

Chapter Ten



Wisdom vs. Foolishness

MONTHLY PLANNING PAGE

MONTH _____ CHARACTER TRAIT _____ PITFALL _____

HOMEWORK SECTION

(insert on each line below the homework sections you will complete for this trait)

WEEK 1

MENTOR _____

DATES WE MEET _____

MEMORY VERSE _____

HISTORICAL FIGURE _____

WEEK 2

BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPY TITLE (if applicable)

SEXUAL PURITY STUDY GUIDE TITLE (if applicable)

WEEK 3

SERVICE PROJECTS (if applicable)

WEEK 4

DATES PROJECTS COMPLETED _____

NOTES, PAPERS, RESEARCH INSERTED IN BINDER:

YES _____ NO _____

Godly Trait – Wisdom

Pastor and author Timothy Keller wrote, “Proverbs chapter 4 is filled with the repeated exhortation ‘do not forsake’ wisdom. The message is clear: Never, ever give up in your pursuit of wisdom. Do absolutely anything to get it, whatever it costs you. Why? Because it is more costly to not have it. You will make decisions that lead to one difficulty and disaster after another. So do whatever it takes.” (15)



Scripture Study

Psalm 37:30

The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, and their tongues speak what is just.

Proverbs 1:1-7

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young – let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance – for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2 (the whole chapter)

Proverbs 4:7

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

Ephesians 1:17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.



Biblical Figure Study

King Solomon – Read 1 Kings 3:5-14

Of all the things a king could ask for he wanted wisdom and discernment. Notice God's response to his request.

The Wise Builder – Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

The wisdom to understand that a solid, strong foundation is crucial in building a house is a metaphor for how we are to build a strong foundation for our life.

Pitfall – Foolishness

In Tim Keller's book mentioned above, he addresses foolishness as the opposite of wisdom. He says, "Fools are people so habitually out of touch with reality that they make life miserable for themselves and all around them." He goes on, "But the ultimate foolishness is to make anything the center of our lives besides God. That will always lead to disappointment and breakdown. Fools fail to see [the] boundaries embedded in reality – physical, psychological, relational, and spiritual. They step outside them and wonder why they sink." (16)



Scripture Study

1 Samuel 13:13

"You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time".

Job 5:2

Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.

Psalm 1:1.

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers

Psalm 107:17

Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

Proverbs 10:1, 8

A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother. The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

Ephesians 5:4

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.



Biblical Figure Study

Asa – King of Judah – Read 2 Chronicles 14-16

Notice how King Asa's reign, up until the last few years, was God-honoring and obedient. Pay close attention to the choice he made in chapter 16 and how his life ends in the last few verses of that chapter. Fascinating!

The Israelites – Read Exodus 32

Oh, how often we act like the Israelites. One minute we are worshiping God for all He has done for us then the next we are whining and complaining because life is so hard. Read about how foolish they were when they got impatient waiting for Moses to come down from the mountain where he was talking to God.



Wisdom vs. Foolishness Homework

1. Look back at the character study of King Solomon. What were some of the things he could have asked God for, given his position? What does his request for wisdom reveal about his character?

2. In the parable of the wise builder, what made him wise in this scenario? What difference did it make in the outcome?

3. King Asa started out on a good footing then fell off the rails. In 2 Chronicles 16 read what he did. What was the consequence?

4. What were the reasons for the Israelites building the golden calf? What made this a foolish decision?

5. Think of a time you showed wisdom in a decision you made. Explain it here. What would the foolish choice have been and why did you not make that decision?

6. Conversely, think of a time you acted foolishly. Explain it here. What were the circumstances and share the outcome?

7. a. Think about some of the bigger life choices you will need to make as you become an adult. Write down 5 or 6.

b. Choose 3 of those choices and think about the potential outcomes if you choose foolishly.

c. Why is learning to make wise decisions now, when you are young, so important?

8. Choose a verse from the Scripture study on wisdom and commit it to memory. Reference it here and record it on your monthly planning page.

Becoming a Woman of Wisdom

Hey gals, the following questions are just for you. Take the time to work through them, being as honest as you can.

1. What do you think it means to chase after wisdom? Reference Proverbs 4:7. How are you chasing after wisdom, right now, in the decisions you face as a young lady?

2. Do not expect the man in your life, whether a boyfriend or husband, to be the only one responsible for pursuing wisdom. The Bible does not differentiate between men and women when it comes to getting wisdom. It is our responsibility to seek the Lord, pursue understanding, discernment, and wisdom. Read Proverbs 31:10-31. This passage is spoken of as “The Proverbs 31 Woman”. Look at the list of all the things this woman does (this is a figurative woman). See how she possesses wisdom on her own. How does this passage empower you as a young woman to pursue these godly traits?

3. Judges 4 and 5 share the story of Deborah. She was a prophetess, Judge of Israel, and a songstress. Read her story and share a few ideas of how wisdom impacted the choices she made and what the results were. What take-aways are there for you in your present circumstances?

Resist the urge to run ahead on your own without first seeking wisdom from the Lord. If you have choices, it is possible the outcome of some of those choices would not be the best for you, a family or business. God gives us intelligence and the ability to think through decisions. Ask God for wisdom and that he will align your desires with his and his will for you.

Becoming a Man of Wisdom

1. What do you think it means to chase after wisdom? Reference Proverbs 4:7. How are you chasing after wisdom, right now, in the decisions you face as a young man?

2. Read Proverbs 2. Wow! What encouragement does this give you as a young man? Does understanding the fear of the Lord and finding the knowledge of God (v. 5) sound unattainable to you? What must you do to achieve it (vv. 1-4)? What does wisdom protect you from in vv. 9-22?

3. What decisions are you facing right now that need God's wisdom? Explain

Chase after wisdom, young man! Pursue it, be relentless about it. Seek to understand God and his ways so you can be the kind of man who, like King Solomon, finds great favor with God for desiring wisdom. Start while you are young.



Historical Figure

Choose a person (past or present) whom you feel exhibits qualities of wisdom. You may choose from the list provided in the resource guide in Part Four of this book or select one of your own. Do some research on the person (internet search, library books) and answer the following questions:

1. Why did you choose this individual?

2. What aspect of wisdom do they exhibit?

3. Explain how they lived this out in their daily life.

4. Do they have moments of foolishness? Explain.

Biography/Autobiography

If you like to read, select a biography or autobiography on this individual to read throughout this month. Your parent may ask you to provide a book report or synopsis (personal choice for format) on what you read, paying special attention to their commitment to chase after wisdom.



Media Option

Is there a movie or documentary on the historical person you chose? If so, take some time to watch it and write down several things you can identify about their life of wisdom.



Mentoring

Choose a mentor who exhibits qualities of wisdom that you or your parents admire. Get together (how often is up to you, but often one meeting is sufficient as there are many other mentors involved in this process) and listen as they share their life experiences with you. Your parent(s) will help guide the content of your discussions along with your mentor's ideas. If your mentor provides charts, lists, or diagrams as visuals, insert them into your binder for this chapter, along with any notes you may take. Possible discussion questions may include:

- How I worked on getting wisdom...
- Struggles with gaining wisdom...
- A time I chose the foolish over the wise decision...



Journal Page

1. What, if anything, did the Lord imprint on your heart during your study of wisdom?

2. Are there consistent areas of foolishness that you need to give up? Confess those.

3. How will you practice wisdom? What tools will you use to help?

4. Spend some time in prayer talking to God about what you have learned, including the lessons you learned from your mentor.

5. Review your memory verse.

Alternative Learning Pages

Do all or some of the following 8 activities

Activity 1 - Read or have someone read for you Proverbs 1:1-7. There are six phrases in the first half of the section that talk about what wisdom is for. Write them here or have someone write for you:

“The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young – let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance – for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction”.

1. Gaining _____ and _____.
2. Understanding _____ of _____
3. Receiving _____ in _____
4. Doing _____ is _____ and
_____ and _____
5. Giving _____ to those who _____
6. Knowledge and _____ to the _____

Activity 2 - The wise builder in Matthew 7:24-27 is used to teach a lesson about wisdom. How is his choice considered a wise decision?

Activity 3 - Who do you know who is wise? Interview them (over videoconference if they are not local) and ask the following questions? **PARENTS:** If your child is doing the mentoring portion of this program for this trait, these questions will likely be covered in those meetings so you can skip this question.

1. How did you become a wise person?
2. Have you made unwise choices? If so, can you give an example of what it was and how that turned out?

3. Give an example of a wise decision and the result?
4. Do you pray for wisdom?
5. What advice do you have for me when it comes to getting wisdom?

Activity 4 – Do the following word search puzzle, finding the words in the word bank

F U F H Q K C F Z I Y V A D I S A P P O I N T M E N T H V N
 U K D O F H X L Q W X O I M C J I G V P D S M N S L U O E O
 Y R Y Y V S T Q V Z L O H S U E A X J U U J W I L Z S O B D
 M K R D P E L B R H A T F I N C H T M Z Y U T G J M H V Z J
 Z Q E F C L K R G Z K O B S D H G H K R U Z U F V M H I Z C
 M O H O Y S K S I K I B V R E H A O I N J T O O U N N I W I
 S C I D Y L O N N S A E C J R Q P Q B K F Z B D H K S E S M
 S A G E H C P L S Z M O C T S D Q K I I N T V D S K H L L M
 G U I D A N C E T R J Z S A T H M P C I I N Q I O J F A B W
 C R N I M U Y V R W W I C S A O D Z K V M C N L G K M N N J
 H T R F E J B E U C S Z K B N T X K F T P G X U I P P M D U
 H A F G E O R G C L D P Y T D O R P P Y U S Q N B F Z E V H
 Q A B E F D J K T G E A G U I K G R F H L X T V I O O Z F J
 O C R I G M Z V I G U I N L N B O U G C S U C U Q N Y P G G
 U D G F W I S K O V W Y Y V G T J D G M I E D G H B Q N A P
 W N R S J G W E N R W R G A I R N E Z E V K D G O P U D N P
 U U I U A R U M E O M T W V L Q R N Z L E T I A C L U K I W
 T O E Q P C T J S A W Z L W M F N C S O N U S F I C T K H V
 N J F I G N O R A N T L G I S O P E P M E W C D O J B Q I R
 D W T D W K E G U N L W E B S T C I X G S X R C K O B V W X
 N E O H Z X J Y F L E I Z D U T T K V D S V E S Q G L I D S
 J S C O N L H U P T A C O R G D E T E V Z T T J A X U I F N
 B Q I E W N I E D G R K X A X E R N J R I T I E I T B E S P
 B Q U S I B P V X A N E Z M C W V P N H S G O F J W D E A H
 Q T B P S B F H B Z V D P L B F K M L P H P N P Y I H V L R
 O J P Q E J L L J O W S G N R L E H C T P O O B O W E P O O
 Q Y Q I J L D P B B F O X G T R S D L F X Q V Z T O B K W D
 N M B E J X O X C S X J Z K V J Z K E V B Y Z F M B Y E X I
 C Q L N M S H M A V F E G F B H G N S M U G Q M W D E W H I
 X M F A Y P N K H D D M I M F G B M T W K P R F R N V F K B

wise	foolish	instruction	prudence	understanding
knowledge	learn	discretion	listen	guidance
grief	disappointment	impulsiveness	ignorant	

Activity 5 – If you like to write create a piece of writing that personifies the words Wisdom and Understanding as people. Use what you have learned about wisdom in this study so far as well as the scriptures that talk about wisdom and understanding. Make your writing a story or poem. When completed insert it into your binder for this chapter.

Activity 6 – Foolishness is the opposite of wisdom. If you like art assign colors to each of these words and create an abstract piece of art showing the differences. When completed insert it into your binder for this chapter.

Activity 7 – Here are some real-life situations. Imagine these scenarios and write what you think possible outcomes could be for a wise choice and a foolish choice.

- You have a big project due tomorrow. You have worked on it a bit, but not enough. You really want to finish playing your video game, but it is getting late.

The Wise Choice _____

The Foolish Choice _____

- Your friends invite you to a party. You want to go because the popular kids at school will be there and you do not get invited often. You are a bit concerned because the popular kids sometimes drink when their parents are not looking.

The Wise Choice _____

The Foolish Choice _____

- You are taking a test and get stuck on a few of the questions. You studied hard for days and now you are blanking. You know you know the right answers, but nothing is coming to mind. The smart kid in class is sitting next to you and you can easily see what is on his paper.

The Wise Choice _____

The Foolish Choice _____

Activity 8 – Pick one verse for wisdom and one verse for foolishness. Combine them to make a song or a rap. Include what God is trying to teach in the verses.