

GODLY WISDOM VS. WORLDLY WISDOM

What God Says Wisdom and Understanding Are
Proverbs 2:6 | Proverbs 9:10 | James 3:13

A Scripture-Based Study Workbook
NKJV Translation

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HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

(Read First)

This workbook is designed to help you interact directly with the text of Scripture. The learning flow is organized into five layers:

1	Observation — What does the text say?
2	Interpretation — What does the text mean using its own wording?
3	Contrast — What does God define versus what is false, empty, or opposed?
4	Synthesis — What unified definition, chain, or conclusion emerges?
5	Application — Where must belief, thinking, and conduct change?

Rules for This Study:

- Keep your Bible open.
- All answers must come from the passages listed.
- Avoid outside commentary.
- Preserve the wording of the translation provided (NKJV).

I. OBSERVATION LAYER – WHAT DOES THE TEXT ACTUALLY SAY?

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS This section focuses on the core definitions of wisdom and understanding found in the wisdom literature and the prophets. We will identify the stated source of wisdom and the specific starting point God has established for true knowledge.

Objective: Identify the phrases that state the source and the beginning of wisdom found within the anchor verses.

ANCHOR PASSAGES

Job 12:13 (NKJV)

"Wisdom and understanding are with Him."

Job 28:28 (NKJV)

"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom."

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom."

Psalms 119:104 (NKJV)

"Through Your precepts I get understanding."

Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV)

"For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

1 Corinthians 3:19 (NKJV)

"The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."

OBSERVATION EXERCISES

A. Identify the Source and Location of Wisdom.

1. According to Job 12:13, wisdom and understanding are _____ Him.
2. In Proverbs 2:6, the LORD _____ wisdom.
3. Knowledge and understanding come from _____ (Prov 2:6).

4. Understanding is obtained through _____ Your _____ (Psalm 119:104).

B. Trace the Starting Point and Definition of Wisdom.

5. The _____ is the _____ of wisdom (Prov 9:10).

6. Behold, the _____, that is _____ (Job 28:28).

C. Note the Divine Verdict on Human Wisdom.

7. The _____ of this _____ is _____ with God (1 Cor 3:19).

◆ REFLECTION & ALIGNMENT – OBSERVATION ◆

1. In Proverbs 2:6, what three distinct things are said to come from the Lord and His mouth?

2. According to Psalm 119:104, what specific divine resource results in getting "understanding"?

II. INTERPRETATION LAYER – DEFINE USING SCRIPTURE ALONE

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS In this layer, we use the specific wording of the text to define "wisdom" and "understanding." We will look at how the Bible describes the origin of these traits and how they are recognized in a person.

Objective: Trace the definitions of wisdom and the nature of understanding by comparing the provided passages.

DEFINITION PROMPTS

1. Use **Job 28:28** to define wisdom: Behold, the _____, that is _____.

2. Use **Proverbs 9:10** to define the "beginning" of wisdom: The _____ is the _____.

3. Use **Deuteronomy 4:6** to define wisdom in the sight of others: Keep and do them; for this is your _____ and your _____ in the sight of the _____.
4. Use **James 3:13** to define how wisdom is "shown": Let him show by _____ that his works are done in the _____.

Write a one-paragraph definition of "wisdom" using the words "fear," "precepts," and "mouth" based on Job 28:28, Psalm 119:104, and Proverbs 2:6.

◆ REFLECTION & ALIGNMENT – DEFINITION ◆

1. Based on Proverbs 3:5, what is the specific instruction regarding "your own understanding"?

2. According to James 3:13, what specific "meekness" is wisdom tied to?

III. STRUCTURAL CONTRAST – GOD'S WISDOM VS. WORLDLY WISDOM

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS The Bible establishes a sharp contrast between the wisdom that comes from God and the wisdom of this world. This section focuses on the difference in source, posture, and God's judgment of both.

Objective: Contrast the dependence on the Lord with the reliance on human understanding and the "wisdom of this world."

A. THE LORD'S UNDERSTANDING VS. YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

Proverbs 3:5; Proverbs 2:6

1. We are told to _____ in the LORD with all our _____ (Prov 3:5).
2. We are told NOT to _____ on our own _____ (Prov 3:5).
3. True understanding comes from _____ (Prov 2:6).

4. Our own understanding is something we are warned not to _____ upon.

B. GOD’S WISDOM VS. THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD

1 Corinthians 3:19; 1 Corinthians 1:20

5. The wisdom of this world is _____ with _____ (1 Cor 3:19).

6. God has made _____ the wisdom of _____ (1 Cor 1:20).

7. Worldly wisdom is judged by _____ standard.

◆ REFLECTION & ALIGNMENT – CONTRAST ◆

1. If worldly wisdom is "foolishness with God," what does that imply about relying on the world's standards for life decisions?

2. What two actions in Proverbs 3:5 are set in opposition to each other regarding the heart and the mind?

IV. CONDUCT TEST – EVIDENCE AND FRUIT

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS Wisdom is not merely intellectual; it is visible. This section examines how wisdom is "shown" and "observed" through conduct and the keeping of God's statutes.

Objective: Trace the specific behavioral requirements and evidence of wisdom mentioned in the text.

1. According to James 3:13, the one who is wise and understanding should show it by _____.

2. In Deuteronomy 4:6, the wisdom of the people is seen when they _____ and _____ the statutes.

3. The "works" of wisdom are to be done in _____ (James 3:13).

4. Understanding is evidenced by hating _____ (Psalm 119:104).

5. The sight of the _____ identifies a "wise and understanding people" by their obedience to God (Deut 4:6).

REFLECTION SET

1. Is your wisdom currently "shown" by your conduct, or is it only in your speech?

2. Are you "leaning" on your own understanding in any current situation?

V. PATTERN MAPPING COMPARISON

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS By comparing the instructions across the Old and New Testaments, we see an unmistakable pattern of where wisdom originates and how it is sustained.

Objective: Map the shared terminology and themes across the different books of the Bible provided in this study.

1. SOURCE / GIVEN

1. Job 12:13: Wisdom and understanding are _____ Him.

2. Proverbs 2:6: The LORD _____ wisdom.

2. CONDITION / POSTURE

3. Proverbs 9:10: The _____ is the beginning.

4. Proverbs 3:5: _____ in the LORD with all your heart.

3. PROCESS / TAKING IN

5. Psalm 119:104: Through Your _____ I get understanding.

6. Proverbs 2:6: From His _____ come knowledge and understanding.

4. HEART POSTURE / EVIDENCE

7. James 3:13: Show by _____ conduct... in _____ of wisdom.

8. Deuteronomy 4:6: _____ and _____ them.

5. OUTCOME / VERDICT

9. 1 Corinthians 3:19: Wisdom of this world is _____ .

10. 1 Corinthians 1:20: God has made _____ the wisdom of this world.

Synthesis Question: What pattern becomes unmistakable when you link the "fear of the LORD" to the "precepts" of His mouth?

◆ REFLECTION & ALIGNMENT – PATTERN RECOGNITION ◆

1. Across all five categories above, where does every thread of true wisdom begin and end?

VI. SEQUENCE CONSTRUCTION EXERCISE

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS The text contains a logical flow: Fear → Receipt of Word → Understanding → Conduct.

Objective: Summarize the logical development of Godly wisdom as outlined in the study passages.

Sequence 1: The Chain of Divine Wisdom — Look at Proverbs 9:10, Proverbs 2:6, and Psalm 119:104. Summarize the chain (e.g., "First, there is the fear of the Lord, then He gives...").

Sequence 2: The Rejection of Worldly Wisdom — Look at 1 Corinthians 1:20 and Proverbs 3:5. Describe the negative chain of relying on self and the world (e.g., "Leaning on own understanding leads to...").

Final Clarity Question: According to James 3:13 and Deuteronomy 4:6, who is the ultimate judge of whether a person is "wise and understanding"?

VII. THEOLOGICAL THESIS CONSTRUCTION

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS Write a five-sentence summary answering: What is the nature and source of true wisdom? Each sentence must have at least one verse reference from this study.

Objective: Construct a theological summary using the required five-sentence format.

1.

(Verse: _____)

2.

(Verse: _____)

3.

(Verse: _____)

4.

(Verse: _____)

5.

(Verse: _____)

VIII. SELF-EXAMINATION INVENTORY

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS Examine your current heart posture against the conditions and warnings found in the text.

Objective: Evaluate your current level of wisdom based on the specific requirements of the passages.

1. Do you have a "fear of the LORD" that serves as the "beginning" of your daily decisions?

2. Are you currently "leaning" on your own understanding instead of trusting the Lord with all your heart?

3. Is your understanding coming "through His precepts" (Scripture) or through worldly media and opinion?

4. If someone looked at your "conduct," would they see the "meekness of wisdom"?

IX. MASTERY CHECK – CLOSE THE BIBLE

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS Test your recall of the specific wording emphasized in the study.

Objective: Answer the following questions from memory based on the phrases emphasized throughout this workbook.

1. What is the "beginning of wisdom"? _____
2. From whose "mouth" do knowledge and understanding come?

3. What are we told NOT to lean on? _____
4. The wisdom of this world is what, in God's sight? _____

5. Wisdom is shown by "good _____ " and "
_____ of wisdom."

Reopen your Bible and verify your answers.

X. FINAL SYNTHESIS STATEMENT

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS Complete these statements based strictly on what you have observed in the text.

Objective: Synthesize the final themes of source, trust, and conduct.

1. "True **wisdom** is not in ourselves, but _____."
2. "True **understanding** is gained through _____, not _____."
3. "It begins with the **fear of the LORD** and _____."
4. "It is blocked by **leaning on** _____."
5. "It is proven by **good conduct** and _____."

MEMORY ANCHOR

Choose one verse from the anchor passages that most clearly defines the difference between God's wisdom and man's. Write it in full below:

◆ REFLECTION & ALIGNMENT – FINAL REFLECTION ◆

True wisdom is a gift from God's mouth, but it requires a heart that fears Him and a life that observes His precepts.

Based on this study, what is one area of your life where you will stop "leaning on your own understanding" this week?

FULL SCRIPTURE INDEX

Reference	Reference
Deuteronomy 4:5-8	Proverbs 3:5-7
Job 12:13	Proverbs 4:5-7
Job 28:28	Proverbs 9:10
Psalms 119:104	1 Corinthians 1:20-24
Proverbs 1:7	1 Corinthians 3:19
Proverbs 2:6	James 3:13-18