

WEEK 7: PROVERBS

DAY 1: GREAT TEACHINGS IN FEW WORDS

1. "Do not despise the strength of a small thing until you have tested it." This is a well-known proverb in East Africa. Most people have proverbs in their language. This week we begin to study the proverbs of the people of Israel. First, let us remember the last lesson.

What is the most important way in which the Psalms are joined with the New Testament? _____

2. The Psalms show us Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The Proverbs do this too, as we shall see. They speak much of wisdom. Today we shall learn:

- (1) Proverbs are good because they give great teachings in few words.
- (2) Solomon wrote almost all of the book of Proverbs.

Take your Bible now and read Proverbs 1:1 to 6. Read verse 2 again. What is one reason why Solomon wrote the Proverbs? _____

3. He wrote so that men might know wisdom. Think of the Africa proverb: "Do not despise the strength of a small thing until you have tested it." A pincher ant is found in many parts of Africa. It is very small. But when it pinches a person, it causes much pain. The proverb is true about small insects. It is also true about other things in our lives. They may look small but may be very strong.

A proverb is good for teaching. Does one proverb give great teaching in few words or many words? _____

4. Proverbs give great teachings in few words. This is why they are good. They are not sermons. They are short words of wisdom. Solomon was a king in Israel. He ruled after his father King David. Solomon asked God to give him wisdom. God answered his prayer. Solomon became a very wise man.

What did he write which give great teachings in few words? _____

5. Solomon wrote many proverbs.

In what way are proverbs good? _____

6. Proverbs give great teachings in few words. The book we are studying now is full of proverbs. Solomon wrote most of them. He was wiser than all other men of his time.

I Kings 4:29-32:

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure and largeness of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all other men ... He also uttered (or spoke) three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand and five.

How many proverbs did Solomon speak? _____

How many songs did he write? _____

7. Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. God gave Solomon wisdom to speak these proverbs and write these songs.

In what way are proverbs good? _____

8. Proverbs give great teachings in few words. The book of Proverbs does not give all of Solomon's proverbs. It gives us some of them. In these two weeks we will see that the proverbs teach us many different kinds of lessons.

Who gave Solomon wisdom to speak so many proverbs? _____

9. The one who gave Solomon wisdom to speak great teachings in few words was God. Solomon wrote some of these truths in the book we are now studying. Remember what we have read.

Proverbs 1:1:

The proverbs of Solomon, Son of David, king of Israel.

What is the name of the book in which Solomon wrote many great teachings in few words?

10. He wrote these teachings in the book called Proverbs. He wrote nearly all of this book. But the last few chapters were written by other people. In the book of Proverbs we have many wise sayings. God gave His servant great wisdom.

Who wrote nearly all of the book of Proverbs? _____

11. Solomon wrote these proverbs. Some of the proverbs are about very common things. They tell about things which we already know. But Solomon wrote them in such a way that they speak straight to our hearts. Proverbs give great teachings in few words.

Did Solomon write all of the book of Proverbs? _____

12. No, some other people wrote a few of the proverbs. But Solomon wrote nearly all of the book. It is different from other books of the Bible. We saw that the Psalms make people want to pray and praise God. But the book of Proverbs teaches us how to walk in God's way. Solomon wrote about the way we should live at home. He wrote how we should live at the place where we work, and everywhere.

As proverbs tell us how to live, in what way are they good? _____

13. Proverbs give great teachings in few words. The book of Proverbs is full of great truths. Each truth is said in a few words. There are many proverbs in the book. But these are only a few of the many wise sayings of this king of Israel.

Who wrote almost all of the book of Proverbs? _____

14. Solomon wrote almost all of the book of Proverbs. Many years later Hezekiah and other people collected more of Solomon's proverbs. They wrote them down.

As we study the book of Proverbs, let us be humble. Let us be ready to be taught. God always wants to teach us through His word. God gave wisdom to Solomon. Solomon is sharing that wisdom with us in this book. God wants us to know how to live a wise life.

Take time to pray now. Ask God to show you both the little ways and the big ways in which you can live a wise life.

15. In what way are proverbs good? _____

Who wrote almost all of the book of Proverbs? _____

WEEK 7: PROVERBS

DAY 2: TRUE WISDOM LEADS US TO CHRIST

1. In what way are proverbs good? _____

Who wrote almost all of the book of Proverbs? _____

2. Proverbs give great teachings in few words. Solomon wrote almost all of the book of Proverbs. These proverbs teach us many different kinds of lessons. In Proverbs, Solomon is not taking us to church. He is taking us to God's school. Today we shall learn:

- (1) The most important word in Proverbs is "wisdom."
- (2) The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge.
- (3) The best thing about wisdom is that it leads us to Christ.

Take your Bible now and read Proverbs 1:7 to 9, and 20 to 23. Read verse 7 again. What do fools despise or hate? _____

3. They hate wisdom and instruction. Solomon has much to say about fools in his book. He has many things to teach. These are the lessons which we will study this week and next:

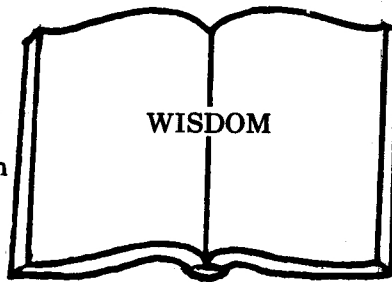
PROVERBS

Wisdom Leads to Christ

The Rewards of Wisdom

Warnings about Wisdom

Wisdom as a Person



Wise Living

Wise Fear of the Lord

God's Wisdom and Judgment

The Wise Woman

In what book do we read much about wisdom? _____

4. We read this in the book of Proverbs. We find the word "wisdom" in almost every chapter.

Proverbs 2:2:

... making your ear attentive (or listening) to wisdom and inclining (or leaning) your heart to understanding ...

Is "wisdom" an important word or a little word in the book of Proverbs? _____

5. It is an important word. In fact, it is the most important word in the book.

Proverbs 3:13:

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding.

What is the most important word in the book of Proverbs? _____

6. The most important word in the book of Proverbs is "wisdom." In chapter 1 you read about the beginning of knowledge. Knowledge and wisdom are not quite the same. We may know things, but we may not always think wisely. Knowing things comes first. Then as we grow we are also able to think and act with wisdom.

Proverbs 1:7:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

If we want to have knowledge and wisdom, whom must we fear first of all? _____

7. We should fear the Lord. We have learned that this fear does not mean we want to run away from God. It means that we honour Him and worship Him. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

But what is the most important word in the book of Proverbs? _____

8. The most important word is, wisdom. We learn to be wise as we follow the Lord. We must learn to know Him. And we must fear Him in the right way.

Proverbs 1:7:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

What must we do to the Lord if we want to begin to have knowledge and wisdom? _____

9. We must fear Him. We must fear Him in the right way. We must agree that He is all powerful. We must agree that He made us. We must let Him rule our lives. We must honour Him and obey Him.

From Proverbs 1:7, what is the beginning of knowledge? _____

10. **The beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord. But this is only the beginning.** To fear the Lord leads us to many other things. The best part about wisdom is that it leads us to Christ. God began in Genesis to show His children that the Saviour would come. In the New Testament Paul said that God made Christ to become our wisdom. When we studied Psalms, we learned that Christ gives strength, and He is strength. Now we see that Christ gives wisdom because He is wisdom.

I Corinthians 1:30:

He (God) is the source (or giver) of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God has made our wisdom ...

The New Testament fulfills the Old Testament. What can we also say that this verse does to the book of Proverbs? _____

11. We can say that this verse fulfills the book of Proverbs. Proverbs talks much about wisdom. I Corinthians tells us where this wisdom leads us. It leads us to Christ.

Proverbs 4:7:

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight (or knowledge).

In the Hebrew language, to get wisdom meant to know God. In the New Testament it means to know Christ. And so Paul explained that the wisest thing we can do is to know Christ. We must understand the way of Christ and follow it.

What is the most important word in the book of Proverbs? _____

12. The most important word is, wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Knowledge leads to wisdom, and wisdom leads to Christ. Some people think they are wise. But they do not have true wisdom. They know many things but they do not know Christ. God gave Solomon great wisdom. Solomon's proverbs do not give us false wisdom. They lead us to Christ.

What kind of wisdom leads us to Christ? Is it true wisdom or false wisdom? _____

13. True wisdom leads us in this way. We must be sure that what we believe is true. When Wilson bought sugar at the shop, he asked the shopkeeper to weigh it. He wanted to be sure he was paying for the true weight. He did not want to be deceived. But when Wilson hears people talking about things, he quickly believes them. He does not take time to see if the reports are true. Sometimes people deceive Wilson. We do not want false wisdom. We want true wisdom.

To whom does true wisdom lead us? _____

14. It leads us to Christ. To know Christ is better than being very important or very rich. In the book of Proverbs, Solomon spoke about every part of life. Since the days of Solomon, some men have tried to add proverbs to God's word. But they have failed. Instead they become very humble. They see God's great wisdom. They stop trying to add other proverbs and begin to give God glory.

Proverbs 16:16:

To get wisdom is better than gold; to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

What is the best thing about wisdom? _____

15. The best thing about wisdom is that it leads us to Christ. When we find Christ we help ourselves very much.

Proverbs 19:8:

He who gets wisdom loves himself.

This does not mean he loves himself in the wrong way. First, a person begins to fear the Lord. He sees that his life is important to God. He sees that Christ came from heaven to save us. He begins to care for his body, his mind, and his soul.

From Proverbs 1:7, what is the beginning of knowledge?

16. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Sinful people do not take care of their lives. They often live foolishly. But Solomon tells us what to do.

Proverbs 23:23:

Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

We cannot buy wisdom with money. But there is a price to pay. We must receive Christ as Lord of our lives. We must be humble. We must be patient. We must be obedient. When we have the one who is true wisdom, we should not let go of Him.

What is the best thing about true wisdom? _____

17. The best part is that it leads us to Christ. If we want true wisdom, we must receive God's Son. We must do the whole will of God. We must not question Him, because His way is right. Then He gives us true wisdom.

Write Yes beside the words which are true. Write No beside the ones which are not true.

We should pray for wisdom so that we can be good servants of God.

We should pray for wisdom so that we can become big people.

18. Let us talk about this together.

What is the most important word in Proverbs? _____

From Proverbs 1:7, what is the beginning of knowledge? _____

As shown in the New Testament, what is the best thing about true wisdom?

WEEK 7: PROVERBS
DAY 3: THE BLESSINGS OF WISDOM

1. Greetings to you in the name of our Lord. We hope you enjoyed the lesson yesterday. What is the most important word in Proverbs? _____

From Proverbs 1:7, what is the beginning of knowledge? _____

As shown in the New Testament, what is the best thing about true wisdom?

2. The most important word in the book of Proverbs is, wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. The best thing about true wisdom is that it leads us to Christ. As we receive Christ our wisdom grows. God gives us many good things for being wise. The book of Proverbs shows us these rewards. Today we shall learn three things which God does for the wise person.

(1) God blesses the wise person.

(2) He guides the wise person.

(3) He protects the wise person.

Take your Bible now and read Proverbs 3:1 to 10. From these verses, does the wise person get blessings from following wisdom? _____

3. He gets many blessings. We see some of these in verse 2.

Proverbs 3:1-2:

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare (or peace) will they give you.

From this verse, what is one blessing which God gives the wise person? _____

4. You could have written long life or peace. There are also other blessings.

Proverbs 3:9-10:

Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty.

God will also bless us with good harvests. Does He bless the wise person or the foolish person in this way? _____

5. He blesses the wise person.

Proverbs 3:33-35:

The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the abode (or house) of the righteous. Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he shows favor. The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

The house of the wicked is cursed but the house of the righteous is what?

6. The house of the righteous man is blessed. This reminds us of the words of Christ. He says that God will lift up and bless certain people.

Matthew 23:12:

Whoever exalts (or lifts up) himself will be humbled (or made low), and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

What is the first thing God does for the wise person?

- (1) _____
 - (2) He guides him.
 - (3) He protects him.
-
-

7. First God blesses the wise person. He also guides him. Let us go back to some of the verses you read.

Proverbs 3:5-6:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight (or understanding). In all your ways acknowledge him (or put him first) and he will make straight your paths (or guide you).

In this world there is the straight path of righteousness. There is also the crooked path of sin. If you put God first in everything you do, in which path will He guide you?

8. He will guide you in the path of righteousness. One of the ways He guides us is by telling us that we are wrong. Sometimes He punishes us for what we have done.

Proverbs 3:11-12:

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline (or correcting) or be weary of his reproof (or telling you that you are wrong) for the Lord reproves whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Who blesses and guides the wise person? _____

9. The Lord (or God) does this for the wise person. If you put God first He will keep you in the right path. When you ask Him to show you the way, He hears you. If you depend on Him with all your heart He will help you to go straight. Ask His advice about everything you do. He always knows the right way. He always works at the right time.

What are the first two things God does for the wise person?

- (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) He protects him.
-
-

10. God blesses the wise person. And He guides him. God also protects him. He takes care of him and keeps him from danger. People in West Africa have a proverb which says, "A wise man who knows proverbs solves problems." If we know the book of Proverbs God will give us even more wisdom.

Proverbs 3:23-25:

Then you will walk on your way securely and your foot will not stumble. If you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

From these verses, is it possible to live without worrying? _____

11. Yes, it is possible. We shall discuss this in class. Yesterday we learned that in the New Testament, having wisdom means having Christ. When Christ is living in us, we can trust and not be afraid.

Whom does God protect? _____

12. He protects the wise person. This is the person who follows God and receives Christ. The sinner is afraid to go to sleep. He knows that he is not ready to meet God. The Christian can sleep peacefully.

Psalm 121:4:

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Who is still awake while the Christian is sleeping? _____

13. God does not sleep. He always cares for His children. Perhaps you are thinking that sometimes thieves steal from Christians. Is God watching then? Yes, but life is more than things. Job lost everything he had but God still loved Job. Job did not sin. God was protecting Job from Satan even when it did not look as if He was.

Proverbs 4:11-12:

I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. When you walk, your step will not be hampered (or stopped); and if you run, you will not stumble.

What is the third thing God does for the wise person?

(1) He blesses him.

(2) He guides him.

(3) _____

14. God protects the wise person. Perhaps you are saying, "But God protects evil people too. Some of them live long and have great riches." David said that we should not be angry when evil people are blessed. In the end they will be destroyed.

Psalm 37:1:

Fret not yourself because of the wicked, be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

What are the first two things God does for the wise person?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) He protects him.

15. God blesses the wise person and guides him. When a person is filled with the wisdom of God, he chooses his way carefully. He does not try to deceive others. God shows him a straight way and he follows. God's love can be seen in his work and in all his life.

If we want God to bless us, guide us, and protect us, we must love Him. We must serve Him with the whole heart. We must depend on Him. We must obey Him. Then we will be wise.

Have you ever been laughed at for being a Christian? _____ If so, be ready to tell the class about it. Tell how God helped you.

16. To find wisdom is to find Christ. It is not enough to hear about Christ. It is not enough to think He was a great person. True wisdom is knowing Christ as our Saviour and Lord. True wisdom means that we ask Christ to rule every part of our lives.

Proverbs 4:23:

Keep your heart with all vigilance (or care); for from it flow the springs of life (or from it come the good ways of living).

From this verse, where does wisdom for good living begin? _____

Say to yourself the three things God does for the wise person.

17. God blesses him, guides him, and protects him. Wisdom for good living begins in the heart. I may try hard to be very good. I can be good for a short time. But soon I will fail God if I have not let Him give me a new heart. I will soon show my sinful nature if I have not let the Holy Spirit make me clean.

Are reading good books and trying to follow good people enough to make me a wise Christian?

18. **These things are not enough. We must allow God to change our hearts.**
From Proverbs 3, what three things does God do for the wise person?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

WEEK 7: PROVERBS

DAY 4: PROVERBS WARNS US AGAINST FOOLISH WAYS

1. The big word in Proverbs is wisdom. Write three things from Proverbs 3 which God does for the wise person.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. God blesses, guides, and protects the wise person. He has given us many proverbs through His servant, Solomon. Many of the proverbs are spoken as if to a young person. But they are useful to all people -- young and old, high and low. There are many proverbs which give warnings. Today we shall learn some of these. At the end of the lesson you will write four things Proverbs warns us against.

(1) Evil women

(4) Drunkenness

(2) Debts

(5) Anger

(3) Laziness

Take your Bible now and read Proverbs 5:1 to 6 and Proverbs 6:6 to 11. In verse 6, what shows us we should not be lazy? _____

3. The ant shows us we should not be lazy. Little things can give us big warnings. Solomon also gave warnings from things which happened in his own life. He wrote this warning against evil women.

Proverbs 5:3-4, 8:

The lips of a loose (or evil) woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter ... Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house.

In the end, does going with an evil woman bring joy or bitterness? _____

4. Going with an evil woman brings bitterness. Solomon knew the power of a woman who does not serve God. His many wives caused him much trouble. They turned him away from God.

What is the first thing which the book of Proverbs warns us against?

(1) _____

(3) Laziness

(2) Debts

(4) Drunkenness

(5) Anger

5. The first thing Proverbs warns against is evil women. Solomon also warns us to keep away from unwise debts. He says we must be careful about agreeing to help with neighbour's debts as well as our own.

Proverbs 6:1, 3:

My son, if you have become surety (or promised to pay) for your neighbor, have given your pledge for a stranger; ... save yourself.

Proverbs 11:15:

He who gives surety for a stranger will smart (or hurt) for it.

Is the one who stays away from debts a wise man or a foolish man? _____

6. The one who stays away from debts is a wise man. We should not buy things which we cannot pay for. Anger and hatred sometimes come because of debts. Friends change and become enemies. Christians lose their good testimony when they do not pay their debts.

What book in the Old Testament warns us against debts? _____

7. The Old Testament book which warns us about this is Proverbs. New Testament books warn us about it too. It is very important that we listen to God's warnings.

Romans 13:8:

Owe no one anything, except to love one another.

What is the second thing which the book of Proverbs warns us against?

(1) Evil women

(3) Laziness

(2) _____

(4) Drunkenness

(5) Anger

8. The second warning is against debts. God will judge us by the way we answer his warnings. Let us see again the warning against laziness.

Proverbs 6:6-9:

Go to the ant, O sluggard (or lazy person); consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her food in summer, and gathers her sustenance in harvests. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?

Should Christians be hard workers or lazy people? _____

9. We should be hard workers. Proverbs says more about this.

Proverbs 18:9:

He who is slack (or lazy) in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

The word "slack" really means "lets his hands hang down." I cannot plough my garden if I stand and let my hands hang down. I cannot work in a shop or office, or teach school if my hands are hanging down. I cannot be a good pastor, or parent, or servant of God. God warns us that laziness is sin.

Let us say you are being paid by the hour to do a job. Are you showing a good Christian testimony if you work only half of the time? _____

10. Your work does not speak well for Christ. It is sinful to waste the time which God has given you. It is not honest to accept money for work which is not done well.

Proverbs 23:21:

... drowsiness (or laziness) will clothe a man with rags.

What is the third thing which the book of Proverbs warns us against?

(1) Evil women

(4) Drunkenness

(2) Debts

(5) Anger

(3) _____

11. It warns us against laziness. We shall be judged by the way in which we answer God's warnings. God also gives us very strong warnings against drunkenness.

Proverbs 20:1:

Wine is a mocker (or makes men foolish), strong drink a brawler (or it leads to fighting); and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

What does drinking lead to? _____

12. Drunkenness leads to fighting. It also makes men foolish and leads to other troubles.

Proverbs 23:29-30, 32:

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine ... At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

The New Testament tells us that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Nothing should enter this temple that will spoil it.

What is Proverbs warning us about in these verses? _____

13. The book of Proverbs warns us about drunkenness. It warns us about things of the body and of the spirit. We are warned about anger and sharp words.

Proverbs 14:29:

He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty (or quick) temper exalts folly.

Proverbs 16:32:

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Is the person who becomes angry quickly a wise person or a foolish one? _____

14. He is a foolish person. The warnings in Proverbs remind us of a New Testament writer. Proverbs also has a good way to stop anger.

James 3:5:

So the tongue is a little member and boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze (or on fire) by a small fire!

Proverbs 15:1:

A soft answer turns away wrath (or anger).

This is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. He cleanses our hearts from anger.

What is the fifth thing which Proverbs warns us against? (1) Evil women (2) Debts (3) Laziness (4) Drunkenness (5) _____

15. We shall be judged by the way we answer God's warning about anger. When God warns us, we must do something. You and I must choose what we will do. We must either obey God or follow our own sinful ways.

Proverbs 5:23:

He dies for lack of discipline (or because he has not obeyed), and because of his great folly he is lost.

Tell yourself four of the five things which Proverbs warns us against.

16. This book warns us against evil women, debts, laziness, drunkenness, and anger. There is something we can do if we fall into these sins.

Proverbs 28:13:

He who conceals (or hides) his transgressions (or sins) will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes (or leaves) them will obtain mercy.

What will the person receive who confesses and leaves his sins? _____

17. He will receive mercy.

Write four things which the book of Proverbs warns us against.

WEEK 7: PROVERBS

DAY 5: HE WHO FINDS WISDOM FINDS LIFE

1. There are many warnings among the proverbs which Solomon wrote. God gave Solomon the wisdom to write these warnings.

Write four warnings which the book of Proverbs gives us.

2. The warnings are against evil women, debts, laziness, drunkenness, and anger. We shall be judged by the way we answer God's warnings. We have seen that in the Bible these are only two ways. These ways are life and death. Proverbs 8 shows us this truth again. This is what we shall learn:

The wisdom of Proverbs is fulfilled in Christ. In Proverbs 8 wisdom speaks as a person. He who finds wisdom and Christ finds life.

Take your Bible now and read Proverbs 8:1 to 7 and 32 to 36. Read verse 1 again. Who is calling in this verse? _____

3. Wisdom is calling. Wisdom called the people of Israel. Wisdom calls us today. It calls us in every place. Sometimes it calls us as it called Moses. Moses was on a high mountain when God gave him the law.

Proverbs 8:2-3:

On the heights beside the way, in the paths she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud.

Did the law of Moses bring true wisdom to people on earth, or did Christ have to come and bring true wisdom? _____

4. Christ had to come. He fulfilled the law and He fulfilled the wisdom of Proverbs. The people of Israel found they could not keep the law by themselves. They tried to be wise and find life. But Christ had to come as true wisdom and bring life. These words spoken by "Wisdom" in Proverbs foretold what Christ would say.

Proverbs 8:6-7:

Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

In these verses is "Wisdom" speaking as a person or as something else? _____

5. Wisdom is speaking as a person. As a person Wisdom says that the one who finds wisdom finds life. In finding Christ we are born anew and we are able to live by his words.

Proverbs 8:8-9:

All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to him who understands and right to those who find knowledge.

What in Proverbs is fulfilled in Christ so that we may find life? _____

6. Wisdom is fulfilled in Christ. Wisdom's words are true and righteous. Some people say that the words of the Bible are difficult. They do not read the Bible because they think they cannot understand it. But Proverbs says that wisdom's words can be understood. We must read the Bible with our minds and hearts prepared to learn. Wisdom is still speaking in this verse.

Proverbs 8:35:

For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord.

As wisdom is fulfilled in Christ, he who finds wisdom finds what? _____

7. He who finds wisdom finds life. We see how clearly wisdom speaks for Christ as we read more in Proverbs 8. Wisdom gives people good understanding and a good heart.

Proverbs 8:12-13:

I, wisdom, dwell in prudence (or good understanding), and I find knowledge and discretion (or good judgment). The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted (or lying) speech I hate.

He who finds wisdom finds life. So if we want to find life, whom must we find who fulfills wisdom? _____

8. We must find Christ. He is the only one who brings true wisdom. Christ gives good advice to rulers if they will listen to Him.

Proverbs 8:14-16:

I have counsel and sound wisdom, I have insight, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles govern the earth.

In Proverbs, what speaks as a person and gives life through Christ? _____

9. Wisdom does this. Again we see the words of wisdom as the words of Christ. It is wise to seek wisdom. It is wise to seek Christ.

Proverbs 8:17:

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

He who finds wisdom and Christ finds what? Is it life or death? _____

10. He who finds wisdom finds life. This is the way wisdom's words end in Proverbs 8. Finding wisdom and finding Christ is not just something we should do if we want to. It is a matter of life and death.

Proverbs 8:35-36:

For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who misses me injures himself.

From this verse, if we do not find wisdom, Christ, and life, what do we do to ourselves? _____

11. We injure ourselves. We hurt ourselves. We keep ourselves from receiving God's good gifts. God's fruit is righteousness. If we miss Christ, the wisdom of God, we cannot have righteousness. We also bring something else upon ourselves.

Proverbs 8:19:

My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold.

Proverbs 8:36:

but he who misses me injures himself; all who hate me love death.

From this verse, if we hate wisdom and Christ, what do we love? _____

12. Those who hate wisdom and Christ love death. We must choose. Some people think they will just forget about Christ. But when they do this they are choosing. They are choosing death.

A man we know was a Kenya policeman. But he was not a wise man. He drank so much beer that he had to be dismissed from the police force. He did not have real life. But then he found Christ. He found wisdom in the Bible. Now he says, "Christ gave me life. No magician in the world could make me stop drinking. But Christ did." Today he preaches for the Lord.

The wisdom of Proverbs is fulfilled in Christ. In Proverbs 8 wisdom speaks as a person. He who finds wisdom and Christ finds what? _____

13. He who finds wisdom and Christ finds life. Your people need to know this. If you look carefully at Proverbs 8:32-36 you will see things the children of God should do. They should:

Hear — verses 32, 33.

Obey — verses 32, 33.

Rejoice — verses 32, 34.

Watch — verse 34.

Prepare a sermon to preach from these verses and from today's lesson. On another paper write the big things you will say. Preach the sermon if you can. Bring your paper to class.

14. The wisdom of Proverbs is fulfilled in Christ. In Proverbs 8 wisdom speaks as a person. He who finds wisdom and Christ finds what? _____