

17. The purpose of Scripture is not just to teach our minds, but to fire our hearts and stir our wills to faith and good works. Do you find that some parts affect you in different ways to others?

Fear

18. (v7, see also Proverbs 9.10 and Psalm 111.10) What does it mean to say that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom?

Pray

For the parents and children in our church fellowship and in your own wider families, that parents would see it as vitally important to teach their children the faith and about practical Christian living.

Give thanks for the children and leaders in our Sunday and midweek children's groups and pray for good and appropriate use of the opportunities that arise to instruct.

Pray for our Church School, giving thanks for the clear Christian values and for opportunities to set these before the children.

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Get Wisdom

Week 1



Read Proverbs 1.1-9

Proverbs seems to have been partly composed by Solomon, using his own sayings and those of others. It seems that other sayings of Solomon were included in it at a later date (Prov 25.1). Some of the book began as instruction for children.

A father's instruction, a mother's teaching

1. (v8) Were you brought up in a Christian home and as part of a local church or neither of these?
2. Did your parents talk about spiritual things? To what extent did they or others teach you about faith as a child and what impact did this have in your own coming to faith?
3. If you have children to what extent do you/did you teach them the Christian faith and how?
4. Read 2 Tim 3.14-15 Could the same thing be said of your children (or grandchildren) as was said of Timothy?

5. How can we as a Church encourage and equip parents to teach their children in the home?

6. Ronald Blythe (1922-) wrote “As for the British Churchman, he goes to Church as he goes to the bathroom, with the minimum of fuss and no explanation if he can help it.” Do you think this a fair comment on the past and have things changed?

7. Do you think life in general is easier or harder for children today than a generation or two ago?

8. Are there particular pressures on Christian young people today?

Useful

The following questions refer to Proverbs 1.1-9.

9. (v-1-2) When you read Proverbs how do you feel about that little word “all” in 2 Timothy 3.16? - “all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful...”.

10. Would you say that you have seen it as a book that is important to *read, mark, learn and inwardly digest*? (The Collect for the second Sunday in Advent)

11. (v3) What do the words used here suggest about the purpose of the proverbs? Are they about religious observance or everyday life?

12. (v4-5) What sort of people will benefit from these sayings? (Where would you put yourself in these descriptions?)

13. (v6) Solomon describes some of these sayings as riddles. What is the point of a riddle, and how might this help us grow in faith? (See Prov 25.2 and Dan 5.12)

14. Read Mark 4.33-34. To what extent do you think the parables of Jesus work in a similar way?

15. We can see in the Bible many different styles of writing. For example Romans is quite logical and analytical, the Psalms are poetry and song often strong with emotion, narrative teaches us by example (whether positive or negative) whilst Proverbs conveys truth through vivid and memorable images and contrasts.

How would you see yourself in terms of being analytical, creative, emotional etc? Are there particular parts of the Bible that you find resonate more with you? (The Bible is not conveying different messages, but the same message in different styles.)

16. What would say is the most effective way to teach the faith to children? What about Solomon’s approach of teaching children through proverbs?