

Smart Parenting

Lesson 03 of the series "Smart Life"

A. Solomon was the smartest man who ever lived.

...the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!" Solomon replied, "...O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around... Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong..." The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!"

1 Kings 3:5-12 (NLT)

Life Application: We can ask God for wisdom, too!

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

James 1:5 (NLT)

B. Solomon wrote many proverbs in order to pass on the wisdom God gave him.

"These are the proverbs of Solomon... Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair." Proverbs 1:1-3 (NLT)

Life Application: We will gain wisdom if we meditate on God's Word.

"These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles." Proverbs 1:4-6 (NLT)

"Oh, how I love your instructions! I think about them all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are my constant guide." Psalm 119:97-98 (NLT)

C. 4 habits of smart parents.

1. Smart parents pass on the wisdom God has given them.

"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."

Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)

"My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the honeycomb is sweet to the taste. In the same way, wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, you will have a bright future, and your hopes will not be cut short."

Proverbs 24:13-14 (NLT)

2. Smart parents teach their children to fear the Lord.

"Fear of the Lord" = An attitude of awe and reverence for God that results in willing, humble obedience to his Word.

"Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge..." Proverbs 1:8 (NLT)

"My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands... Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:1-6 (NLT)

My child, never forget the things I have taught you... Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil."

Proverbs 3:1,6-8 (NLT)

Life Application: Fear of the Lord is "caught" as well as taught.

"...you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again." Deuteronomy 6:1-7 (NLT)

3. Smart parents discipline their children.

“Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.” Proverbs 13:24 (NLT)

“Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you will ruin their lives.” Proverbs 19:18 (NLT)

“Don’t fail to discipline your children. They won’t die if you spank them. Physical discipline may well save them from death.” Proverbs 23:13-14 (NLT)

Note: Effective discipline always involves:

- Communication of expectations
- Appropriate Consequences
- Consistency

Life Application: Smart kids understand that parental discipline is necessary.

“Only a fool despises a parent’s discipline; whoever learns from correction is wise.” Proverbs 15:5 (NLT)

4. Smart parents help their children choose good friends.

“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

“My child, listen and be wise: Keep your heart on the right course. Do not carouse with drunkards or feast with gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty, and too much sleep clothes them in rags.”

Proverbs 23:19-21 (NLT)

“Don’t do as the wicked do, and don’t follow the path of evildoers. Don’t even think about it; don’t go that way. Turn away and keep moving. For evil people can’t sleep until they’ve done their evil deed for the day. They can’t rest until they’ve caused someone to stumble. They eat the food of wickedness and drink the wine of violence! The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over. My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart...” Proverbs 4:14-21 (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the best piece of advice you have received from your parents?
2. Describe your relationship with your parents during your teenage years. Did you respect their opinions? Why? Why not? If you could go back in time what would you do differently?
3. Read Proverbs 13:20, 23:19-21. How important is it to choose good friends? How good have you been at surrounding yourself with good companions? How important has your Connect Group been to you? Who do you know that could use Christian friends? Would you be willing to invite them to your group?
4. Read Proverbs 3:1-8 and Deuteronomy 6:1-7. Who has influenced you the most in your relationship with God? How did they do it?
5. Who is the wisest person you know? Where did they get their wisdom?
6. Read Proverbs 13:24, 19:18 & 23:13-14. What was the worst punishment you received as a kid? Did you deserve it? Why? Why not?
7. Read 1 Kings 3:5-12. If God granted you one wish what would you ask for?
8. React to the following proverbs:

“Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.”
Proverbs 29:17 (NLT)

“Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don’t despise your mother when she is old.” Proverbs
23:22 (NLT)

“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.” Proverbs
22:15 (NIV)

“A wise youth harvests in the summer, but one who sleeps during harvest is a disgrace.” Proverbs 10:5
(NLT)