

Weekly Study Guide for May 25, 2025 | Essential Areas of Growth... Wisdom

During the 30 years leading up to Jesus' public ministry, the Bible emphasizes His growth in three essential areas: wisdom, stature, and grace (Luke 2:40, 52). In this study, we will focus on the first of these—wisdom.

Read the following passages and reflect on the questions below:

“Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding” (Proverbs 4:5-7).

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you” (James 1:2-5).

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures” (James 4:1-3).

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual [sensual], demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate [gentle], submissive [willing to yield], full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere [without hypocrisy]. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness” (James 3:13-18).

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).

Support: [Luke 2:40](#); [Luke 2:52](#); [1 Samuel 2:26](#); [Luke 1:80](#); [Luke 4:1-3](#); [Matthew 4:1-3](#); [Proverbs 4:5-7](#); [James 1:2-8](#); [Matthew 7:7](#); [James 4:1-3](#); [James 3:13-18](#); [Matthew 10:16](#); [Proverbs 9:10](#)

Reflection Questions:

1. Why is wisdom essential for spiritual growth?
2. How do you know if you are growing in wisdom?
3. Why do some people lack wisdom? What should you do if you lack wisdom?
4. What is the difference between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom? How can you discern which is influencing you?
5. What is the connection between wisdom and the fear of the Lord?
6. What is one big takeaway from all of this? How does it apply to you? What difference will this make in your life?

For later: Take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson applies to your life. What did you learn? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? How can you apply this to your life?

Summary:

1. Wisdom is essential because it is the starting point or foundation of your faith. The alternative is foolishness, which is often associated with evil and unrighteousness. Wisdom protects and guides you to live in alignment with God's will and purposes.
2. Wisdom is seen through humility, discernment, and an increasing alignment of your life with the Bible. If you exemplify the qualities of purity, peace, kindness, and gentleness, it's a good sign you're growing in wisdom.
3. Many lack wisdom because of pride and selfish ambition. They neither desire it nor ask for it. If you lack wisdom, ask God for it, but be sure to ask with proper motives.
4. Worldly wisdom is characterized by envy, selfish ambition, bitterness, jealousy, fighting and quarrels, boasting and lies, hypocrisy, and favoritism. Godly wisdom is characterized by humility, gentleness, peace, love, mercy, and kindness. You can discern which is influencing your life by examining your motives—if your decisions bring peace, humility, and righteousness, they reflect godly wisdom.
5. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom starts with reverence, awe, and deep respect for God. Wisdom comes when we recognize God's authority, humble ourselves, and submit to His leading.
6. Godly wisdom is from God and honors God. It starts with the fear of God and results in a holy life. Worldly wisdom, on the other hand, is concerned solely with pleasing oneself. Godly wisdom prepares us for eternity. With godly wisdom, we trade earthly values for biblical values (1 John 2:15–16). We recognize we are citizens of another kingdom, and we make choices that reflect that allegiance (Philippians 1:27; 3:20). Having godly wisdom means seeing life from God's perspective and acting accordingly. True wisdom always points to Jesus, reveals God to man, and addresses our need by offering real help.