

CALM Proverbs Study: Core Instructions (For NBM Clinic 2022/2023)

1. **Ask your father/mother to direct** each week's study with the whole family participating. (Take a study booklet for each family member who can functionally write.) A parent will lead or assign a child to lead each study.
2. **Begin each session with prayer**, asking God to teach your family from His Word.
3. **Read the selected passages out loud**, with each functional reader reading a portion assigned by the one leading. Please do this over **FOUR SESSIONS MINIMUM**. That means divide each chapter in two. You have two chapters due for each class, starting class 2.
4. **Fill out the "Nugget" page**. Have each functional writer individually complete the study in their journal at the same time. Non-writers can draw a picture reflecting the scripture passage. This process should take no more than 10-15 minutes. Comments should be directed at the writer, (me, myself, and I). See suggestions on page 2.
5. **Let each participant share** with the group what they wrote.
6. **Use one CALM box per person for all four studies** to select a family and/or personal frustration or a specific social issue to discuss. Try to choose an issue suggested in Proverbs readings for today or add other issues to it as your family desires. Each person's box can be different or the same. See suggestions on page 3.
7. Discuss your CALM box **frustrations** in light of today's scripture passages. Write down any family conclusions.
8. **Pray what you learned** as a family back to God.
9. **Write one essay that summarizes the 4 studies**; include thoughts from other family members. This essay should be age-appropriate. Most high school students should be able to do 1-2 pages.

Bible-Time Tip: Get A Nugget!

Never allow this thought—

“I am of no use where I am,” because you certainly can be of no use where you are not! – Author Unknown

Whether it is Milk or Meat, get a curd or a nugget every day! – Dr. R. A. Cook

Bible devotions are not a performance-based marathon. You don't have to read everything in order to prove anything, but can you can ask God to give you something!

Just one small insight is better than pushing through many verses and getting nothing.

Whether meat or milk, give yourself permission to admit (out loud if necessary) that today's passage is not speaking to you—and point out why.

Keep on reading until something, just one thing speaks to you.

How to use the Discussion Discipleship Method (DDM)

Read the selected passage out-loud with meaningful emphasis.

What are the problems and or the context of the passage?

Select one nugget and consider these questions:

1. **Passage Nugget:** *What verse spoke to you?*
2. **Passage Meaning:** *What else could have been said or done?*
3. **Passage Lesson:** *What can you learn spiritually about what was said or done?*
4. **Passage Application:** *What were the results? How should you respond?*
5. **Pray The Passage:** *Write a short prayer that applies the lesson to your personal needs.*

Romans 1:19 Prayer Focus:

Praise and Thank God for Who He is in light of your present situation.

Pre-reading Focus:

Consider your Frustrations. (I need Thee every hour!) Matthew 9: Come unto Me all he who are weary and heavy laden... Isaiah 55: Ho! He that is thirsty, Come...

Post-reading Focus: Use the Lord's Prayer as a guide or a template:

Praise and Thanksgiving; God's will v. Your will; Petitions for your present daily needs; Confess and forgive sin; Plea for preservation from sin; Surrender to the Heavenly Kingdom

Be CALM: Use the Be CALM Box to discuss any action that today's passage encourages you to take. (This also can be done as a family/group.)

<p style="text-align: center;">Consider Frustrations</p> <p>State frustrating elements of life in factual terms. "I feel frustrated that I found Johnny's boots in the driveway when I got home last night." Tell how it feels and why it seems important to you.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Listen and Respond</p> <p>Listen to suggestions from others affected by the frustrations. List and evaluate proposed solutions that would fix the problem and also be worthy of your Christian heritage.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Assess/Interpret the Facts</p> <p>Imagine what the frustration would look like if it were resolved. Is the ideal in your mind realistic?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Model the End Goal</p> <p>Turn Frustrations Into Concrete Goals! Draft a project plan creating goals, sequences, timetables and tools as needed by which to organize efforts and bring accountability. "Where do boots belong? How does that look?"</p>

Only Repentance Creates the Distinction Between Insiders and the Outsiders: *Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!*

Matt 18; 1Cor. 5-7

- ~Repentance is a lifestyle. Always nurture an atmosphere rich in repentance.
- ~Repentance makes no provision for the flesh.
- ~Repentance resolves that as much as lies within you, you will be at peace with all men.
- ~Repentance means to walk in community, embracing our common bond, based on humbly confessed sin. (i.e. AA Meetings)

To those without, engage in love and kindness that entices them towards repentance. Like Jesus, not like the Pharisees.

Week 1: Overview for the Proverbs Scripture Project

The Purpose of *Biblical Foundations of Self-Government*

Self-Identity, Self Government

A person's Self-Identity determines the motivation that directs their behavior toward realizing that identity. That is because one's identity creates the expectations of how one is to behave, or act. It could be said that one's behavior is often "acting out" one's identity. "Self government" is the control mechanism by which an individual attempts to conform their behavior to the identity held by their individual self.

So why does WCFS require a whole Bible credit dedicated to foundations of self-government? Primarily, it is because the world that we live in today has lost its way when it comes to recognizing, developing, cultivating and reinforcing a Creator-based self-identity and a child-of-God based self government. Today, our culture insists on using one's undisciplined behavior to define their identity. This approach is confusing and debilitating.

When behavior declares one's identity, there is no need for, and thus no development of self government. Instead you create individuals who live by impulse and push back against any expectations laid upon them, whether by others or by life itself. Furthermore, behavior-identity creates a class of citizens who, by the nature of their ungoverned behavior, suffer natural consequences of want and lack, and yet see themselves as victims, blaming their condition upon those who do not "want and lack".

It is the intention of this course to teach students that God has fully provided for them the only identity capable of stirring up motivation for self government to its highest potential – a child of God. This Identity is freely given to, " Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord." (Romans 10) The experiential evidence of becoming a child of God occurs when one is literally, "Born Again" by the entrance of the Holy Spirit, who indwells those who, by faith, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus to save them. Another word for a child of God is a Disciple of Christ. (John 3; Romans 8)

This course will teach Disciples of Christ that Biblical Self Government demands that they must assent to the authority of Christ and assert their obedience to the teachings of Christ by the voluntary exercise of their will. We will use the Book of Proverbs primarily to reflect the practical teachings of Christ to the Disciple. If your identity is a Disciple of Christ, you will be motivated to be self-governed in accordance with the teachings of Christ, and you will have no need that any man teach you. (1Jo 2:26)

Proverbs, Wisdom of The Word – Applied: Assenting to and Asserting Your Personal Identity as a Child of God

Why Proverbs?

Proverbs is a training resource for Disciples of Christ. God has made Jesus the power of God and the Wisdom of God. Simply put, a Disciple is a student of the Wisdom of Christ. The Apostle Paul put it this way: "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of

preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

(1 Cor. 1:20-25)

Since Christ is the power of God, the Wisdom of God and the Word of God, the book of Proverbs is an appendix to the teachings of Christ found in the Gospels. We will approach the Book of Proverbs as an appendix, meaning that we will sort them thematically in this class. When appropriate, we will use The Gospels to illustrate some of the short, pithy sayings of Proverbs.

The Great Commission,

Assenting to and Asserting Obedience to Christ's Commands

The “Great Commission” is Christ’s charge to Disciples to make Disciples by “Teaching them to observe (τηρέω-watch) all things (πάντα-all) whatsoever (ἑσῶς-of a kind) I have commanded (ἐντέλλω-to the end or purpose I have charged) you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matt. 28:20)

In other words, Jesus said to,

“Teach my disciples to attentively implement all of the things I have charged you to its end purpose: and, behold, I am with you all of the days, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*
*(*faith-obedience) (Mt28:20)*

Discipleship means that you own your allegiance to Jesus Christ personally, individually, responsibly and intentionally, not waiting for others.

You are not dependent on someone else for instruction, direction, application or correction – you search for it with all your heart soul & mind.

You are the victorious overcomer of trials, not the victim of circumstances.

You are the insatiable student, always absorbing instruction, wisdom and understanding by the anointing (indwelling Spirit) you have received, not depending on the instructors you have been given, but on your desire for instruction.

In short, a disciple follows hard after Jesus even if he has to go it alone.

The only way to make disciples is to teach them that they must pursue the Lord by their own faith prompted by the Holy Spirit indwelling them.

IMPORTANT DISCIPLESHIP TEXTS...

~ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie--just as it has taught you, abide in him. (1Jo 2:26-27 ESV)

~ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5, 7 ESV)

~ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Phil 3:8-11 NKJV)

The Commands of Christ,

So what are the commands of Christ? Here's a sampling ...

... As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ... "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

(John 15:9-10, 12-14 ESV)

There is a distinct difference between the The commands of the law and the commands of Christ. That is one of the keys for understanding of Proverbs.

September 15 Morning

Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

My brethren, ye ... are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. Being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ. The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin. If the Son ... shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

[Romans 6:14](#); [Romans 6:15](#); [Romans 7:4](#); [1 Corinthians 9:21](#); [1 Corinthians 15:56,57](#); [Romans 8:2](#); [John 8:34](#); [John 8:36](#); [Galatians 5:1](#);

The Word of God

Let's briefly explore Christ as the Word of God.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." (Genesis 1:1-3)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:1-5, 9-13)

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Heb. 11:1-3)

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, This day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, And he shall be to me a Son? But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; Therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee With the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; And the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest: And they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, And they shall be changed: But thou art the same, And thy years shall not fail.” (Heb 1:1-3, 5, 8-12)

General Purpose of Proverbs

“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; To know wisdom and instruction; To perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; The words of the wise, and their dark sayings. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: But fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Prov 1:1-7)

Seven Pillars,

“Wisdom hath builded her house, She hath hewn out her seven pillars: She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; She hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens: she cries upon the highest places of the city, “Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: As for him that lacks understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, And drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; And go in the way of understanding.” (Prov 9:1-6)

Key Words,

One of the best ways to study Proverbs is to do a word study that finds all of the same or very similar key words and collects them into comprehensive lists with all of the verses on that particular topic area.

Keys words are words like wisdom, fool, simple, righteous, wicked etc.

Poetic Polar Opposites

A helpful note when studying Proverbs is recognize the pattern of type/antitype as information is being presented. This will add depth and practical clarification to the ideas being portrayed. Here are a couple of examples:

For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it. - Pro 2:21-22 KJV

The curse of the LORD [is] in the house of the wicked: but he blesses the habitation of the just. Surely he scorns the scorers: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools. - Pro 3:33-35 KJV