



## INTRODUCTION

## Part 3 - Wisdom's Focus on the Future

The series, Wise Guy, explores wisdom from the biblical book of Proverbs. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule God's nation, and He granted the request. We could all use a little more wisdom, insight, knowledge and understanding, too.

Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, penned the Old Testament book of Proverbs to address our need to know and understand life. His insights can help us navigate relationships, work, pleasure, and a host of other challenging situations.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe your family growing up? What are some positive lessons you learned from your parents? What are some of the negative aspects of your family life that you feel were passed on to you?
2. Solomon was very wise, but during his reign—and especially toward the end of his life, he made some huge mistakes. He didn't listen to some of his own advice recorded in the Old Testament book of Proverbs about being holy and faithful to God. Read 1 Kings 11:1-10. How do you think it was possible for someone so wise to turn away from the very things he had written about?
3. Do you think Solomon's failures give us an excuse not to listen to what he said in the Old Testament books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon? Explain your answer.
4. Tim made the point this week that we should focus on our own future and not our parents' failures. Why do we struggle to do this at times?
5. Read Proverbs 10:1; 15:20 and 23:22-25. Do you think we can learn from our parents even if they have failed us in some significant ways? Why do you think it is important that we focus on being wise and not focus on the mistakes our parents have made? What do you think Proverbs 23:23 means?
6. Read Matthew 12:46-50. What difference can it make in our lives and in our families knowing that we are part of a spiritual family? In what ways can our spiritual family address the negative issues related to our physical families?
7. What can we do to grow more wise and avoid the pitfalls of life?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

## APPLICATION

God gave Solomon wisdom and insight beyond what he had ever given anyone else. Even so, Solomon had some serious faults, made a lot of mistakes, and didn't always live up to his own writings. Despite his failures, we can still learn from the wisdom God revealed to him.

We tend to drift in the direction of our focus. If we focus on the faults and mistakes of others, especially our parents, we may end up becoming just like them. We cannot change what our parents are or were, but we can make decisions which will impact what we will become.

Regardless of our parents' example, we can be wise, especially if we choose to focus on our future and not on our parents' failures. Additionally, when we place our faith in Jesus, we are placed within the family of God. Through faith in Christ, we get a new beginning and a new family. Healing can happen—in us as individuals and to entire families—when we realize that Jesus came to make all things new.

## KEY VERSES

1 Kings 3:12	Proverbs 15:20
Proverbs 1:8-9	Proverbs 23:22-25
1 Kings 11:2-3	Ephesians 6:1-3
Proverbs 10:1	Matthew 12:46-50