes what we think is the right thing to do can be the wrong thing. For example, a strange person offering candy might seem like they are being nice. When we feel the Holy Spirit warning us and we run away, that is what it means to trust the Lord. He is making our paths straight to keep us safe. We need to submit to God and our parents.

5

3:11-12

**My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.**

**Ask:** What do you think the word despise means?

What do you think it means to resent his rebuke?

Why do you think the Lord disciplines those he loves?

How do you think the Lord delights in you?

**Discuss:** When you despise something, that means you really don't like it, not even a little bit. The Lord disciplines us, meaning he teaches us what to do and what not to do. When we do something that we were told not to do, the Lord will rebuke us. Rebuke means to speak sternly using harsh words to tell you that what you did is wrong, so you will remember not to do it again. We need God's discipline to know what to do, and his rebuke if we don't obey. God does this because he loves us. If you don't listen to your parents, they will speak sternly to you, so you will remember not to do it again.

6

4:7

**The beginning of wisdom is this:  
Get wisdom. Though it cost all you  
have, get understanding.**

**Ask:** What do you think the word wisdom means?

Do you think wisdom costs money?

How can you get wisdom?

How can you get understanding?

**Discuss:** Wisdom helps you to make correct decisions, and to know the difference between right and wrong. Wisdom does not cost money. This verse means that getting wisdom, that comes from the Lord, is better than anything else in the world. Getting understanding means you are getting wisdom from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that is the best wisdom to have.

7

10:1

A wise son brings joy to his father,  
but a foolish son brings grief to his  
mother.

**Ask:** What have you done that you think was wise?

What have you done that you think was foolish?

Why do you think a wise son brings joy to his father?

Why do you think a foolish son brings grief to his mother?

**Discuss:** A wise child is a child that knows between right and wrong and always tries their best to do what is right. A child who knows what the right thing to do is but does not do it, is a foolish child. Children bring joy to their parents when they do the right thing. However, if a child does the wrong thing, that will bring sadness (grief) to their parents.

8

15:1

A gentle answer turns away  
wrath, but a harsh word stirs up  
anger.

**Ask:** What is wrath?

Have you ever heard someone yelling at another person, and that person responds nicely?

What would you do if someone was yelling at you?

Why do you think a harsh reply would make the other person angrier?

**Discuss:** Sometimes, people get angry, and they let their anger show in the way they talk to people. It is never nice to yell at anyone. When someone yells at you, reply nicely, then they will probably calm down. If you yell back, they will get even angrier. God wants us to be kind and loving.

9

18:13

**He who answers before listening –  
that is his folly and his shame.**

**Ask:** How do you think a person feels when they are talking to you, and you start talking to them before they finish?  
Can you listen and talk at the same time?  
Do you know what the word folly means?  
Do you know what the word shame means?

**Discuss:** It is important to pay attention and listen, so you can hear and understand what the other person is saying. If you speak over them, you may miss something important. If you only hear, “I like how you behaved today” and never hear the rest of the message “I will give you an extra hour to play your game” you will feel bad. You will look foolish (folly) for not listening and missing out on something you would have liked very much to hear.

10

22:3

**The prudent see danger and take refuge,  
but the simple keep going and pay the  
penalty.**

**Ask:** What do you do when you see something that looks dangerous?  
How can you hide from danger?  
What does it mean to ‘take refuge’?  
What does the word penalty mean?  
Who do you think ‘the simple’ refers too?

**Discuss:** If you see a beehive, do you touch it? If you don’t touch it, you are the prudent person who sees danger. It can be dangerous getting stung by a bee. Prudent means to act carefully when faced with a choice. Those who are not prudent and may end up touching the beehive and the penalty they will pay is a stinger in their finger!

Here are some extra verses you can also look up and share with your child:

- Proverbs 11:2
- Proverbs 11:25
- Proverbs 13:20
- Proverbs 13:24
- Proverbs 14:29
- Proverbs 15:3
- Proverbs 15:29
- Proverbs 19:9
- Proverbs 19:11
- Proverbs 23:12

