



FAMILY DEVOTION :: PRIME :: BRAINSWEAT

Lesson 1 :: Wise Fear

“As for me, all that I know is that I know nothing.” Socrates, whom many credit with being the foundation of western philosophy, was a pretty smart guy. Okay, he was ridiculously smart. Interestingly, Socrates didn’t credit his knowledge to his magnificently large brain, his superior genetics, or any natural ability that he possessed. It was quite the opposite. He actually said that the greatest thing that he could know is that he knew nothing. He recognized a need for wisdom to be gained outside of himself. But if knowledge is not found in ourselves, then where do we find it? Where does true wisdom begin?

Read Proverbs 1:1–7 together as a family. The Proverbs were written to give people practical wisdom to live a meaningful life. Solomon knew that a person’s ultimate desire was to gain understanding so that life could be lived with direction and purpose. He wrote the Proverb you just read so that people could understand where true wisdom can be found. Solomon said that if a person desires this kind of wisdom, the first step must be the fear of the Lord. To start on the path to a wise heart, a person must recognize his or her inability to know anything apart from the revelation of God and surrender to the Creator of the universe with a humble and teachable heart. Solomon understood that when a person truly begins to see God for who He is, it will create a healthy fear that will influence how a person chooses to live life. Solomon explained that the person who does not seek this kind of wisdom in any other way is truly foolish.

As followers of Christ, the life that God desires for us begins with fearing Him. Our ultimate desire should be to know the one who takes our foolish hearts and reveals what our lives are meant to be. Through God’s Word and the direction of the Holy Spirit, we gain practical wisdom on how to live well. Live a life that respects, honors, and is desperate for direction from the one who made you. Live your life fearing the Lord. Don’t be a fool.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. According to Solomon, what is the key to living a wise life?
2. Why can fearing the Lord be a difficult thing to do?
3. What are some things in our culture that try to influence the purpose and direction that we take with our lives as individuals and as a family?
4. What do you do to seek God’s wisdom for living daily?
5. How could spending time in prayer together lead you to find God’s wisdom as a family?