



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Proverbs: Searching for Wisdom

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
² turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
³ indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
⁴ and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

The book of Proverbs is a book that lets us know that no matter who we are, we can become wise. When we think about wisdom, we usually think of those who are older as having wisdom. Age is no guarantee that you will have wisdom. Neither does education, intelligence, or religiosity automatically equate with wisdom. You don't need all those things to become wise.

What if it was possible to become wise, no matter who you are or what you have? The book of Proverbs gives us the opportunity to grow in wisdom and grow skillfully in the world.

Wisdom: Knowledge applied skillfully, in a timely manner, and for the good of ourselves and others.

Our passage today invites us to search for wisdom. The more we grow in relationship with God, the more we are to grow in wisdom. Unfortunately, the sad reality for many of us is that getting older doesn't mean we become wise.

In the book of Proverbs, wisdom is giving prayerful and patient application to decision making that honors God and also giving careful thought to the implication of our decisions. The book of Proverbs lets us know that those who are wise search for wisdom, while those who are fools try to figure things out on their own. We all need wisdom in every aspect of our lives.

Proverbs are not promises, but principles that have been tested over time and summarized to help people navigate wisely through life.

Proverbs are not universal promises because we know that they are not always true to our lived experiences.

Here at the beginning of Proverbs, we find the language of urgency that God has for us with respect to wisdom. He is crying out to us - his children. These are God's words to us today. Wisdom is not automatic for us, instead foolishness is our default. It is our default because we live in a world marked by sin which keeps us looking inward, trying to live our lives without help, in a destructive way.

We all need to grow in wisdom because this is about life and death. How is it that we live in a culture where we are constantly searching but don't live a life of wisdom? Many of us make bad decisions that lead us to suffer needlessly. We can avoid suffering needlessly by searching for wisdom.

Three obstacles to searching for wisdom:

1. A Too Full Life
2. Pride
3. Shame.

When we talk about wisdom, we need to talk about the Gospel. The Gospel is the message that Jesus Christ is Lord, which means that we are not Lord. We need to embrace our weaknesses and throw ourselves at his Lordship. The Gospel transforms our pride and shame, so that we no longer need to our lives with a false self.

The Gospel frees us to be people who search for wisdom. Three Places to Search for Wisdom:

1. In Prayer
2. In Scripture
3. In Wise People

God is speaking to you right now and telling you to search for wisdom. Even in our foolishness, God's mercy is new for us every single morning, and nothing can stop God's love from coming to you.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, begins a new sermon series on the book of Proverbs. Pastor Rich explores the importance of searching for wisdom as we start of the new year and what living this out in our lives looks like.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, did you grow up in a home where you were taught to believe that the older family members were the ones with wisdom? What did this experience look like for you and your family? Journal about your responses to these questions, offering them up to God.
3. Which of the three following obstacles do you feel is hindering your ability to seek wisdom right now?
--Are you leading a too full life, always on auto pilot, not slowing down to be with Jesus and seek wisdom?
--Is your pride getting in the way of seeking wisdom? Do you feel that you don't need anyone's help?
--Are you living with shame, not able to admit your shortcomings to others, which keeps you from seeking wisdom?
4. What area of below can you begin seeking wisdom this week?
--Setting a dedicated time aside in daily prayer, opening yourself to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit through silence, meditation, and reflection?
--Are you able to being seeking wisdom and discernment through reading the Holy Scriptures?
--Can you being searching out wise people to help you grow in wisdom and make good decisions? It might be with a trusted brother or sister in Christ, maybe someone in your small group or you seek out a Spiritual Director or therapist/counselor (<https://newlife.nyc/counseling/>).