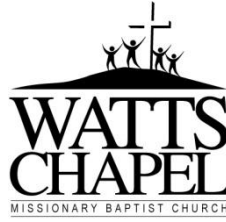


# WATTS CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

## DISCIPLESHIP LESSON



**February 26, 2012**

**“Trust in God”**

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

### LESSON AIMS

**At the end of the lesson, disciples will be able to:**

- a. *Recite the Scripture that gives the origin of Wisdom.*
- b. *Describe Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly.*
- c. *Explain, scripturally, the action verbs for Proverbs 3:5-6.*
- d. *Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6*

### SCRIPTURE:

***Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)***

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (NIV).

### BRIDGE:

Proverbs 1:7 provides the PASSWORD (Wisdom) which unlocks the Proverbs from the book's introduction to its conclusion. Wisdom shapes moral and ethical choices that confront humanity in the marketplace of daily living. Wisdom is implanted through instruction, gained through discipline, and pruned by the “lightening rod” of the world. The God of the universe, the Supervisor and final Judge of our moral and ethical choices, will one day judge our choices (wisdom) and render a verdict that will determine our eternal destiny. Wisdom comes from God and is a proven true formula for our earthly success and heavenly rewards.

### BACKGROUND

The inspired writer of Proverbs sets the tone for the “Praise of Wisdom” in the life of the believers and non-believers as he reminds us that, the “Fear of the Lord” is the beginning of wisdom. Wisdom begins with knowing "Who God Is" and developing a close relationship with Him. In the course of human life, Wisdom presents herself in the form of two ladies – Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly. Lady Wisdom teaches us to do what is right and inherit God's security which is promised to the believer. Lady Folly teaches us to do what is evil and inherit the fruit of eternal condemnation - “The Lake of Fire”. Revelation 20:15 affirms that, “*And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire*” (NKJV).

The commands captured in Proverbs 3:5-6 can help us establish a relationship with, respect for, and show reverence towards God. This will allow us to “Trust in God”, “Lean not on Self”, “Acknowledge God” in everything we do, and have the assurance that “God will Direct your Path”. Son, *as you humbly “Walk in the Spirit”, on this PATH from earth to glory*, fear God, embrace His commands in Proverbs 3:5-6 and reap His promised rewards:

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (NIV).

## **THE LESSON: (A Father to Son Monologue)**

Scripture records that God expects parents to impart wisdom learned and experienced to their children. In today’s lesson, we meet a father who knows that those who embrace wisdom have honor and security in the Lord. In preparation for a counseling discourse with his son, the father may have meditated on the Apostle Paul’s expression of trust in the Lord in John 6:68-69, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are God’s Holy One”. On the strength of this sacred passage, the father delicately, yet firmly, imparts wisdom to his son based on God’s promises in Proverbs 3:6.

As we walk through this father’s counseling discourse with his son in Proverbs 3:5-6, it is the will of God that each one of us will write our name in the space that precedes the Scriptural action verbs, “Trust”, “Lean”, and “Acknowledge”. Then, hit the *action verbs* button, enter the data in our hearts, act upon it, and God promises that He will direct our *PATHS*. *Hear the father speak to his son:*

### ***My Beloved Son:***

I enter this counseling discourse with you to impart wisdom into you that God has granted me through His Word and through my life experiences. This discourse is a proven formula for the young man or woman who wants to achieve earthly success and reap heavenly rewards.

Son, as you prepare to leave the safety net of your parents and try the realities of an unknown world, know that the world stands ready to impart its wisdom into you. My prayer is that you will be skillful in using wisdom from God as you make choices and decisions that will impact your life forever. BEWARE, my son, that some choices and decisions are irreversible.

It is my sincere prayer that you will ingest, digest, and allow Proverbs 3:5-6 to be food for your soul and guidance for the moral and ethical choices you will have to make on your *PATHS* from earth to glory. As you humbly “Walk in the Spirit”, fear God, embrace His commands in Proverbs 3:5-6 and reap His promised rewards:

<sup>5</sup> **Trust** in the LORD with all your heart and **lean** not on your own understanding;

### **3:5a Trust God**

Trusting God echoes the command of Deuteronomy 6:5 to love God with our whole heart and, as parents, share God’s Word with our children. This allows parents and children to have hearts that are filled with love, confidence and trust for God. This is most pleasing to our heavenly Father. Each time we use the powerful words, “I believe”, it bolsters our trust and confidence in the Lord and strengthens our belief in our God who never fails. The more we trust God, the greater will be His response to our every need. Jesus reminds us in Mark 11:22, “Put your trust in God”. Great, O God is Thou Faithfulness!

My dear son, keep your heart forever, helplessly, prostrated before the Lord in reverence and obedience. In every circumstance of our lives, God is well aware of our needs and He beckons all of us to trust Him. We need to hear ourselves verbally declaring our trust in the Lord so that it becomes a habit pattern of trusting God always and in everything. One of the greatest expressions of our love is our trust and confidence is the One we love - God the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul challenges us to, “Trust God, do good, test our confidence by doing God’s will, and discover that God’s way is truly good, pleasing, and perfect”. The sacred writer, the Apostle Paul also reminds us to be ever mindful that, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31)

Therefore, son, heed Psalm 37:3-5, “Trust in the Lord and do good, that you may dwell in the land and enjoy security, Take delight in the Lord and He will grant you your heart’s requests. Commit to the Lord your ways; trust in Him, and He will act.” God is your refuge, “Trust God” and “Lean Not on Self”.

### **3:5b Lean Not on Self**

“What I Think” is not the title of the Book that will lead us from earth to glory. It is the Holy Bible which records that a good life is lived in the center of the will of God and not in our will. Jesus demonstrated the perfect example of not leaning on self in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said, “Nevertheless Father, Not My Will, But Your Will be done”. Mercy and truth should always be present in your outward behavior and in your inward meditation. Bind them around your neck and write them on the tablet of your heart so that you can call on Him who is able to keep you from falling - the God of Mercy and Truth”.

Let me speak delicately, yet I must speak to you frankly about the perils of sex, peer pressure and all kinds of temptations that you will encounter. Know that bad choices are dream killers that are often irreversible. They can turn your life upside down. When you have to make a choice, it’s okay to have a healthy distrust of your own self. Son, simply “Acknowledge God,” “Lean on God” and ask yourself the question, “What Would Jesus Do?” “Trust God”, “Lean on Him”, and “Acknowledge God” in all your ways.

### **Verse 6**

<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight (NIV).

### **3:6a Acknowledge God**

In Psalm 46:11-12, an urgent appeal is made that we not only listen to the voice of God, but take His Word to heart and act on His Word. God beckons us to Stop, Look, Listen! Desist, He says, and confess that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted upon the earth. The Lord of host is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold”.

The first and greatest commandment admonishes us to acknowledge God: “Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind soul and strength”. Without reservation, we must become fully committed to God in body, soul, and spirit. Acknowledge who God is - the Maker, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth. The earth is the Lord’s, the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein”. (Psalm 24) In the Old Testament, Psalm 23, David acknowledges God as our Shepherd. In the New Testament, The Apostle John acknowledges Him in John 10 as the Great Shepherd of the sheep. I tell you son, God knows what is best for us. We are not capable of guiding ourselves. Jesus is our guiding light on this Salvation Path and He leads us from earth to glory.

### **3:6b God Will Direct Your Path**

There is only one PATH in life that leads to eternal glory and that path is the one mapped out by Jesus. Along that path, you will find signs, billboards, and even flashing neon messages that entice you to detour from the highway to heaven. You will find many exit signs, but very few return ramps. Jesus reminds us that there will be crosses (road blocks) on the Highway to Heaven. We are to move around those road blocks by taking up our crosses daily and following Him.

As you strive to “Trust in the Lord”, “Lean Not to Self”, and “Acknowledge God”, “He Will Direct Your Path” from earth to glory! While my presence will not always be with you as you travel this path, my prayers will. Finally, my son, embrace Proverbs 3:5-6 and you will enjoy earthly success and heavenly rewards! May the “Love of God”, the “Joy of Jesus”, and the “Peace of God’s Holy Spirit” rest, rule, and abide with you always.

*With All My Love,  
Daddy*

## **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION:**

1. What is the theme of the Book of Proverbs?
2. "In all thy ways..." How do we trust God in every area of our life?
3. State the Scripture for the origin of Wisdom.
4. How do we acquire Wisdom? Explain.
5. Name some moral and ethical choices that we make in life?
6. What are the Scriptural action verbs in Proverbs 3:5-6?
7. What affects your ability to trust in the Lord?
8. In what areas of life do we need to use Wisdom?
9. Why should we not lean on our own understanding?
10. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your trust level in God?
11. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your ability and willingness to trust in God?