

**THE POINT:**  
*Christ-centered  
living chooses  
wisdom from  
God, not  
simply knowledge.*

## THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

We do not lack knowledge; in fact, we are overwhelmed with knowledge. We may not have it stored in our heads, but we have easy access with just a click of the mouse. What we lack is understanding of the best way to use that knowledge—and that calls for wisdom. Because God is the ultimate source of everything we can know, wisdom begins by looking to Him. As Solomon wrote, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov. 9:10).

▶ **If you could be the leading expert in any field, what would it be?**

## INTRO

Who knows how to play Stairway to Heaven on the guitar? Does anyone know how to make the world’s greatest buffalo sauce? How about installing additional RAM on your desktop computer? Here’s a secret: If you don’t know how, you can learn to do these things online in about 17 seconds. We are swimming in an ocean of knowledge, but we’re dying of thirst for wisdom. We cannot simply be pursuers of knowledge. Relying on God’s wisdom must become second nature to us, so that our lives, and not just our intelligence, reflect who God is and who He has called us to be.

## 1 KINGS 3:3-9

Solomon’s dad was the greatest king (aside from Jesus) Israel would ever know, and Solomon was now responsible to follow as the ruler of God’s chosen people. And all this happened when he was a very young man. Talk about pressure! God came to Solomon in a dream and said, “Ask for anything—what would you have Me give to you?” There are many things we may ask God for: a big house, a long life, the stereotypical one-million dollars. But Solomon had a much better perspective. He prayed for wisdom to rule God’s people well. God has called us all to things that we can’t accomplish on our own. The best thing we can do is, like Solomon, ask God to help us live according to His wisdom.

▶ **What’s the difference between wisdom and “book smarts”?**

## 1 KINGS 3:10-14

When Solomon asked God not for riches or military strength, but for wisdom to lead God’s people well, the Lord was pleased. Solomon’s request was characterized by:

- ▶ **Humility:** Solomon recognized his inability to bear the weight of the responsibility.
- ▶ **Honor for God:** Solomon made much of God, trusting His power and wisdom.
- ▶ **Love for others:** Solomon wanted wisdom so the people would be blessed by his leadership.

God granted Solomon’s prayer because of the nature of his request. The Lord is pleased with us as well when we pray in humility, we seek God’s glory, and we pursue the welfare of others.

▶ **How do we gain and apply wisdom in our daily lives?**

## 1 KINGS 4:29-34

Whereas knowledge is accumulated as a sort of party favor—for the sake of attracting attention and looking smart—wisdom serves real purposes and helps us live well. Exercising wisdom not only benefits the one who is wise, but also serves to bless others:

- ▶ **Families:** Parents pass it down to their children.
- ▶ **Churches:** Leaders invest in members, who also serve one another.
- ▶ **Communities:** Christians serve in places other than the church and impact their communities in a wide variety of ways.

God would have us humbly receive godly wisdom from influential people in our lives. He’d have us live according to the understanding He gives us. Then, He’d have us pass it on. This is the nature of discipleship as we seek to follow Jesus.

▶ **How can we effectively reflect God’s wisdom in our culture?**



# LIVE IT OUT

## ▶ CHRIST

There's never been anyone even nearly as wise as Jesus, and it's clear from His life that He was intent on passing wisdom down to His followers. In fact, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount has been classified by many as "wisdom literature." Take a moment to read Matthew 5:3-12 and record your thoughts on the following questions.

- ▶ **What stands out to you about the wisdom of Jesus?**
- ▶ **What changes is Jesus calling you to make in light of these verses?**
- ▶ **How will you pursue Jesus this week in order to receive wisdom from Him?**

## ▶ COMMUNITY

When we think of wisdom found in the Bible, Proverbs may be the first book that comes to mind. It makes perfect sense because it contains wisdom about how to live to honor God and experience His blessings. Proverbs 13:20 says, "The one who walks with the wise will become wise, but a companion of fools will suffer harm." Living in Christian community is essential to growing in wisdom. Further, if we're to share wisdom with others as God has called us to do, this happens in the context of relationships.

**WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE COMPANY YOU KEEP AS WISE OR UNWISE? EXPLAIN.**

**THIS WEEK, HOW WILL YOU PURSUE COMMUNITY FOR THE SAKE OF GIVING AND RECEIVING WISDOM?**

## ▶ CULTURE

Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-20. The world, with its science and psychology and philosophy, thinks it has access to true wisdom. Tragically, the world's wisdom has no value in relation to eternity, and even Christians are persuaded to buying in at times.

- ▶ **In what ways have you bought into the wisdom of the world?**
- ▶ **How is God calling you to evaluate your life and live according to God's wisdom instead of that of the world?**



## BIBLE READING PLAN



**DAY 1**  
1 KINGS 2:1-12

**DAY 2**  
1 KINGS 2:13-27

**DAY 3**  
1 KINGS 2:28-46

**DAY 4**  
1 KINGS 3:1-15

**DAY 5**  
1 KINGS 3:16-28

**DAY 6**  
1 KINGS 4:1-19

**DAY 7**  
1 KINGS 4:20-34