

PROVERBS | DIRECTIONS FOR LIFE: WISDOM AND PARENTING
PROVERBS 6:20-23; 3:1-26
2ND STREET COMMUNITY CHURCH
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www.2ndstreet.org

I'm so thankful for this place where we can gather together, be in God's presence, hear God's voice - and have the opportunity to surrender to Him in new ways. What a joy to be one of the shepherds and teachers here. This morning we'll dive into **PROVERBS** for the sixth out of twelve teachings - this time to look into what Solomon, the son of King David, the King of Israel, and the author of the book of **PROVERBS** has to teach us about **WISDOM AND PARENTING**.

The goal of this book of sayings and proverbs is to show us our ways and God's ways - and then to invite us to get into sync with what God is saying and doing, and how God is thinking and prioritizing life - so that the decisions we make throughout our days, and then throughout our lives - reflect with growing congruity the heart, the mind, the passions, the actions, and the priorities of Jesus Christ.

Much of the remaining six teachings I'll share from **PROVERBS** will focus on the personalities and character traits of different kinds of people we all run into along the road of life - and Solomon wants us to become wise about these kinds of people so that we can make wise decisions concerning them and us, and how we allow our lives, or don't allow our lives to intersect and interact.

And so in trying to figure out where to put this teaching on **WISDOM AND PARENTING** into the teaching calendar, it made sense to me, that before we look at these many different kinds of people Solomon offers us wisdom about, that we'd take the time to look at what he has to say to us about parenting and how God longs for His wisdom to connect with how parents raise their children.

There are so many different stages of parenting represented here this morning. Not-yet parents, parents with babies, parents with young children, parents with teens, parents like Teresa and I with young adult children, and parents with grown children who have children of their own, and some of you here are even great grandparents. And to this wide-mixture of ages and stages, I believe God has some important things to say to us through Solomon's words about parenting and about how He wants His wisdom to connect with our lives, and our specific circumstances.

And what about those of you who don't have children? Well, most of you are aunts and uncles, or you have neighbors and friends whose children you can be an influence on - and so I want to strongly admonish you to not "check out" mentally or spiritually to what God wants to say to you this morning. Because, like we heard Jesus say at the end of each of the seven letters to the seven churches that we traveled through in our study of **REVELATION 2-3** this past fall ...

REVELATION 2:11 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹¹ He who has an ear, let him listen to what the Spirit says.

Listen indeed. Like you've heard me say at various times in the past three years, "parenting is not for the faint of heart." Seriously. But the challenge is that no matter how many reruns of "*The Courtship of Eddie's Father*" or "*The Waltons*" or "*The Brady Bunch*" or "*How I Met You Mother*" or "*Family Guy*" you've watched ... and no matter how many radio episodes of "*Focus On The Family*" you may have listened to ... or how many books by Dr. Dobson, Dr. Spock, or Dr. Laura, you might have read to prep you for the "***THIS CHANGED EVERYTHING EVENT***" that took place when you either had a child either naturally or by adoption ...

There's never been a parent on this planet who was ready, who had enough information about, or who was really prepared to have their own private little *bundle of joy* come into their lives.

And if you're here this morning and you're a child of any age - if you're still living with your parents, then I want you to know that I'm glad you're here too. Because I believe God has some things He wants to say to you in this teaching as well. I'm not just sticking up for your parents because I'm closer to their age than I am to yours, but I want you to know that speaking from my own experience as a parent, that most of the time your parents are doing the best they know how to do in raising you.

You didn't show up with an instruction manual ... and so that's why your parents are wanting to learn from God's Word what it has to say about how to be the parents ***GOD WANTS THEM TO BE***, and that ***YOU NEED THEM TO BE***. So I also challenge you to listen carefully, because I believe God has you here for a reason as well, and just like your parents, there are things that you need to ***LEARN*** and there are things that you need to ***UNLEARN*** in order to keep becoming the person God wants you to be.

And parenting has gotten tougher and tougher as the years have gone by. In the past 50+ years the cultures, beliefs, and practices of this world - along with the breakdown of the family through co-habitation, divorce, absenteeism of fathers, and the challenges of blended families, have made parenting harder than ever.

About ten years ago, researchers at *Johns Hopkins University* reported on some very interesting differences between the five biggest fears of elementary school children between the 1950s and the 1990s ...

FEARS OF KIDS IN THE 1950s

1. Dangerous animals
2. Being in a dark room
3. High places
4. Strangers
5. Loud noises

FEARS OF KIDS IN THE 1990s

1. Parent's divorce
2. War and dying
3. Cancer and other diseases
4. Pollution
5. Violence

Like Bob Dylan sang so many years ago, "The times, they are a changin'". No doubt Bob. No doubt.

PROVERBS 6:20 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²⁰ My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother;

The phrase **My son ...** in **v. 20** is found sixteen times throughout **PROVERBS ...** and it tells us that Solomon had it on his heart that what he was writing would be passed on to his children - to both his sons and his daughters. So girls, don't feel left out!

v. 20 ... observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother ... Solomon learned a lot of the wisdom he had about faith and about life from his dad and mom, David and Bathsheba. And the reason Solomon trusted what his parents taught him was because he knew that they weren't just talking off the top of their heads - but that they were trying to base their decisions about what kind of parents they would become on God's Word, and on the counsel God gave to them when they came to Him in an attitude and in a posture of humble surrender.

The Hebrew word for **son**, or **child**, here in **v. 20** is the word **bane**, and one of its most literal meanings is **"the builder of the family name."** Have you ever thought of yourself as **"the builder of the family name"**? When I discovered the meaning of this word in my studying this past week, I had new insight into what my dad often said to me when I headed out the door as a teenager, **"Gregg, remember your last name!"**

Gang, our names stand for something. And it's important that parents teach their kids that they're **building on and carrying on their family name ...** and that it's a responsibility to protect the reputation of their name. Like Solomon wrote in ...

PROVERBS 22:1 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹ A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver and gold.

Building the family name doesn't end. You teach your children to do it, and then they teach their children to do it, and then their children teach their children to do it. And the **building** never ceases. It's the same way **wisdom** increases. **Wisdom** is always built on **wisdom ...** just like **knowledge** builds on **knowledge**, and **understanding** builds on **understanding**. Isaiah wrote about this in **ISAIAH 28:10 ...**

ISAIAH 28:10 (NEW KING JAMES VERSION)

¹⁰ For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

You see, when we pattern our parenting strategy on a **foundation of grace and truth** that's **built** on the person of Jesus Christ, on the written Word of God, and on the will of God, our children will be more likely to grow up, go out into the world, and then **build** their lives on this same **foundation**, and on these same **precepts**. As the children of God, we're always involved in a **"building project"**. Because the **building of knowledge**, the **building of understanding**, and the **building of wisdom** is

never finished. The **building** goes on and on - growing after each succeeding generation. This is what the Apostle Paul was illustrating when he wrote ...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

³ For I delivered to you [*passed onto you*] as of first importance what I also received: That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures [*emphasis added*]

Remember, the most common of the seven Hebrew words translated **wisdom** in **PROVERBS**, is the word **chokmah**, meaning, “that which is pounded in.” **Wisdom** doesn’t just soak into our brains at night if we sleep with a Bible under our pillow. And neither does **wisdom** fall out of the sky and soak into us like raindrops. **Wisdom** comes to us and becomes an inextricable part of who we are when we continually apply ourselves to the Word of the Lord. Remember **PROVERBS 1:8-9?**

PROVERBS 1:8-9 (NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

⁸ Listen, my child, to the *instruction* [*discipline*] from your father, and do not forsake the *teaching* from your mother.

⁹ For they will be like an elegant garland on your head, and like pendants around your neck. [*emphasis added*]

See how Solomon challenges “the builder of the family name” to listen to and follow their father’s instruction? You might remember in our first study in **PROVERBS** when I told you that in the Hebrew language, the word “**instruction**” has at its root, the words “**discipline**” and “**correction**.” I love how Solomon puts the words “**discipline** and **teaching**” together in this same verse.

Solomon specifically says that *discipline* needs to come from the father, and that *teaching* needs to come from the mother. And that might have been the case when it was first written in non-egalitarian Israel three and a half centuries ago. But I believe that in our homes today that *discipline* and *teaching* both need to come from in equal doses from the mother and the father. And in fact, it’s here we find a key principle that Solomon repeats throughout **PROVERBS**, and I’m going to use it as our **FIRST FAITH LESSON** this morning.

FAITH LESSON ...

Both *teaching* and *discipline* are needed to “teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.” (**PROVERBS 22:6** | NEW LIVING TRANSLATION). And there’s a big difference between *discipline* and *punishment*.

Punishment is a negative action - *often in anger* - often taken to *repay wrong behavior*. And *discipline* is a positive action - *often taken in love* - to *prevent or correct wrong behavior*.

God never **punishes** His children, but He's definitely hip about **disciplining** and **correcting** us, to help us learn a way more connected to His character, His priorities, and His actions. Here's how Solomon talks about this in **PROVERBS 3:11-12** ...

PROVERBS 3:11-12 (NEW CENTURY VERSION)

¹¹⁻¹² **My child, do not reject the Lord's *discipline*, and don't get angry when He *corrects* you. The Lord *corrects* those He loves, just as parents *correct* the child they delight in. [*emphasis added*]**

Parents, you've been told this before ... but never **correct** your child when you're angry. **Correction** must always be carried out in **love**, not in a spirit of **punishment** or **vengeance**. When **correction** and **discipline** are used in **love**, it brings the child back into alignment with God and with you. **Punishment** builds up **anger**, **discouragement**, and **resentment**. But **discipline** and **correction** reinforces the positive traits in a child. I love how this truth is framed in two *The New Testament* verses ...

COLOSSIANS 3:21; HEBREWS 12:11 (CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION)

^{3:21} **Parents, don't be hard on your children. If you are, they might give up.**

^{12:11} **It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace.**

PROVERBS 6:21-23 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²¹ **Bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck.**

²² **When you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you.**

²³ **For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life.**

Solomon tells us that when God's Word become part of our inner, invisible life (in our heart) and part of our outer, visible life (tied around our neck), then and only then is when we'll come to the place where we'll have a happy and blessed life ... a life where Jesus Christ is at the very center of our attitudes, our feelings, our emotions, our words, our actions, and our priorities. **PROVERBS 1:9** puts it like this ...

PROVERBS 1:8-9 (NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

⁸ **Listen, my child, to the instruction [*discipline*] from your father, and do not forsake the teaching from your mother.**

⁹ **For they will be like an elegant [*grace*] garland on your head, and like pendants around your neck. [*emphasis added*]**

Notice how Solomon teaches us here that **instruction**, **discipline**, **correction**, and then the **law** [that is the Word of God], are pictured like an **ornament on the head** and as **pendants on the neck**. Another translation says that this garland on the head

is an “ornament of grace”. And in these descriptions of what God wants to see parents passing onto their children, I see a **SECOND FAITH LESSON** ...

FAITH LESSON ...

When parents continue gracing their children’s minds with God’s Word, then God’s Word will keep watch over the thoughts, dreams, questions, and concerns of their children. And in time their children’s minds will be looking at the world, their challenges, their victories, and even themselves through the grace of God. Amazing.

And what are we like when we’re looking at everything through the grace of God - at the world, at our circumstances, at our relationships, at our challenges, at our jobs, at our friendships, at ourselves, and at the people God allows to come across our paths each day? We’re focused less and less on self, because the needs of self are taken care of as through this vision of grace, we’re “seeking first the Kingdom of God” (**MATTHEW 6:33**).

Gang, in not too long of a time, any of us with children, will have to turn them loose. We’ll have to let them go out into the world and find their own way. And when we’ve taught our children how to live this grace-based, God-focused way, there’s no reason for us to be fearful about their moving into the next steps of life. Because when we raise our children in the Word of God, it will be an ornament of grace on their minds, keeping, protecting, and watching over them better than we ever could.

But not only will the Word be like a grace garland over the minds of our children, but it will also be like a chain and a pendant around their necks.

PROVERBS 1:9 (NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

⁹ For they will be like an elegant [*grace*] garland on your head, and like pendants around your neck. [*emphasis added*]

The Hebrew word for pendant is *anaq* (aw-nawk), and it doesn’t mean a pendant like we usually think of it, like a decoration. We put a chain around a dog’s neck, to act as a leash - and this is how Solomon is using this word. He’s saying that when we pound the wisdom of God’s Word into our children’s hearts and minds, that it will become like a chain, that God can use for guidance and restraint. Parents, you know that you won’t always be there to personally guide and shepherd your child, but God’s Word can do that. And this is what Solomon is talking about here.

Our children need to have the fullness of the Word of God inside of them. And this is why what we teach them in our homes and at church, and in Sunday School, and in youth group is so important. Because one day they’ll go out from under our direct care and face the world. But they won’t be alone. Because no matter how evil the world becomes, and no matter what kind of circumstances they come up against, the Word of God they’ve had pounded down into their hearts and minds will be stronger still. It’s like what the Apostle Paul wrote in **ROMANS 5:20** ... “but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more ...” Turn with me to **PROVERBS 3** ...

We're not going to study **PROVERBS 3:1-26** in depth. But I want us to hear them read aloud, and to be reminded of the absolutely rock-solid truth that following Jesus Christ, and storing His Word in our hearts, and making the choice to obey Him and stay in step with Him day-by-day, ***ONLY CHANGES EVERYTHING.***

PROVERBS 3:1 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;

Here's the "my son / builder of the family name" phrase again ... and God is reminding us once again to teach our children to not trash or ignore God's Word, but to keep God's commandments in their hearts. And then Solomon goes on in **vv. 2-26** to tell us some of the blessings that will come into lives of those who do this.

PROVERBS 3:2-4 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

² For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

³ Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and man.

years of life and length of days in **v. 2** are two different things. **years of life** refer to "life here on earth." And **length of days** refers to "the number of hours in a day." The only one of the 10 Commandments with a promise attached to it is the 5th one ...

EXODUS 20:12 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹² Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

Long life is one of the tangible blessings that comes from honoring earthly parents as well as our Heavenly Father. ***PARENTS, TEACH THIS TRUTH TO YOUR CHILDREN.*** But what about the phrase **length of days** in **v. 2**?

Solomon is talking here about **lengthening the day so that there's more time available** - not about literally turning 24 hours into 25 hours. But let me tell you something ... when we neglect God's Word, there's never enough time in the day to get everything done. Have you ever notices that? But when we're taking time for God's Word during each day, our priorities and our abilities get lined up with God's directions for us, and we're able to get done what we need to get done, usually with time left over. ***PARENTS, TEACH THIS TRUTH TO YOUR CHILDREN.***

PROVERBS 3:5-8 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

⁸ It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.

In vv. 5-6 Solomon tells us about the importance of turning all the big things and all the small things in our lives over to God's care ... because, like what Solomon wrote later, in SONG OF SOLOMON 2:15, "it's the *little foxes* that spoil the vine."

Notice that the second half of v. 6 is in the future tense ... and He will make your paths straight. ... This is God's promise to us that He'll guide us when we surrender our lives over to Him in complete trust. Now I get it - that sometimes it seems like God isn't holding up His end of the deal. I mean we've committed our kids over the Lord, and it doesn't seem like things are going all that good for them. And when this goes on, and sometimes when it goes on and on, it can be hard to keep believing that everything is going to turn out best, and that God is truly watching over them.

But look back at v. 5 ... Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ... Solomon admonishes us here to trust in the Lord with all our heart ... He knows how difficult it will be to keep putting our kids back into God's hands, instead of leaning on our own efforts and on our own plans. We've got to grab onto the truth expressed in JEREMIAHS 29:11-12 when we look at our kid's lives and see more *SELF* than *FAITH*, and more *DESERTION* than *DEVOTION*.

JEREMIAH 29:11-12 (THE MESSAGE)

¹¹⁻¹² I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on Me, when you come and pray to Me, I'll listen.

PARENTS, TEACH THESE TRUTHS TO YOUR CHILDREN.

PROVERBS 3:9-12 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁹ Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce;

¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

¹¹ My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord, or loathe His reproof,

¹² For whom the Lord loves He reproofs, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

vv. 11-12 tell us that God disciplines those He loves. But as I taught earlier, God will always do this *IN LOVE*. God disciplines us because He loves us and wants to help us get us back on course. Here's how Job talked about this in JOB 5:17 ...

JOB 5:17 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

¹⁷ But consider the joy of those corrected by God! Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty when you sin.

The Apostle Paul tells us that God uses His Word to do this correction, so that you and I will be “furnished to do every good work He has planned for us to do” (SECOND TIMOTHY 3:16-17). **PARENTS, TEACH THIS TRUTH TO YOUR CHILDREN.**

PROVERBS 3:13-18 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹³ How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.

¹⁴ For her profit is better than the profit of silver, and her gain better than fine gold.

¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her.

¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.

Let me ask you a question ... **What does it take to make you happy or blessed?** When we receive from God what God has in store for us, we'll be equipped to live contently in the center of God's will. Let God be your Jehovah-Jireh, your Provider (cf., GENESIS 22:14) and He will provide for you according to His plan and His timing.

When it comes to trying to find meaning, purpose and mission in this life, **money** doesn't last, and ultimately **money** neither does it satisfy. But **wisdom**? The one who gains it will have found something more precious than gold. And like Solomon said in v. 18, “happy are all who hold her fast.” **PARENTS, TEACH THIS TRUTH TO YOUR CHILDREN.** And finally, let's read PROVERBS 3:19-26 ...

PROVERBS 3:19-25 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

¹⁹ The Lord by *wisdom* founded the earth, by *understanding* He established the heavens.

²⁰ By His *knowledge* the deeps were broken up and the skies drip with dew.

²¹ My son, let them not vanish from your sight; keep sound wisdom and discretion,

²² So they will be life to your soul, and adornment to your neck.

²³ Then you will walk in your way securely, and your foot will not stumble.

²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden fear, nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; [*emphasis added*]

There's such a huge difference between **being afraid** and **being on our guard**. And embracing wisdom and immersing ourselves into God's Word will teach us how to move past fear, and become people who are on their guard - discerning about what's happening inside of them and around them, and wise about the decisions they make ... being sure to only make decisions that draw them closer to God instead of driving them further away from God.

Our children need to know the difference between **being afraid** and **being on guard**. **Being afraid** leaves us anxious, paranoid, and paralyzed ... vulnerable to the plans and deceptive schemes of Satan, who Jesus told us in **JOHN 10:10** wants to “steal, to kill, and to destroy” the ground God has helped us to take in this life.

But **being on guard** keeps us prayerfully dependent on God, surrendered to His will, and discerning and wise about Satan’s plans, so that he isn’t given an opportunity to overcome us. **PARENTS, TEACH THIS TRUTH TO YOUR CHILDREN**. I love **v. 26** ...

PROVERBS 3:26 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

²⁶ For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

No matter what the enemy or other people plot against you ... no matter how powerful your enemies may seem to be ... no matter how overwhelming your circumstances might look like ... and no matter how impossible the odds might look like, that God is still in control ... we can make the choice to put our **confidence** in God. And He will be the One who keeps us from tripping up. Because like the Apostle John wrote in **FIRST JOHN 4:4** ...

FIRST JOHN 4:4 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)

⁴ But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

PARENTS, TEACH THIS TRUTH TO YOUR CHILDREN.

If you want a devotional guide to all the verses throughout **PROVERBS** that speak to **WISDOM AND PARENTING**, then I’d recommend the book *Proverbs For Parenting* by Barbara Decker. You can find it at www.amazon.com, or you can order it at *Chapters Books and Coffee* here in Newberg. Barbara has identified over 70 realistic, helpful topics, including ... trusting in God, obedience, honesty, anger, temper, arguing, boasting, love, work, complaining, friendship, happiness, discretion, faithfulness, stewardship, and many more.

Here are a few final parenting tips from **PROVERBS** ... and if you want to have a printed copy of these, or for that matter, a printed copy of any teaching I’ve shared here at 2nd Street in the past 3 ½ years, they can be easily found and downloaded at the “Bible Teaching” tab on the 2nd Street website at www.2ndstreet.org. Our website is a good and growing resource for your Bible study needs. Check it out.

1. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to have an awe and a reverence for God, for God’s righteousness, and for God’s plans (**PROVERBS 1:7; 9:10; 10:27; 14:26-27; 15:16; 16:6; 19:23**).
2. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to love their neighbors as they love God and themselves - and remember that their “neighbor” is whoever God brings across their paths (**PROVERBS 3:27-29; 25:21-22**).

3. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to guard [*watch over and protect*] their minds (PROVERBS 4:23; 23:7).
4. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to obey, honor, and respect their parents (PROVERBS 1:8; 4:1-4; 6:20-23; 30:17).
5. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to talk with God about choosing their closest friends (PROVERBS 1:11-18; 2:10-15; 13:20).
6. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to talk with God and others they trust about their sinful desires - the temptations that when given into leave them feeling more disconnected from God rather than closer to God (PROVERBS 2:16-19; 5:3-5; 6:23-33; 7:6-27).
7. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to wait to have a sexual relationship until they are married - and then to jealously keep their vows of fidelity once they are married (PROVERBS 5:15-20).
8. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to be careful about the words that come out of their mouths - wanting them to reflect Jesus Christ more than the patterns and the culture of this world (PROVERBS 4:24; 10:11, 19-21, 32; 12:18, 22; 15:1-2; 16:23; 20:15).
9. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to talk with God about their vocation [*their calling*], partnering with God to do the work God has hard-wired them to do through their spiritual gifts, their personality, their life experiences, and their passions (PROVERBS 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 22:29).
10. **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN** to invite God to set the standard for how they will earn, save, give, and invest the money God has entrusted to them (PROVERBS 3:9-10; 11:24-26; 19:17; 22:9).

As we wrap up this morning I want to share a **THIRD FAITH LESSON** with you ...

FAITH LESSON ...

None of us have been the perfect parents. But it's never too late to do the right thing. Don't guilt yourself into being anxious and ashamed about what you didn't do - instead, fix your eyes on Jesus and ask Him what He wants you to do.

At the very least, start **PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING** for your kids. And in that place of surrendered conversation with God, He will begin showing you what else He wants you to do. Proceed without fear!

**NEXT SUNDAY ... WISDOM AND WCKED MEN
COME PRAYING AND EXPECTING!**