



Mustard Seed Children's Ministry

**Sunday School Lesson for May 7, 2006.
Released on May 3, 2006.**

"A Treasure Worth Seeking"

GOLDEN TEXT: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Proverbs 2:1-5; 3:1-6, 13-18

Proverbs 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW

Godly wisdom is a treasure worth seeking.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

Wisdom must be sought.

Wisdom is found in God's Word.

Learn wisdom, live it, and keep it safe in your heart.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, label a box "Treasure" and put a Bible inside.

For Telling the Lesson, each child needs a Bible. You will need a chalkboard or other writing surface to display key lesson points, if desired.

For Helping to Remember, bring scissors and crayons, draw a heart on folded red construction paper for each child, have a small box and copies of activity sheets for each child. For very young children, have coloring pages available if the activities are too advanced.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

To begin today's lesson, gather the children around the "treasure box." Lead the children in a discussion about "treasure." Examples: What is treasure? What is a treasure chest? Does anyone have a treasure box and willing to tell about it?

A treasure is something that is special to you. Your treasure may not be special to others. Treasures are something to keep safe. You do not want to lose them.

Turn the children's attention to the treasure box. Can anyone guess what is in this treasure box? Reveal the treasure and discuss. Treasure = God's Word.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

A proverb is a popular saying, a lesson or an example. A wise teacher uses these popular sayings to instruct or to warn by example. A proverb can warn someone what should not be done or can instruct in the right direction. In the Bible, the book of Proverbs is a collection of sayings to teach wise and right living. Proverbs teaches us to follow the way of true wisdom and provides guidance to the right understanding of the words of the wise (Proverbs 1:1-7).

The purpose of the book of Proverbs is wisdom and understanding for living. The lessons show us the way that is wise and right. There is wisdom for life in God's Word, but you have to want it and seek for it (2:1-4). Godly wisdom with understanding promises a life of peace, even when one is surrounded by uncertainties. Godly wisdom is learning God's Word and obeying it in everyday life.

Godly wisdom is a treasure worth seeking. Search for the riches in God's Word just as you would search for hidden treasures!!!

LESSON DICTIONARY:

An understanding of the words used in the lesson will be key to understanding the main points of the lesson. Be prepared to explain any word meaning to those who do not know them. The following are simple definitions for select words in the lesson text:

Proverb - a wise saying, instruction or example

Commandment (Proverbs 2:1) - an order to be followed

Incline (Proverbs 2:2) - to lean or bend

Wisdom (Proverbs 2:2) - being wise or smart

Treasure (Proverbs 2:4) - something of great value

Seek (Proverbs 2:4) - to look or search for something

Understand (Proverbs 2:5) - to get the meaning of something

Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 2:5) - great respect, awe, wonder for God

Mercy (Proverbs 3:3) - kind and gentle treatment that is not deserved

Acknowledge (Proverbs 3:6) - to recognize or admit the existence of

Happy (Proverbs 3:13) - glad or full of cheer

Merchandise (Proverbs 3:14) - goods that are bought and sold

Precious (Proverbs 3:15) - of great value or high cost OR greatly loved

TELLING THE LESSON:

The Bible is God's treasure, and it has many other treasures in it. Time and hard work are needed to find the treasures. You really must want them to find them, and you must keep looking for them.

The Bible is a treasure that God has given to us. In this one book is a library of 66 smaller books that contain the Word of God to lead and to instruct each of us. One of these treasured books is Proverbs, which is a collection of sayings or instructions to know wisdom and understanding.

What is a proverb?

A proverb is a brief, popular saying that expresses a wise thought - a wise saying, lesson or example. The collection of these sayings in the Bible is found in the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. The book of Proverbs is filled with practical lessons for successful, daily life and guaranteed to work since its truths were given to us by the inspiration of God.

What godly treasure should we search for? Proverbs 2:2-5

We should search for wisdom. Wisdom should be sought after like hidden treasure. Wisdom is being wise or smart. This is not smart as in knowing your schoolwork. It means being smart in living for God.

How can we remember God's law? Proverbs 3:1, 3

We must put God's Word in our heart. We must ask God to help us understand His wisdom and make the wisdom of His Word a part of everything we think, say, and do.

What happens when we trust in God and acknowledge Him in our lives? Proverbs 3:5-6

When we trust and lean on God, He will direct and lead us. When we recognize His presence in every aspect of our lives, God will help us through

all that we may encounter. In everything you do, obey God. He will lead you in the best direction for your life.

What are the benefits (rewards) of having wisdom? Proverbs 3:2, 4, 13-18

Many benefits come from godly wisdom. From our lesson, these include: a long and satisfying life (Proverbs 3:2), favor with both God and people (3:4), a possession more precious than silver, gold and jewels (3:13-15); riches and honor (3:16-17); and a tree of life (3:18). Wisdom gives help through the troubles and hurts of life. It gives the promise of a special home with God in the future.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Treasures are kept safe so that no one can steal them. How can we keep our treasure (God's Word) safe in our hearts? Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Obey God. Learn God's Word. Say Bible verses in your mind. Think about what the words mean.

Wisdom helps you in life. You will live longer than those who disobey God by putting things in their body that are not good for it. Wisdom will help you say no to the devil's temptations. It will give you peace of mind. God loves you. Your sins have been forgiven. You are promised a place in heaven. So in everything you do, obey God, and He will lead you in the best life possible for you.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Use any or all of the following activities to reinforce the lesson's theme:

Have the children cut out the heart card, being sure not to cut through the fold that keeps the hearts together. Have the children write "Be Wise" on the front and Psalm 119:11 on the inside.

Have the children decorate their own treasure box and fill with favorite Bible verses. They can write the verses themselves on paper cut to fit the boxes or the verses can be printed beforetime and copies made for each child to cut and put inside their box.

Treasure Seekers Word Search (activity sheet).

Treasure Seekers Cryptogram (activity sheet).

Always have coloring pages available for very young children.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13)

God wants us to be wise as we live in this world. Being wise helps us through life difficulties. Happiness comes by learning God's Word and living it everyday. Happiness comes by understanding that God is our Creator and Helper. He will help us through any problems in life.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the treasure that we have in your Word. Help us to search for godly wisdom and to keep your Word in our hearts. Thank you for the trust, happiness and peace that come from obeying your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is an invitation to follow the path of wisdom. The lesson will stress that wisdom comes from God, gives direction, and shows the right way to live. The scripture lesson text will be Proverbs 8:1-5, 22-31, *Wisdom's Invitation*.

Lesson Summarized By:

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Activity: Treasure Seekers Word Search (Proverbs 3:13)

P	E	A	C	E	K	U	Q	K	S	E	D	J	M
F	D	I	M	R	I	H	L	N	V	C	F	K	E
H	T	P	D	P	A	H	X	O	R	B	X	B	R
G	R	Z	O	P	C	I	R	W	Z	V	E	L	C
L	U	E	P	G	Z	B	Y	L	G	M	I	R	Y
N	T	Y	J	K	A	B	D	E	O	H	A	F	J
J	H	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	S
P	A	J	N	H	X	M	S	G	K	G	M	R	N
R	I	C	H	E	S	I	W	E	L	Z	I	E	O
F	N	Q	G	F	W	C	O	M	Q	C	E	A	S
O	O	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	S	K
V	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	B	K	J	C	U	T
E	A	H	U	P	R	E	C	I	O	U	S	R	H
I	T	W	L	S	Q	K	U	N	L	P	M	E	K

Word List:

Treasure, Wisdom, Commandments, Mercy, Happy, Understand

Proverb, Knowledge, Peace, Truth, Precious, Riches

Activity: Treasure Seekers Encrytogram

Use the follow symbols to decode the verse below:

☺	◆	✿	📁	✂	✓	🕒	✎	🕒	✝	💻	□	🌀
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
♿	🔑	★	🕒	↓	☒	📖	⊕	➤	●	➤	⌘	☑
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

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 🌀⌘ · ✎✂☺↓📖 · 📖✎☺📖 · 🕒🌀🕒🕒✎📖 ·

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(Psalm 119:11)