

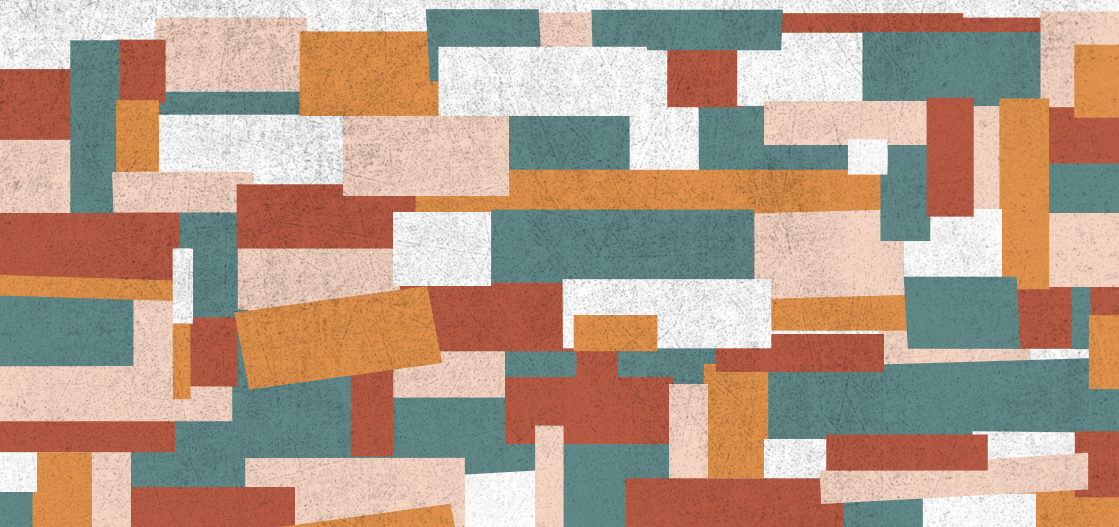
Chasen Alice

WISDOM

SERMON & LIFEGROUP SERIES

IT TAKES **WISDOM** TO **BUILD** A HOUSE,
AND **UNDERSTANDING** TO SET IT
ON A FIRM **FOUNDATION**.

PROVERBS 24:3



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A note from the Pastors

Hello and welcome to the Wisdom series!

I am so glad that you have chosen to be a part of what I believe will be a very significant spiritual journey for you. I believe that the next four weeks will encourage and grow you personally, while at the same time, renew our love for God and our unity as a church family.

Love you madly! Ps. J & D

Church**Alive's** Wisdom Series

This booklet will help you get the most out of the Wisdom Series.

The bible uses a building analogy to help us understand the spiritual principle of how God works in our lives.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

1 Corinthians 3:11-16

At Church**Alive** we focus on four core values which help us live out our faith walk in practical ways. These are:

KNOW GOD, GET CONNECTED, DISCOVER PURPOSE, MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

You will find these four steps will help you focus on what really matters, and grow in your relationship with God and with others. These steps will empower you to live the rich and satisfying life that Jesus offers.

What you will need:

1. A Wisdom Series booklet

2. A Bible that you can use daily. We recommend the New Living Translation. You can use a printed Bible, or an online Bible. Many at Church**Alive** use the free YouVersion Bible App on their phones. This will also give you access to the weekly sermon notes (under Events) as well as Bible Reading Plans including “The Way of the Wise” Bible Reading Plan.

3. A pen to write down your thoughts in the workbook or your own notebook OR an electronic way to take notes daily.

4. Access to the video sessions. You can join a **LifeGroup** or do it on your own. The video sessions are available on the Church**Alive** website. Each session is 10-20 minutes long.

5. People to discuss the content with. We recommend a **LifeGroup** but you can do this with your family, a group of friends or colleagues at work.

6. The weekly sermons. Join us at our North or West campus to get input from our weekly sermons. You can also view them on our website or YouTube Channel.

How to get the most from the Wisdom Series

1. Use the Wisdom Booklet for Small Group Time

- **Memory Verse:** Each week you'll find a different key Bible verse for your group to memorise together.
- **Video Session:** There's a Video Teaching for the group to watch together each week. There is space for you to make notes in this booklet. The links for the video sessions are on our website <https://churcalive.org.za/wisdom-2/>
- **Questions:** Following each video lesson, you'll find questions for group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer every question. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, don't worry about it. Give each person in the group a chance to comment on what was meaningful to them.



2. Read the Daily Devotions

We encourage you to read through the daily Bible verses in this booklet or to do “The Way of the Wise” reading plan on the YouVersion Bible App. Scan the QR code and start the reading plan today!

3. Connect with the Weekly Sermons at ChurchAlive

Each week for the 4 weeks, the Sunday sermons will relate to the Wisdom series. This will help you discover more about God's attributes and how we can grow in wisdom.

You can take hand written notes or try the You Version Bible App with weekly sermon notes. You can find the sermon notes under EVENTS.

**Do not withhold good from those who deserve it
when it's in your power to help them.**

If you can help your neighbor now, don't say,
"Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."

Don't plot harm against your neighbor,
for those who live nearby trust you.

Don't pick a fight without reason,
when no one has done you harm.

Don't envy violent people

or copy their ways.

Such wicked people are detestable to the LORD,

but he offers his friendship to the godly.

The LORD curses the house of the wicked,

but he blesses the home of the upright.

PROVERBS 3:27-33

Wisdom has built her house;
she has carved its seven columns.
She has prepared a great banquet,
mixed the wines, and set the table.
She has sent her servants to **invite everyone to come**.
She calls out from the heights overlooking the city.
“Come in with me,” she urges the simple.
To those who lack good judgment, she says,
“Come, eat my food,
and drink the wine I have mixed.
Leave your simple ways behind, and **begin to live**;
learn to use good judgment.”

PROVERBS 9:1-6

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom.
Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.
Wisdom will multiply your days
and add years to your life.
If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit.
If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.

PROVERBS. 9:10-12

Discussion Questions

1. Which figures of speech do you notice in the first few chapters of Proverbs? (simile, metaphor, personification, parallelism)
2. Which proverb stood out to you the most and why?
3. What do you feel God wants you to apply in your own life this week?

Daily Bible Readings for this week

Each day read one chapter of Proverbs. Here are some key verses and thoughts. We recommend that you also choose another verse from the chapter and write it down as you reflect on the chapter. Use the next page to write down your thoughts.

1. Choose to listen to wisdom

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. **Proverbs 1:7**

2. Wisdom is available - will you search for it?

For the Lord grants wisdom!

From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. **Proverbs 2:6**

3. How to build trust in God

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

4. Guard your heart

Guard your heart above all else,

for it determines the course of your life. **Proverbs 4:23**

5. Faithfulness brings freedom

You will say, "How I hated discipline!

If only I had not ignored all the warnings!" **Proverbs 5:12**

6. Choose your path carefully

For their command is a lamp and their instruction a light;

their corrective discipline is the way to life. **Proverbs 6:23**

7. Don't fall into a trap!

Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline,

to help them understand the insights of the wise. **Proverbs 1:2**

The LORD detests the use of **dishonest scales**,
but he delights in accurate weights.

Pride leads to disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.

Honesty guides good people;
dishonesty destroys treacherous people.
Riches won't help on the day of judgment,
but right living can save you from death.

The godly are directed by honesty;
the wicked fall beneath their load of sin.
The godliness of good people rescues them;
the ambition of treacherous people traps them.
When the wicked die, their hopes die with them,
for **they rely on their own feeble strength.**

The godly are rescued from trouble,
and it falls on the wicked instead.
With their words, the godless destroy their friends,
but knowledge will rescue the righteous.
The whole city celebrates when the godly succeed;
they shout for joy when the wicked die.

Upright citizens are good for a city and make it prosper,
but the talk of the wicked tears it apart.
It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor;
a sensible person keeps quiet.

A gossip goes around telling secrets,
but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

PROVERBS 11:1-13

Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.

People who despise advice are asking for trouble;
those who respect a command will succeed.

The instruction of the wise is like a life-giving fountain;
those who accept it avoid the snares of death.

A person with **good sense** is respected;
a treacherous person is headed for destruction.

Wise people think before they act;
fools don't—and even brag about their foolishness.

An unreliable messenger stumbles into trouble,
but a reliable messenger brings healing.

If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace;
if you accept correction, you will be honored.

It is pleasant to see dreams come true,
but fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them.

Walk with the wise and become wise;
associate with fools and get in trouble.

PROVERBS 13:12-20

Discussion Questions

1. What specific skills would you like to develop so that you get better at giving and receiving wise counsel in this **LifeGroup**?
2. Which proverb stood out to you the most and why?
3. What do you feel God wants you to apply in your own life this week?

Daily Bible Readings for this week

This week we will read through Proverbs Chapters 8-14. Here are some key verses and thoughts. We recommend that you also choose another verse from the chapter and write it down as you reflect on the chapter. Use the next page to write down your thoughts.

8. Are you listening?

Listen as Wisdom calls out!

Hear as understanding raises her voice! **Proverbs 8:1**

9. Choose Carefully

Leave your simple ways behind, and begin to live;
learn to use good judgment. **Proverbs 9:6**

10. Godly character is built through choices

The godly are showered with blessings;
the words of the wicked conceal violent intentions. **Proverbs 10:6**

11. Build what lasts

With their words, the godless destroy their friends,
but knowledge will rescue the righteous. **Proverbs 11:9**

12. A Life that Matters

The Lord detests lying lips,
but he delights in those who tell the truth. **Proverbs 12:22**

13. Build Wisely, Live Faithfully

People who despise advice are asking for trouble;
those who respect a command will succeed. **Proverbs 13:13**

14. The Way that leads to Life

There is a path before each person that seems right,
but it ends in death. **Proverbs 14:12**

A wise woman **builds her home**,
but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.
Those who follow the right path **fear the Lord**;
those who take the wrong path despise him.
A fool's proud talk becomes a rod that beats him,
but the words of the wise keep them safe.
Without oxen a stable stays clean,
but you need a strong ox for a large harvest.
An honest witness does not lie;
a false witness breathes lies.
A mocker seeks wisdom and never finds it,
but knowledge comes easily to those with understanding.
Stay away from fools,
for you won't find knowledge on their lips.
The **prudent understand** where they are going,
but fools deceive themselves.
Fools make fun of guilt,
but the godly acknowledge it and **seek reconciliation**.
Each heart knows its own bitterness,
and no one else can fully share its joy.
The house of the wicked will be destroyed,
but the tent of **the godly will flourish**.

PROVERBS 14:1-11

Choose a **good reputation** over great riches;
being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.
The rich and poor have this in common: The LORD made them both.
A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions.
The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.
True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honour, and long life.
Corrupt people walk a thorny, treacherous road;
whoever values life will avoid it.
Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.
Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.
Those who plant **injustice** will harvest disaster,
and their reign of terror will come to an end.
Blessed are those who are **generous**, because they feed the poor.

PROVERBS 22:1-9

The lazy person claims, "There's a lion out there!
If I go outside, I might be killed!"
A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness,
but physical discipline will drive it far away.
Do you see any truly competent workers?
They will serve kings, rather than working for ordinary people.

PROVERBS 22:13, 15, 29

Discussion Questions

1. What are similarities and differences between the worldly concept of 'work ethic' and God's principles on work?
2. Which proverb stood out to you the most and why?
3. What do you feel God wants you to apply in your own life this week?

Daily Bible Readings for this week

This week we will read through Proverbs Chapters 15-21. Here are some key verses and thoughts. We recommend that you also choose another verse from the chapter and write it down as you reflect on the chapter. Use the next page to write down your thoughts.

15. Words shape your relationships

A gentle answer deflects anger,
but harsh words make tempers flare. **Proverbs 15:1**

16. Stay on God's wise path

We can make our plans,
but the Lord determines our steps. **Proverbs 16:9**

17. Wisdom for managing conflict

Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate,
so stop before a dispute breaks out. **Proverbs 17:14**

18. Listen well, live well

Fools have no interest in understanding;
they only want to air their own opinions. **Proverbs 18:2**

19. Wisdom for a fulfilling life

Fear of the Lord leads to life,
bringing security and protection from harm. **Proverbs 19:23**

20. The power of quiet faithfulness

Many will say they are loyal friends,
but who can find one who is truly reliable? **Proverbs 20:6**

21. Living beyond surface faith

The Lord is more pleased when we do what is right and just
than when we offer him sacrifices. **Proverbs 21:3**

Those who trust their own insight are foolish,
but anyone who walks in **wisdom is safe**.

PROVERBS 28:26

Evil people are trapped by sin,
but the righteous escape, shouting for joy.

The godly care about the rights of the poor;
the wicked don't care at all.

Mockers can get a whole town agitated,
but the wise will calm anger.

If a wise person takes a fool to court,
there will be ranting and ridicule but no satisfaction.

The bloodthirsty hate blameless people,
but the upright seek to help them.

PROVERBS 29:6-10

Discipline your children, and they will give you **peace of mind**
and will make your heart glad.

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild.

But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

PROVERBS 29:17-18

O God, I beg two favors from you;
let me have them before I die.

First, **help me never to tell a lie.**

Second, give me neither poverty nor riches!

Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.

For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?”

And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.

PROVERBS 30:7-9

Discussion Questions

1. What do you feel may change if you incorporate some of these ways to use scriptures in your prayers?
2. Which proverb stood out to you the most and why?
3. What do you feel God wants you to apply in your own life this week?

Daily Bible Readings for this week

This week we will read through Proverbs Chapters 22-31. Here are some key verses and thoughts. We recommend that you also choose some other significant verses and write them down as you reflect. Use the following pages to write down your thoughts.

22. The Path to Lasting Influence

For it is good to keep these sayings in your heart and always ready on your lips. **Proverbs 22:18**

23. Pursuing wise goals

Don't envy sinners, but always continue to fear the Lord. You will be rewarded for this; your hope will not be disappointed. **Proverbs 23:17-18**

24. Honesty and love build friendship

An honest answer is like a kiss of friendship. **Proverbs 24:26**

25. Dealing with adversity

If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat.
If they are thirsty, give them water to drink.
You will heap burning coals of shame on their heads,
and the Lord will reward you. **Proverbs 25:21-22**

26. Look Deeper

Smooth words may hide a wicked heart,
just as a pretty glaze covers a clay pot. **Proverbs 26:23**

27. True Friendship leads to Honest Growth

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. **Proverbs 27:17**

28. The Door to Boldness and Blessing

People who conceal their sins will not prosper,
but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.
Proverbs 28:13

Next Steps at ChurchAlive

Here are some Next Steps for you to build on the foundation you have laid in the last 4 weeks:

- Put these steps into practice by attending church weekly so you can **KNOW GOD, GET CONNECTED, DISCOVER PURPOSE and MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**
- Continue in a new Bible reading plan: Visit Bible.com for a range of plans and look at some Bible reading plans on the YouVersion Bible app to help you stay in the Word.
- Be part of a **LifeGroup** to continue exploring the Bible in community. Perhaps some of the people that you did the Wisdom series with can continue to meet. Alternatively, you can check out the other **LifeGroups** to find a **LifeGroup** that suits you!
- Do the **Freedom Course**: This is a 12 week course that runs regularly. It has small group meetings weekly for 12 weeks and then an Encounter weekend on a Friday night and all day Saturday. It is a great foundation for anyone new to faith or new to Church**Alive**.
- Attend **GrowthTrack**: This takes place on Sundays over 4 weeks and will help you find out more about how you can get involved at Church**Alive**.
- We want to stay connected and serve one another well. **If you are leading a group**, please take a moment and scan the QR code to submit your **LifeGroup** meeting feedback each week that you meet. If you are interested in starting a **LifeGroup** and would like it to be registered with Church**Alive**, please email lifegroups@churchalive.org.za. Also, keep an eye out for our next **LifeGroup** leaders connect and training. We love helping new groups develop and grow.



