

Making Wise Decisions (Proverbs 3:1-12)

Need Direction? – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis – September 14, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Proverbs 3:33 (NIV) The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.

Proverbs 3:35 (NIV) The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.

Matthew 7:24 (NIV) "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:26 (NIV) But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

1. Build your _____

1A. Command: Keep the Lord's _____

Proverbs 3:1 (NIV) My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,

Promise: Have a _____ life

Proverbs 3:2 (NIV) for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

1B. Command: Cultivate love and _____

Proverbs 3:3 (NIV) Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Promise: Have _____ with God and man

Proverbs 3:4 (NIV) Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

2. Put the Lord _____

2A. Command: _____ the Lord in everything

Proverbs 3:5-6a (NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him,

Promise: You will be kept on the _____ path

Proverbs 3:6b (NIV) ... and he will make your paths straight.

2B. Command: _____ the Lord

Proverbs 3:7 (NIV) Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

Promise: Receive health and _____

Proverbs 3:8 (NIV) This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

2C. Command: Honor the Lord with your _____

Proverbs 3:9 (NIV) Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

Promise: Receive an _____

Proverbs 3:10 (NIV) then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

3. Learn from your _____

3A. Command: Submit to the Lord's _____

Proverbs 3:11 (NIV) My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,

Promise: The Lord _____ you

Proverbs 3:12 (NIV) because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Making Wise Decisions (Proverbs 3:1-12) Study Guide

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Intro. What do you think would be the qualities of a wise decision? Why?

What is the Lord's curse and the Lord's blessing (Proverbs 3:33, 35)?

What is the difference between the wise and the foolish in Jesus' parable (Matthew 7:24, 26)?

Why is it important to be wise in order to make wise decisions?

1A. What is at the heart of God's command in Proverbs 3:1? What does it mean to have prosperity (Proverbs 3:2)?

1B. How would you describe a person characterized by love and faithfulness (Proverbs 3:3)? How does the promise proceed from obedience (Proverbs 3:4)?

1C. What are some practical ways that you could build wise character in your own life?

2A. What does it mean to put the Lord first in your life? Why is it difficult?

2B. Explain the commands of Proverbs 3:5-6 in your own words. Why does the promise follow from keeping the commands?

2C. What does it mean to fear the Lord (Proverbs 3:7)? Why is health and healing conditional on fearing the Lord (Proverbs 3:8)?

2D. Why does God require a firstfruits tithe be given to Him first (Proverbs 3:9)? What is God's promise when you honor Him with your finances (Proverbs 3:10)?

2E. Describe how the principles of trusting, fearing and honoring the Lord could help you in making wise decisions.

3A. Why do some people despise or resent the Lord's discipline (Proverbs 3:11)?

3B. How should we understand the negative consequences of making foolish decisions (Proverbs 3:12)?

3C. How can we grow in wisdom from our failures and foolish decisions?

3D. What major decisions are you facing that you could apply these principles to?