

Living in and as God's Creation

Unit 3: Lessons in Living

(Lessons 10-13)

ACCEPT WISDOM'S INVITATION

LESSON 11

WHY TEACH THIS LESSON?

Adults deal with foolishness every day. Foolish drivers. Foolish employees. Foolish employers. Foolish media. Foolish politicians. Foolish educators. Foolish relatives. The clear affirmation of Proverbs, however, is that wisdom is available, even eagerly crying out her nearness. Why would anyone ignore her plea and power?

Today's study will allow your learners to hear again the cries and claims that wisdom makes. Once again they will have opportunity not only to grow in personal wisdom but also to grow in ability to deal with the foolishness of worldliness as they confront it in themselves and in others.

For those confused by the notion that wisdom comes by experience or education, today's text will allow them to see that wisdom is of God. Only experience with God builds wisdom. Only education in God's Word enhances wisdom. No adult is truly wise without God. Your students need today's reminder!

INTRODUCTION

A. THE UNACCEPTED INVITATION

Many years ago I was involved in a state math competition for high school students. Surprisingly I came in second and was awarded a scholarship to attend the local university. The scholarship, however, required that I be a math major. This was not my interest, so I turned the offer down and let it go to the third-place student.

I have wondered, though, how different my life would have been had I accepted this offer. Would I have made a contribution to the field of mathematics? Would I have become a high school or college math teacher? Would I have met people at that university who influenced my life and pointed me in other directions? There is no way to know these things. But whenever we reject an invitation, we make a choice that has an effect on our future.

Today's lesson invites us to join the people of God in the path of wisdom. It is an invitation that comes from God himself. He invites us to wisdom because he knows this is the best course for us to follow. The wise life is the life for which God created us.

B. NATION OF FOOLS

In the book of Proverbs, knowledge is a clear understanding of what is right and wrong from God's perspective. The wise person is the one who has this knowledge and chooses to do right. The fool is the one who knows what God has ordained as right and wrong, but chooses to do the wrong thing, the thing that is displeasing to God. Thus there is a direct correlation between wisdom and righteousness and between foolishness and sin (see Psalm 37:30; Proverbs 24:9).

DEVOTIONAL READING:

PROVERBS 8:10-21

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:

PROVERBS 8, 9

PRINTED TEXT:

PROVERBS 8:1-5, 22-32

LESSON AIMS

After participating in this lesson, each student will be able to:

1. Identify imagery the writer uses to give human qualities to wisdom.
2. Tell how godly wisdom is seen in a person's actions.
3. Use Scripture in a case study format to help someone make a wise decision.

KEY VERSE

Does not wisdom call out?
Does not understanding raise her voice?
—Proverbs 8:1

LESSON 11 NOTES

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If foolishness and sin mean the same thing in Proverbs, then modern culture demonstrates a monumental lack of wisdom! What are some specific behavioral examples that show the foolishness of the world? Defend your choices.

HOW TO SAY IT

Corinthians. Ko-RIN-thee-unz.
 Ecclesiastes. Ik-LEEZ-ee-AS-teez.
 Ephesians. Ee-FEE-zhunz.
 Hosea. Ho-ZAY-uh.
 Machiavelli. MA-key-uh-VEH-lee.
 Mao Tse-tung. Mau dzuh-DUNG.
 Napoleon Bonaparte. Nuh-POL-yuhn BO-nuh-PART.
 Solomon. SOL-o-mun.
 Zechariah. ZEK-uh-RYE-uh.

Recently an American state court ruled that an abstinence-based sex education course could not be taught in public schools. The ruling stated that such a course promoted a particular type of morality, and the state must be morally neutral. This illustrates the confusion between religious neutrality and moral neutrality. It is ridiculous to expect a government to be morally neutral. This confusion has led courts to define acceptable morality as that which is not promoted by any religious group. Thus, governments often have promoted the views of a minority of citizens. National and local governments and court systems are on a course of losing any sense of morality, any sense of virtue.

The Bible teaches that the divine purpose for government is to reward good and punish wrong (1 Peter 2:14). Governments that cease to do this will not endure. If truth is excluded from public discussion, there will be no morality. If there can be no sense of absolute truth, there can be no guiding principles of morality. Increasingly we live in a culture that has little regard for God's standards of morality. It was recently revealed that the president of my state's largest university (40,000+ students) was having an extramarital affair with one of his staff members. This relationship was an "open secret" among many on the campus, but no one spoke up to condemn it. This issue of a powerful person's disregard for traditional standards of moral behavior was seen as a private matter, and no one else had the right to criticize this man.

Today's culture retains a basic understanding of God's standards for behavior because of the Bible's enormous influence on Western civilization across the centuries. But while the culture has this knowledge, it increasingly disregards these standards and chooses to accept and normalize immoral behavior. The verdict of Proverbs, then, is that while education levels may be at an all-time high, we live in a nation of fools. Our TV shows are written by fools. Our legal system is controlled by fools. Our educational system listens carefully to fools.

It does not have to be this way. In today's lesson, wisdom calls us, inviting us to join her in partnership with God. We don't have to join the stampede toward foolishness engulfing our culture. The ancient, timeless ways of righteousness and godliness will bring blessings to us and to our children and grandchildren.

C. LESSON BACKGROUND

Proverbs 8 uses an exciting literary technique called *personification* to portray wisdom. This means that wisdom is not presented as an abstract, doctrinal item that can be reduced to a list of dos and don'ts. Instead, wisdom takes a personality and becomes the companion of God in creating Heaven and earth. Wisdom is also the channel of God's blessing.

I. INVITATION TO WISDOM (PROVERBS 8:1-5)

A. WISDOM'S CALL TO US (vv. 1-3)

1-3. Does not wisdom call out?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

*On the heights along the way,
 where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
 beside the gates leading into the city,
 at the entrances, she cries aloud:*

A common cartoon situation depicts someone scaling a tall mountain to talk to a person on the top. This person is assumed to be a fount of wisdom, able to answer any and all human questions. The cartoon punch line is often based on the fact that such isolated hermits have little insight and give ridiculous advice.

The Bible does not portray *wisdom* this way. Wisdom calls to us. Wisdom is presented as making this invitation at the most public places of the ancient city: *on the heights*, at the most trafficked *paths*, at the city's entrance *gates*, at the *entrances* to all the homes. Wisdom does not play hide-and-seek with us. We can find wisdom and understanding in the pages of Scripture if we approach them with faith and willing obedience.

Last week in our study of Proverbs 2, we saw the use of a poetic technique called *parallelism*. Here it is again! *Wisdom* and *understanding* are parallel with one another; their meanings tend to overlap. The same is true of *call out* and *raise her voice*. We can note in passing that the Hebrew words for *wisdom* and *understanding* are both feminine. This is what leads the writer of Proverbs to use the feminine pronouns *she* and *her* in personifying wisdom.

B. WISDOM'S CHALLENGE TO US (vv. 4, 5)

4, 5. "To you, O men, I call out;

I raise my voice to all mankind.

You who are simple, gain prudence;

you who are foolish, gain understanding.

Wisdom submits a universal challenge: Get me! There is no elitism here. Wisdom is not restricted to highly intelligent or deeply spiritual people. The most foolish among us can reverse course and begin to incorporate godliness in his or her life. Likewise, the wisest, most godly people can be even wiser and more consistently righteous in their choices. No one is ever beyond hope for wisdom, nor is anyone above the need for becoming wiser still.

It is never too late or too early to begin to live wisely. I have crossed paths with many young people who are sold out to living for God and make careful, prayerful choices. I have also known people who have come to faith late in life and begin to make consistent, godly choices for the first time. This does not mean that the effects of all their bad choices instantly disappear, but error is no longer compounded by additional error. Things do get better, even in the most chaotic of lives.

II. ORIGINS AND PURPOSE OF WISDOM (PROVERBS 8:22-32)

A. WISDOM IS CREATED (v. 22)

22. "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works,
before his deeds of old;

God is the creator of wisdom. See Genesis 4:1 where this same Hebrew verb is used in the sense of "giving birth to."

Proverbs does not present wisdom as something uncreated, then. Wisdom is the initial creation of God. In the Genesis account, the first thing created is light (Genesis 1:3). In some ways, wisdom is indeed light—the enlightenment of humans as to the ways of God. (See the parallel between wisdom and light in Ecclesiastes 2:13.)

In other ways wisdom is the foundation of creation. God does not create wisdom after designing the universe. The universe is not self-explanatory. God's wisdom is shown in every aspect of creation: material, spiritual, and ethical. "The heavens proclaim his righteousness" (Psalm 50:6).

B. WISDOM AT CREATION (vv. 23-29)

23-26. "I was appointed from eternity,
from the beginning, before the world began.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What would it mean for you to respond to wisdom's invitation today? How would your life be different in your schedule, family relationships, and finances?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Who is the wisest person you have ever known? What made him or her wise? What did that look like in practical terms of how he or she talked, spent time and money, and carried himself or herself publicly?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The apostle Paul notes in disparaging terms that “Greeks look for wisdom” (1 Corinthians 1:22). If he were to restate this for the twenty-first century by saying “secular scientists look for wisdom,” what would he mean? Give some examples.

*When there were no oceans, I was given birth,
when there were no springs abounding with water;
before the mountains were settled in place,
before the hills, I was given birth,
before he made the earth or its fields
or any of the dust of the world.*

This text emphatically states that wisdom precedes any aspect of material creation. Even the most spectacular geographical features of our planet—the heights of the mountains and the depths of the oceans—came after the creation of wisdom. Wisdom takes second place to nothing in the created world.

Those who study the natural world are repeatedly amazed by the complexity they find. Single mountains comprise entire ecosystems of stunning interdependence. When fields such as cell biology and quantum mechanics cease to search for naturalistic explanations for life, their discoveries are breathtaking in their depth. It is estimated that human cells have 3.5 billion genetic bases, allowing for almost infinite genetic variety. Each human being is made up of billions of such cells. Each cell contains billions of lines of genetic code.

When these findings are put under the perspective of faith in a creator, we stand in awe. The raw intellectual power behind all of this is far beyond our comprehension (Jeremiah 10:12). Yet the Bible does not speak of God's intelligence, but of his wisdom. God's wisdom permeates every aspect of the created universe. We will never be able to comprehend that wisdom fully.

*27, 28a. “I was there when he set the heavens in place,
when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,
when he established the clouds above*

The author now describes wisdom's presence at the creation of the heavens. For those in the ancient world, the heavens are everything above the landmass of the earth. This would include both the sky (where birds fly) and the place of spiritual residence for God and the angels. The spiritual world was also created by God according to his pattern of wisdom. It is neither chaotic nor contradictory, but exists as a part of God's orderly creation.

Some people believe that spiritual principles are unscientific and illogical. Proverbs will not stand for this line of argument. Just as God created an orderly and brilliant material world, he created a spiritual world intended to conform to his patterns of wisdom. The fact that sin exists on the spiritual level is a testimony to the reality that created beings have been able to choose against God's mandates and thus play the spiritual fool.

WISDOM IN THE HEAVENS

Quick, now: what is the outermost planet in the solar system? You're right: it's Pluto—or maybe not! Since Pluto was discovered in 1930, astronomers have debated its status. All the other planets orbit in the same plane; Pluto's orbit is tilted 17 degrees. The four inner planets are rocky bodies while the next four are gas giants; Pluto, for its part, is a tiny ball of ice. One scientist says it is merely a comet; others say there are many other planets that are not counted.

First estimates of Pluto's size were that it was the size of the Earth. But now we know that its icy brilliance confused those who made those guesses. Next, we discovered the early estimates also were fooled by including the brightness of Pluto's large moon. In the 1990s the situation became even more complex when hundreds of icy planetary bodies similar to Pluto were discovered orbiting the sun beyond Neptune. To make matters more complicated, the innermost planet, Mercury, is not a planet by some definitions!

Perhaps the one thing we can be sure of in all of this is what Proverbs says: when God prepared the heavens, his wisdom was at work. Our own wisdom—or perhaps we should say our mere *knowledge*—regarding the universe is finite. We need to be reminded of that occasionally!

—C. R. B.

*28b, 29. . . . and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
when he gave the sea its boundary
so the waters would not overstep his command,
and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.*

The vast seas are very mysterious and majestic to people in both the ancient and modern worlds. While we know more about the oceans today, they still remain untamed. Yet as with the rest of creation, the oceans are subject to the laws of God. God has not created something that he cannot control. The mammoth might of the oceans is a part of the master plan of the wise creator.

C. WISDOM AS A DELIGHT TO GOD (vv. 30, 31)
30, 31. *“Then I was the craftsman at his side.*

*I was filled with delight day after day,
rejoicing always in his presence,
rejoicing in his whole world
and delighting in mankind.*

The personification of wisdom takes a new twist here. God has not only created wisdom and used it to design the rest of creation, he also takes special delight in wisdom. Likewise, wisdom rejoices at being with God. We see here echoes of God’s judgment at the end of creation: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

As we find elsewhere in the Bible, the crown of God’s creation is humanity itself (Psalm 8:5). God created us in his image, to be in fellowship with him. This brings a *delight* to God that we cannot fully understand but only appreciate. This appreciation, however, helps us understand why God wants us to behave wisely. When we choose sin and act as fools, we take away God’s delight and joy and cause him grief (Genesis 6:5, 6; 1 Samuel 15:11, 35; Ephesians 4:30).

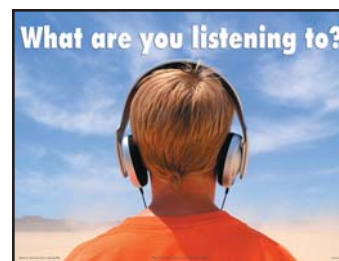
WHY WE DON’T FIND (OR CAUSE) DELIGHT

Dave Barry has a weekly humor column that appears in many newspapers. In one column he describes what he calls Male Genetic Dirt Blindness, a factor at the heart of many husband-wife problems. There is scientific evidence that the male brain takes in less sensory detail than the female brain. This is one reason why many wives cannot take delight in their husbands as much as they both would like—men simply do not “see” dirt the way women do. As Barry quotes one household conversation, “What snow tires in the dining room? Oh, ‘those’ snow tires in the dining room.”

We probably shouldn’t risk the peace of the class today by pressing the matter any further! But the fact is that differences in people (of either gender) can create problems in relationships. Wisdom is the daily delight of God, and that’s what he wants us to be to him as well. But part of bringing delight to God involves our use of wisdom in dealing with differences between people. Improper relationships between family members can result in relationship problems between us and God, as 1 Peter 3:7 establishes.

Our problem is that we often have neither sought wisdom nor invited her into our lives in this regard. The result is that we sometimes do not bring delight to the God who created us.

—C. R. B.



Visual for Lesson 11. *This question reminds your students that they will be listening to something this week—but exactly what is their choice.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, May 8—Learn Prudence and Acquire Wisdom (Proverbs 8:1-9)

Tuesday, May 9—Receive Advice, Wisdom, Insight, and Strength (Proverbs 8:10-21)

Wednesday, May 10—Wisdom Participated in Creation (Proverbs 8:22-31)

Thursday, May 11—Listen to Wisdom’s Instruction (Proverbs 8:32-36)

Friday, May 12—Wisdom Extends an Invitation (Proverbs 9:1-6)

Saturday, May 13—Wisdom Multiplies Our Days (Proverbs 9:7-12)

Sunday, May 14—Folly Extends an Invitation (Proverbs 9:13-18)

PRAYER

God, our creator, you have formed the heavens and the earth according to your master plan. This plan is too marvelous for us ever to understand fully. You have given us access also to the knowledge of right and wrong. Help us understand this fully, knowing right from wrong according to your will.

Help us to make wise choices for the right and reject the foolish choices for the wrong. May we be granted the blessings of wisdom from your hand. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, your Son, amen.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

The life-changing invitation to wisdom is open to all, and its promises are sure.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What similarities and differences do you see between the invitation to get wisdom and the invitation to follow Jesus? How do you apply these similarities and differences in your own life?

D. WISDOM AS A BLESSING TO US (v. 32)

32. "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways."

The invitation to wisdom is repeated, now with the promise of a blessing to those who heed her. This invitation is a win-win situation. We win because we begin to make wise, moral choices that will be honored by God and will avoid the chaos and self-inflicted pain of the foolish life. God wins because his lost children have come home. His delight is restored. What a motivation to make wise choices, to live lives of godliness! May we not do this as a way of earning a reward. May we do this, rather, out of the realization that God, our creator, has shown us how to live, even in our culture of moral confusion and relativity.

CONCLUSION**A. CONFIDENT, GODLY LIVING**

My great-grandfather, who spoke German much better than English, used to say, "Da proplem is dat we be too soon olt and too late schmaht." (Translation: The problem is that we are too soon old and too late smart.) That rings true for many of us. How we wish we knew then what we know now! Yet old age is no guarantee of wisdom. Adults who are mature in years often make incredibly foolish decisions. Both the old and young make unwise decisions with money, selfish decisions with relationships, and destructive decisions with spiritual matters.

If we depend on our own resources, wise decisions always will be a matter of chance. If we depend on God's instructions for living, we can confidently choose the right thing, knowing that God will never lie to us or mislead us. God created us to enjoy life and live it to the full as we glorify him. But this can happen only if we study his Word and model our lives after his patterns.

The greatest example of this is found in the life of Jesus, God's Son. Studying his teachings and actions is a reliable way to godly living. But Jesus is not available to us in the flesh as a life example to see with our own eyeballs. Paul understood this when he urged his readers to "follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). We all need godly examples to pattern our lives after, people we know and love. One of the central elements of wise living is to pattern our lives after truly godly people. When we find these people, we can learn from them as they have learned from God's Word and from other godly people. We can live the godly life with confidence.

B. JESUS CHRIST AS THE WISDOM OF GOD

Proverbs 8:22-32 personifies wisdom and finds her dwelling with God. This passage also pictures wisdom as the agent of God in creation (see also Proverbs 3:19). The Gospels, for their part, portray Jesus as being a manifestation of superior wisdom (Luke 2:40; see also v. 52). Jesus answered his critics by mentioning wisdom in an obvious reference to himself (Matthew 11:19). He claimed superiority over the wisdom of Solomon, the wisest person in history (Matthew 12:42). The great wisdom of Jesus was astounding to those he encountered (Mark 6:2). Jesus promised to impart wisdom to his followers in times of trials (Luke 21:15).

In Paul's great discussion of the inadequacy of human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5), he is not shy about identifying Jesus as "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24) and "who has become for us wisdom from God" (1 Corinthians 1:30). Thus, the Old Testament's invitation to wisdom is continued in the New Testament's invitation to Jesus. If wisdom is a matter of correct choices, we can make no wiser choice than choosing to believe in him.

Discovery Learning

This page contains an alternative lesson plan emphasizing learning activities. Classes desiring such student involvement will find these suggestions helpful. The next page is a reproducible activity page to further enhance discovery learning.

LEARNING GOALS

After this lesson, each student will be able to:

1. Identify imagery the writer uses to give human qualities to wisdom.
2. Tell how godly wisdom is seen in a person's actions.
3. Use Scripture in a case study format to help someone make a wise decision.

INTO THE LESSON

To begin today's lesson, ask your students to write down several examples of well-known sayings that reflect worldly wisdom. (Provide paper or direct your class to the student books, where this activity is printed). Such expressions could include common sense advice like "change your oil every 3,000 miles." Or they could reflect a worldly view of life, such as "it's a dog-eat-dog world." (Alternative: Have students complete the You Don't Say! exercise from the reproducible page instead.)

After several minutes call on volunteers to share their work. Ask them to decide which sayings are truly wise and which are actually foolish or flawed in some way. Then tell your class that today's lesson will help them recognize the difference between genuine, godly wisdom and the worldly imitation.

INTO THE WORD

A popular teaching technique used by ancient philosophers was the dialogue. For today's text, ask your class to pretend that wisdom is a person, as in Proverbs 8. Imagine that wisdom is having a dialogue with a seeker who is trying to uncover wisdom's true nature.

Below are the questions the seeker asks. Distribute copies of these questions (but not the answers in brackets). Then instruct students to supply the answers given by wisdom in Proverbs 8:1-5, 22-32. (This exercise is printed in the student books also.) After students complete the exercise, discuss their answers with the aid of the lesson commentary.

Seeker: Where can you be found? From where do you call to us?

Wisdom: *[Everywhere! On the heights, on the paths, at the gates, in the entrances of the city; vv. 1-3.]*

Seeker: What is your challenge to us?

Wisdom: *[Get me! Gain an understanding heart; vv. 4, 5.]*

Seeker: Where do you come from?

Wisdom: *[I am of the Lord, from eternity before he created the universe; vv. 22-26.]*

Seeker: How were you involved in creation?

Wisdom: *[God showed his wisdom in the creation of the heavens, the oceans, and the earth; vv. 27-29.]*

Seeker: What do you think of the world in general and people in particular?

Wisdom: *[I rejoice in the world and take great delight in humanity; vv. 30, 31.]*

Seeker: What is promised to those who follow you?

Wisdom: *[They will be blessed; v. 32.]*

INTO LIFE

Below are quotations that reflect a worldly point of view. Say, "Now let's look at wisdom from a different angle." Ask students to respond to each quote with an appropriate Scripture passage that indicates God's wisdom on the subject. Discuss responses in light of today's lesson. Suggested Scriptures follow each quotation. (The quotations are also printed in the student books. For an alternative approach, print the quotations down the left side of a page and Scripture references in biblical order down the right side; then have students match them.)

1. "Religion is the opium of the masses."—Karl Marx *[John 8:31-36; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25]*

2. "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."—Mao Tse-tung *[Romans 13:1-5]*

3. "If you wish to be a success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing."—Napoleon Bonaparte *[Matthew 5:33-37; Zechariah 8:16, 17]*

4. "You can get much farther with a kind word and a gun than you can with a kind word alone."—Al Capone *[Matthew 5:38-47; Romans 12:17-21]*

5. "Christ died for our sins. Dare we make his martyrdom meaningless by not committing them?"—Jules Feiffer *[Romans 6:1-7]*

6. "I am free of all prejudices. I hate everyone equally."—W. C. Fields *[Matthew 5:43-46]*

7. "Under capitalism man exploits man; under socialism the reverse is true."—Polish proverb *[Philippians 2:1-4]*

8. "Success is the sole earthly judge of right and wrong."—Adolf Hitler *[Proverbs 21:2, 3; Hosea 14:9; Micah 6:6-8]*

You Don't Say!

Complete the following well-known bits of folk wisdom. Circle your evaluation to the right.

- | | | |
|--|------------------|----------|
| 1. A stitch in time saves _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 2. A penny saved is a penny _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 3. Pretty is as pretty _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 4. Brevity is the _____ of wit. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 5. Absence makes the _____ grow fonder. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 6. The way to a man's heart is through his _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 7. The best things in life are _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 8. You can't make a silk _____ out of a sow's ear. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 9. Nothing is certain but _____ and taxes. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 10. Virtue is its own _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 11. A chain is no stronger than its weakest _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 12. A man is known by the _____ he keeps. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 13. A rolling _____ gathers no moss. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 14. _____ speak louder than words. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 15. All is fair in _____ and war. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 16. All that glitters is not _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 17. _____ is only skin deep. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 18. Discretion is the better part of _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 19. Experience is the mother of _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 20. Familiarity breeds _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 21. Fools rush in where _____ fear to tread. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 22. Measure twice; cut _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 23. Good fences make good _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 24. Laughter is the best _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |
| 25. Necessity is the mother of _____. | Biblically wise? | Foolish? |

Answers: 1. nine; 2. earned; 3. does; 4. soul; 5. heart; 6. stomach; 7. tree; 8. purse; 9. death; 10. reward; 11. link; 12. company; 13. stone; 14. actions; 15. love; 16. gold; 17. beauty; 18. valor; 19. wisdom; 20. contempt; 21. angels; 22. once; 23. neighbors; 24. medicine; 25. invention