

**Learning With No Regrets**  
Lesson 03 of the series, "No Regrets"

**A. God wants us to learn this year.**

"My children, listen when your father corrects you. Pay attention and learn good judgment, for I am giving you good guidance. Don't turn away from my instructions. For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved as my mother's only child. My father taught me, "Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live. Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them."

Proverbs 4:1-5 (NLT)

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29 (NIV)

"Our people must learn to do good by meeting the urgent needs of others; then they will not be unproductive." Titus 3:14 (NLT)

"Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge." Proverbs 18:15 (NLT)

"Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more."

Proverbs 9:9 (NLT)

**B. Four regrets about learning we can avoid this year.**

You will say, "How I hated discipline! If only I had not ignored all the warnings! Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers? Why didn't I pay attention to my instructors?" Proverbs 5:12-13 (NLT)

1. We will regret learning nothing.
2. We will regret learning false/wrong things.
3. We will regret not using what we've learned.
4. We will regret not passing on what we've learned

**C. Seven resolutions that will help us learn and keep us from regret.**

1. Resolved: This year I will pray for wisdom and understanding.

"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. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest...Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy. Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe."

Proverbs 2:3-11 (NLT)

*Note:* It is useless to ask God for more wisdom if we won't act on the wisdom we already have. "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." James 1:5-7 (NLT)

2. Resolved: This year I will learn from God's Word.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

*Note:* Learning God's Word takes time. "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

3. Resolved: This year I will learn from God's people.

"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives." Colossians 3:16 (NLT)

*Note:* Meeting regularly with other believers takes intentionality. "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

4. Resolved: This year I will learn from past sins & mistakes.

"King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper." Daniel 4:27 (NLT)

"As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness." Proverbs 26:11 (NLT)

*Note:* Pride always keeps us from repentance. "In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God." Psalm 10:4 (NIV)

5. Resolved this year I will have a better attitude when going through trials and difficulties.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4 (NIV)

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation." Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

6. Resolved: This year I will invest in someone else.

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. 2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

7. Resolved: This year with God's help I will do hard things.

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:17 (NIV)

John Schmidt • 01-15-17 • [john@centeringlives.com](mailto:john@centeringlives.com)

## Connect Group Questions

1. What is something new that you would like to learn this year? (skill/talent/general knowledge)
2. What is something you would like learn about God this year?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105, & Joshua 1:8: Why is it so important to be in God's Word continually? What are some of the ways you read the Bible? Share how God's Word has guided your decision making process in a particular situation.
4. One of the ways disciples are made is by sharing what God has revealed to us from His Word in relationships. How can we learn from each other in this group of what God is teaching us? What is something God has revealed to you recently?
5. Read James 1:2-4 & Romans 5:3-4: Based on these verses what should be our attitude during difficult circumstances? In past difficult life situations what did you learn about your faith in God?
6. Read Matthew 20:28 & 2 Corinthians 1:4. Whom are you serving or investing in? Is there a person you can reach out to and pass on the wisdom God gives? Is there a person your group can reach out to?
7. Read Proverbs 2:3-11: What keeps us from praying for wisdom more often? In what areas of your life do you need wisdom and understanding? Spend some time as a group praying for each other.
8. Discuss the following quotations:

"Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional. We cannot avoid pain, but we can avoid joy." Tim Hansel

"...immature people think, *if reality doesn't go my way, I'm miserable, and I will let everyone know it.* Maturity, on the other hand, adapts to reality. And it's never easy. We're forced to acknowledge our weakness, set aside our way of doing things, and get in sync with a different, sometimes jarring, rhythm"  
Kerry Shook

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." J.R.R. Tolkien