



Wisdom

Wisdom and Decision Making
(Once you understand wisdom, you'll understand decision making)



Wisdom

Training Outline

- Jan. 10 Wisdom: understanding the word
- · Jan. 17 Wisdom's vocabulary: prudence, discernment, etc.
- Jan. 24 Wisdom, faith, and world view
- Jan. 31 Teaching wisdom and living with it

A Working Definition of Wisdom

Wisdom: being able to anticipate the outcome, the consequences of actions and decisions based on the character of people involved or the characteristics of situations encountered.

Wisdom is **foresight** informed by a godly worldview and a perspective of faith. It is believing what God says about what is good and healthy, beneficial, moral, and believing what he says about the cost involved in selecting which path to take. It is foresight based on a scriptural worldview.



Wisdom

Wisdom crying in the streets - Prov. 1:20-22

Examples?

Think about what you're doing! Where will it end?

The Words of Wisdom in Proverbs

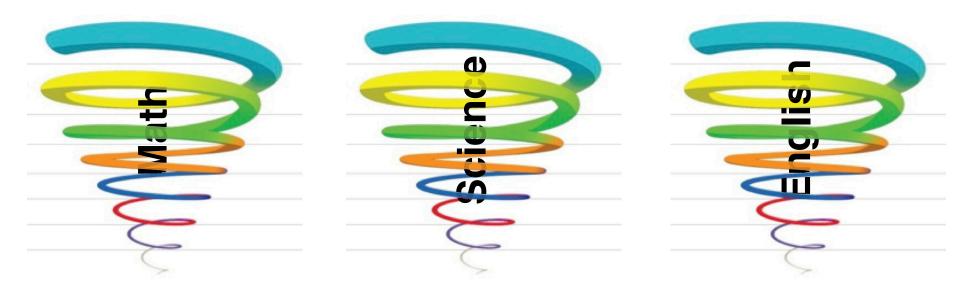
- Collocated terms
 - Instruction (1:2)
 - Understanding (1:2)
 - Knowledge (1:4)
 - Prudence (1:4)
 - Discretion (1:4)
 - Riddles (1:6)
 - Enigma (1:6)
 - Discernment (2:3)
- · Contrasting terms the wise are contrasted with
 - The naïve/simple (1:4)
 - The young (1:4)
 - The fool (1:7)

These words have different meanings but do overlap. They are very useful for showing the developmental process involved in growing from knowledge to wisdom, but we won't be looking at them as "technical terms" with sharp distinctions between them.

Today's Goal

Understand how to get from knowledge to wisdom

The Education Cycle

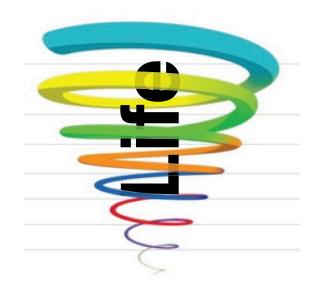


The fear of the LORD?

The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pr 1:7)

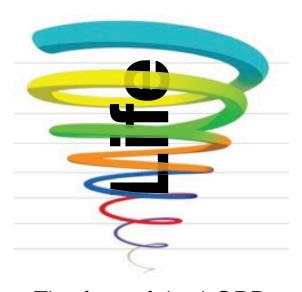
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Pr 9:10)



- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction

The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction

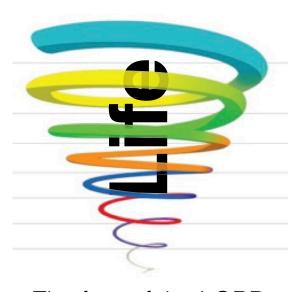
The fear of the LORD

Instruction in Proverbs

- Characters
 - Wise, foolish, simple, righteous, wicked, scoffer, etc.
- Situations
 - Planning, temptation, work, accountability, etc.
- Topics
 - Anger, anxiety, fighting, discipline, prayer, etc.

The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction

Knowledge

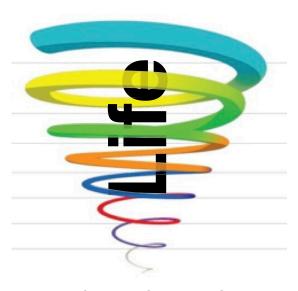
- Information (the what)
- Cumulative
- Learning the parts and pieces
- Cognitive and experiential





The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD

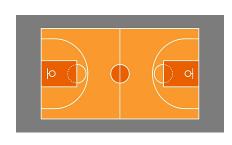


The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction

Understanding

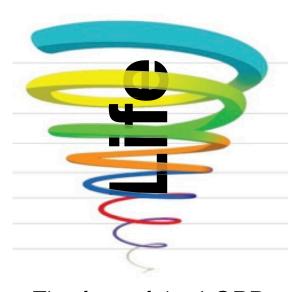
- Connecting the dots (the *how*)
- Cumulative
- Learning the ins and outs
- Cognitive and experiential





The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD

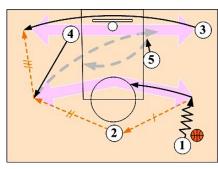


The fear of the LORD

- Wisdom
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Discernment

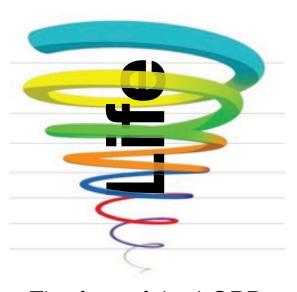
- Evaluating and pinpointing
- Cumulative and developmental
- Seeing what is and what should be
- Dynamic application of understanding





The Wisdom Cycle

The fear of the LORD



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Wisdom

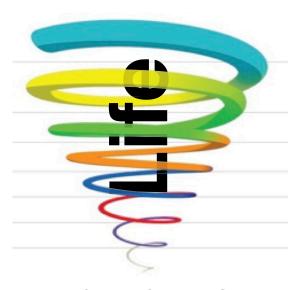
- Deciding and acting
- Cumulative and developmental
- Focused on the best outcome
- Dynamic application of discernment





Applying Wisdom Without Perfect Knowledge

The fear of the LORD



- Wisdom
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- Instruction

Decisions at all levels

- How important/impactful is this decision (what will the outcome impact?)
- Do I need more knowledge or understanding?
- Who can help me gain better understanding and help with discernment?

The fear of the LORD

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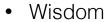


Wisdom, Prudence, and Discretion

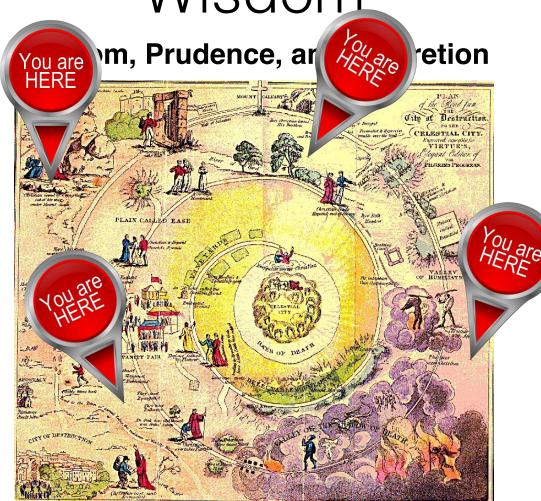
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Prudence is short-term in its view. It is focused on the next steps needed in order to get to the long-term goal. In daily life, the best route is not always direct.

Discretion has the idea of having a purpose and a plan and then putting it into action. The instruction of Proverbs is to exercise wisdom with a good plan, measured out to achieve the best goal in the best way.



- Discernment
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Instruction

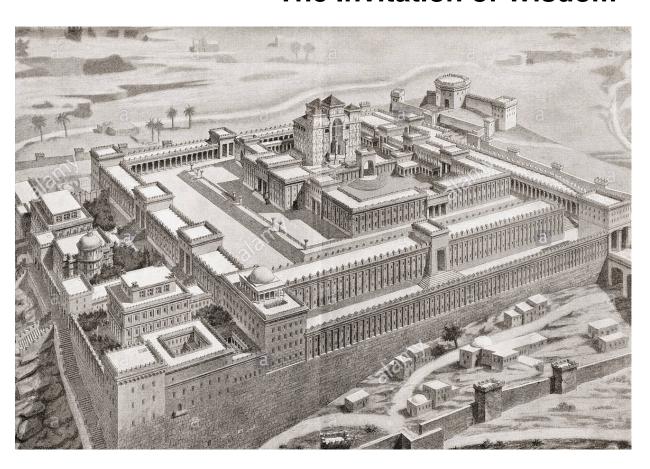


Prudence

Discretion

The Invitation of Wisdom

Proverbs 9:1-6



- Wisdom
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The Invitation of Folly

Proverbs 9:13-18



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- Nov. 12 Wisdom's vocabulary: prudence, discernment, etc.
- Nov. 19 Wisdom, faith, and world view
- Nov. 26 Teaching wisdom and living with it