

The Wisdom of Proverbs

Name: _____

King Solomon is the primary author of the Book of Proverbs, although others wrote parts of the book. Given Solomon's gift of wisdom from God, we can turn to this book for remarkable insight into finding happiness and holiness in many different situations.

For example, the book offers wisdom on topics such as happiness, good and evil, and relationships.

Read the passages from Proverbs below under the various topics and answer the questions that follow.

Receiving Instruction and Correction

"He who heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof goes astray." –Proverbs 10:17

This proverb teaches the importance of humbly listening to instruction and correction. It says that those who reject reproof, another word for correction or discipline, will not remain on the right path.

Consider moments when you have not received correction and instruction with openness and humility. **In what ways can you receive it better next time?**

Good Friendships

"He who walks with wise men becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm." –Proverbs 13:20

This proverb teaches us the necessity of good friendships and surrounding ourselves with positive influences. Those who surround themselves with wise and faithful friends will grow in faith and wisdom. On the other hand, those who surround themselves with people who do not seek wisdom will suffer difficulties and harm, both spiritual and possibly even physical.

Describe one friend who leads you to grow in wisdom and faith and explain how.

Finding Happiness

"He who gives heed to the word will prosper, and happy is he who trusts in the LORD." –Proverbs 16:20

"He who despises his neighbor is a sinner, but happy is he who is kind to the poor." –Proverbs 14:21

These two proverbs provide insight into how we can find happiness. The first proverb teaches that the person who trusts in God and listens to his Word will find happiness.

In what ways can you trust in God and obey his Word more in your life?

The second proverb says that those who show kindness and mercy to the poor will be happy. Someone may be considered “poor” if he does not have much food, money, or other physical comforts. However, someone may also be considered “poor” if she lacks understanding and faith in God.

In what ways can you show mercy and kindness to “the poor” in your life?

The Importance of Hard Work

“The soul of the sluggard craves, and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.” –Proverbs 13:4

This proverb teaches the value of hard work. A “sluggard” is someone who is lazy, and a “diligent” person is someone who is driven and committed to being successful. This proverb explains that the lazy person wants success but is unwilling to work hard and, therefore, does not succeed. On the other hand, the diligent person’s hard work pays off.

Write down a personal goal and commit to becoming more diligent in working hard to achieve it.
