

Family Study Guide

Sermon #3

Proverbs & the Family — “Wisdom Begins at Home”

Big Idea: Our home is the special place God designed for us to be loved and to learn wisdom for life.

1. Open with Prayer

Father, thank you for the time you have given us as a family to worship you together and reflect on the blessings we enjoy in our home. Help our home be filled with your love and kindness as we learn wisdom together. Amen

2. Read God’s Word Together

Read:

Proverbs 4:1–4 (ESV)

*¹Hear, O sons, a father’s instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight,
²for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.*

*³When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,
⁴he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.*

A Simple Explanation for Children

Have you ever heard the same, “There’s no place like home?” It’s true! Home is a special place. God has given our family the opportunity to live, love, and learn together. It’s where we care for one another, grow in our faith, and discover God’s plan for our lives.

What we learn at school is important, but what we learn at home is important too. Home is one of the main places where God teaches us about Himself. Through our parents, God helps us to learn his truth, his love, and his wisdom.

That is why Proverbs reminds us to listen carefully when our parents speak and to pay attention to their instruction. As parents learn about Jesus through reading the Bible, praying, and gathering with God’s people at church, they pass those truths on to their children. They teach us about God’s love, what Jesus has done to save us, and how we can follow him with our whole hearts.

To grow in his wisdom, families need to make time to talk about him. When we pray together, read the Bible together, and discuss what God is teaching us, his truth begins to take deep root in our hearts.

As we learn to love God and obey his word, we grow strong in the Lord. One day, many of us will have families of our own. Then we can pass God's truth on to the next generation, helping our homes become places where families live in love and learn together. This is one of the ways God blesses his families from generation to generation.

3. Family Illustration

The Apprentice

Ask everyone:

Did you know that for most of history, children did not go to school each day to learn subjects like math, science, and reading? Instead, many children learned at home from their parents. Home was the place where they learned important lessons, practiced useful skills, and prepared for the work they would do when they grew up.

Children often learned a trade or skill by watching, listening, and helping their parents. For example:

- A blacksmith's son learned blacksmithing by standing beside his father at the forge.
- A farmer's daughter learned farming by walking the fields with her parents.
- A carpenter's son learned carpentry by watching every cut, every measurement, and every careful step.

Jesus Himself was known as a carpenter, and He likely learned this work from His earthly father, Joseph.

Long before there were classrooms and textbooks, there was the home. God designed the home to be a place where children learn truth, wisdom, love, and faith. Some of the most important lessons we will ever learn come from our parents as they teach us God's Word and help us follow Him.

4. Discussion Questions

For Younger Children (3–6)

1. Why did God place us in a home to grow up in?
2. What kinds of things can we learn at home better than any other place?

For Older Children (7–12)

1. What do you think the Bible means when it talks about wisdom?
2. How can I apply wisdom when I need to make a decision this week?

Parent Discussion

1. Why must we trust the Lord and not be dependent upon our own understanding?
 2. The goal of wisdom is not merely that we learn to obey rules, although that is important; the goal of wisdom is that we develop the character to know how to live for God's glory?
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5. Family Application

Choose ONE simple thing to practice this week:

- Pray together before bed
- Read one Bible story together
- Talk about one thing God taught you today
- Pray for someone who needs help

Remind your children:

Jesus is the perfect person, and He invites us to follow Him. But don't worry, you don't have to be perfect to follow. What matters is your faithfulness.

6. Closing Prayer

Father, thank you for giving us a home where we can be loved and learn about You. Help us this week to trust You in everything we do and to remember the wise things we learn from our parents so we can better love You and live a life of blessing. Amen