

Lesson 3 – The Way of the Wise (Teacher’s Guide)

(Instruction: This guide is for teaching prep. Use student handout as class focus)

Text: Proverbs 3:1–12

Audience: Youth, college students & young professionals

Goal: Students will understand that wisdom is lived out through trusting and obeying the LORD in every area of life, including accepting His loving discipline, and that this path leads to blessing and peace.

1. Opening & Icebreaker (5 minutes)

Icebreaker Question:

- *“When you have to make an important decision—school, career, relationships—what do you usually rely on most: your feelings, your logic, advice from others, or God?”*

Transition:

Explain that many people trust their own understanding, but Proverbs teaches that **true wisdom comes from trusting God fully**.

2. Introduction to the Passage (5 minutes)

Teacher Teaching Points:

- Proverbs 3 is written as a father’s instruction to his child.
- This passage focuses on **how we live**, not just what we know.
- Wisdom is shown through daily choices, not just beliefs.

Key Idea to Emphasize:

Faith in God must be lived out, not just talked about.

3. Reading the Scripture (5 minutes)

Activity:

- Have students read Proverbs 3:1–12 aloud (assign several verses to different students).

Observation Question:

- *“What commands and promises do you notice in this passage?”*

4. Teaching: The Way of the Wise (15 minutes)

A. Keeping God’s Word in Your Heart (vv. 1–2) - key v1

- “Do not forget my teaching” means more than remembering—it means **holding onto and obeying** God’s Word.
- God’s Word guides everyday life: school, work, decisions, and relationships.
- God promises **peace and a meaningful life**, not an easy life.

Teaching Insight:

Knowing God’s Word without living it is not biblical wisdom.

B. Living with Love and Faithfulness (vv. 3–4) - key v3

- Love and faithfulness reflect **God's character**.
- These qualities build trust in friendships, families, and workplaces.
- A wise life attracts respect and credibility.

C. Trusting the LORD with All Your Heart (vv. 5–8) - key v5

- Trusting God “with all your heart” means placing Him above feelings and logic.
- We often become “wise in our own eyes.”
- God promises direction and healing when we depend on Him.

Illustration:

A GPS only works if you follow its directions. Wisdom means trusting God's guidance, even when it challenges your instincts.

D. Accepting the LORD's Discipline (vv. 11–12) - key v11

- God's discipline is not punishment—it is **loving correction**.
- God corrects His children to protect and shape them.
- The wise person learns from correction instead of resisting it.

5. Wise vs. Foolish Responses (7 minutes)

Teaching Point:

- Wise people trust God and submit to His guidance.
- Foolish people rely on themselves and resist correction.

Small Group Discussion (3–4 students per group):

1. What makes it hard to trust God completely?
2. In what areas are people most tempted to rely on their own understanding?
3. How can we tell the difference between God's discipline and normal life challenges?

Teacher Wrap-Up:

True wisdom grows in humble, teachable hearts.

6. Personal Reflection & Application (6 minutes)

Reflection Questions:

- Am I trusting God or myself right now?
- Is there an area of my life I haven't surrendered to God?
- How do I usually respond when God corrects me?

Application Challenge:

Encourage students to **bring one specific decision to God this week** and actively seek His guidance in prayer and Scripture.

7. Closing Summary & Prayer (2 minutes)

Summary Points:

- The way of the wise is obedience, not just knowledge.
- Trusting God is more important than trusting yourself.
- God's discipline is a sign of His love.

Closing Prayer:

Ask God to help students trust Him fully, walk in wisdom, and humbly accept His loving correction.