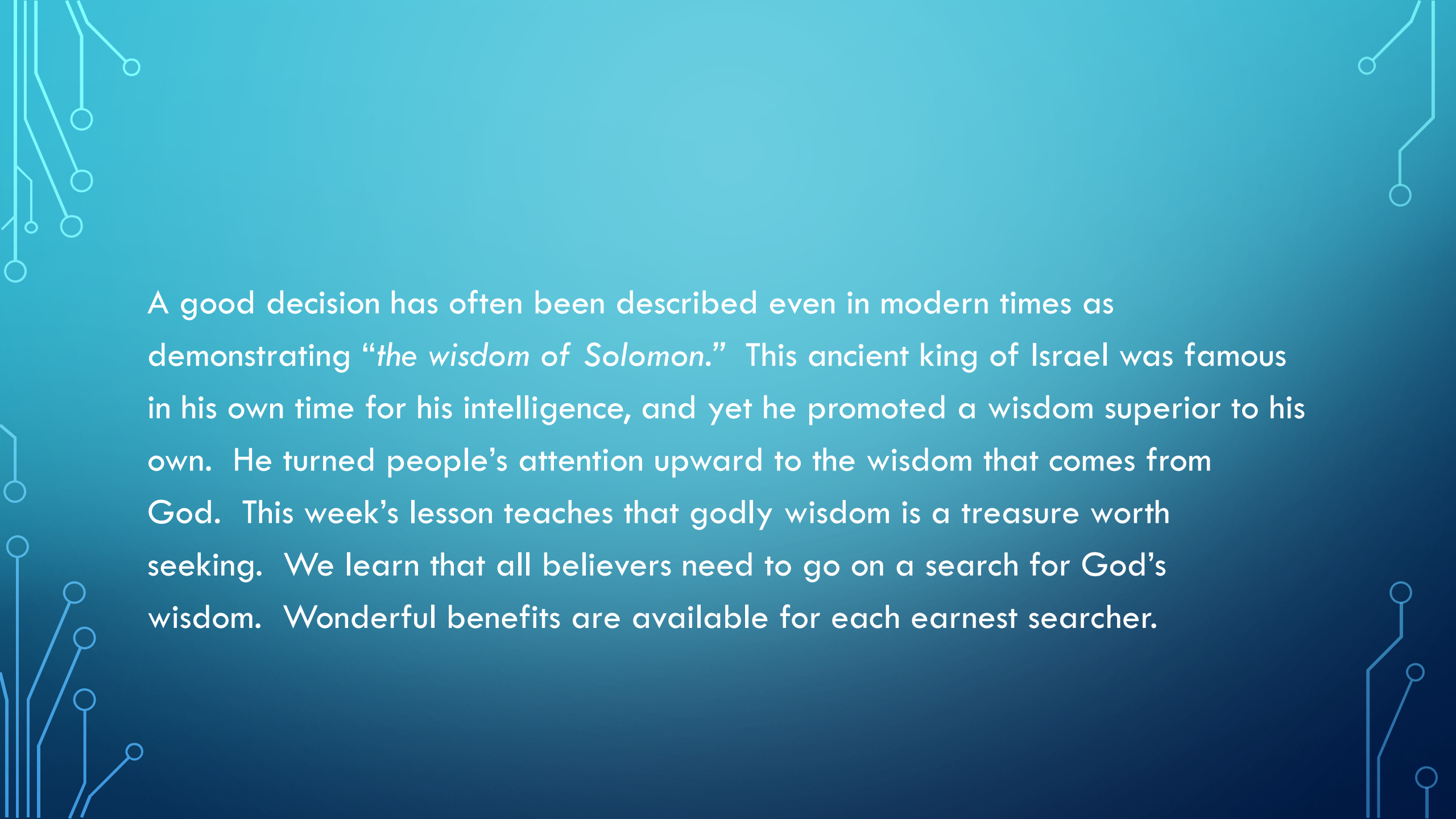




**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR
JUNE 14, 2020**

“THE VALUE OF WISDOM”

The background is a dark teal gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white line-art elements resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines connecting to small circles.

A good decision has often been described even in modern times as demonstrating “*the wisdom of Solomon.*” This ancient king of Israel was famous in his own time for his intelligence, and yet he promoted a wisdom superior to his own. He turned people’s attention upward to the wisdom that comes from God. This week’s lesson teaches that godly wisdom is a treasure worth seeking. We learn that all believers need to go on a search for God’s wisdom. Wonderful benefits are available for each earnest searcher.

1. **My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;**

- Solomon is giving fatherly advice to his son (daughter).
- Receiving wisdom is conditional—you have to do something in order to get something
- Receive my words--receive God's Word: A person or student seeking wisdom must be receptive to the truth if it is to take root, and God's Word is truth.
- Hide my commandments with thee--store up. Once his "son" has heard the truth, he needs to store up this wisdom so that it is available to him whenever he needs it. Hiding or storing up wisdom indicates that Solomon's "son" or any student values it. He recognizes that even if the usefulness of what he is learning is not immediately noticed, someday it will prove to be valuable to him.

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

- The word “**ear**” draws attention to the need of listening closely to “**wisdom.**”
- To “**apply thine heart to understanding**” means that the student seeks “**wisdom** conscientiously, and strives eagerly for it.
- “**Wisdom**” is a general term for knowledge that helps us live as we should. “**Understanding**” emphasizes the importance of discernment. Gaining “**wisdom**” involves more than just the “**ear;**” the “**heart**” must also be involved.

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

- Solomon continues to emphasize the importance of wisdom by again using the word “if” indicating another condition that must be met to gain wisdom.
- This exhortation no doubt refers to prayer. The verbs “**criest**” and “**lifest**” convey the urgency involved in seeking wisdom. We are not to lazily pursue the truth. We must “**cry after knowledge**” like someone who is about to perish from hunger begs for food.
- We must also lift our “**voice**” or call out “**for understanding,**” lifting it up to heaven expecting to receive “**understanding**” one of the good and perfect gifts that God gives (see James 1:17). We show the urgency we have in gaining wisdom when we constantly go to the source, God, and ask for it (see James 1:5).

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

- Once again Solomon uses the word “if” to show that gaining wisdom is also conditioned on some other things he is about to declare.
- Finding wisdom is also conditioned on “seeking her as silver.” We should seek wisdom as if it was a rich “silver” mine.
- We should also “searchest for her as for hid treasures.” Both “silver” and hidden “treasures” are so valuable that people will go to great lengths to get them. The same thing should be true of wisdom.
- Too often God’s people talk about wanting to know God’s Word but show very little passion for it. If we truly believe that the wisdom and knowledge of God is the most valuable thing we can have and pursue after it like it is, our passion for wisdom and our sense of urgency to get it will increase.

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

- This verse reveals what will happen to the student *“if”* they followed Solomon’s instructions in the first 4 verses. First, Solomon said **“Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD.”** The word **“then”** introduces what will happen if the son would do what his father said in verses 1-4;
- (1) receive my (Solomon’s) words, and hide my (Solomon’s) commandments with him;
- (2) incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
- (3) criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; and
- (4) seekest her (wisdom) as silver, and searchest for her (wisdom) as for hid treasures.
- If his son did all of those things, Solomon said **“Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD.”**

The image features a blue gradient background with white circuit-like lines in the corners. The lines consist of straight segments connected by small circles, resembling a network or data flow diagram. The lines are positioned in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners, framing the central text.

WHAT IS THE FEAR OF THE LORD?

- This **“fear”** is not abject terror, but it’s a healthy sense of awe and respect for God as we recognize Him for who He is.
- It is extreme reverence for **“the LORD.”**
- [Proverbs 1:7](#) declares, “The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.”
- A biblical **fear** of God, for the believer, includes understanding how much God hates sin and **fearing** His judgment on sin—even in the life of a believer. As children, the fear of discipline from our parents no doubt prevented some evil actions. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should **fear** His discipline, and therefore seek to live our lives in such a way that pleases Him.
- **Fearing** God means having such a reverence for Him that it has a great impact on the way we live our lives.
- The **fear** of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshiping Him in awe.

What does find the knowledge of God mean to you?

- “*Thou shalt understand, by the word of God, righteousness, and judgment, and equity, shalt learn those principles of justice, and charity, and fair dealing, which shall guide and govern thee in the whole course of thy conversation, shall make thee fit for every relation, every business, and faithful to every trust. It shall give thee not only a right notion of justice, but a disposition to practise it, and to render to all their due; for those that do not do justly do not rightly understand it.*” This will lead them in every *good path*, for the scripture will *make the man of God perfect.*—Matthew Henry

⁶For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

- **The source of wisdom is the Lord (Proverbs 2:6).**
- Not only is “**the LORD**” wise Himself, but He “**giveth wisdom**”.
- It is God’s prerogative and His only to open our understanding.
- All the “**wisdom**” in any creature is God’s free gift, and He gives it liberally (see James 1:5).
- In addition, God has blessed the world with a revelation of His will.
- Solomon went onto say “**Out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.**”
- By the law and the prophets, by the written Word and by His ministers, which are all “**His mouth**” to the children of men, “**cometh knowledge and understanding.**”

⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

- God shows favor to those who are “**righteous**” or who have a right standing with Him.
- For them, God “**layeth up**” or stores away not just “**wisdom,**” but “**sound wisdom**” or the best advice.
- God is also “**a buckler to them that walk uprightly.**” In other words, He is a shield to those who live with integrity (see Proverbs 30:5), those who have honorable character and moral courage.
- The term “**buckler**” refers to “*a shield*” which is tied around a soldier’s arm to provide a defense against a sword or spear.

⁸ He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

- Here Solomon continues to advise his son of the grace God shows to His own.
- First, he said that God “**keepeth the paths of judgment.**” The word “**keepeth**” here means “*to guard*” or “*to keep watch.*” The term “**judgment**” here means “*justice.*”
- Therefore, the phrase “**He keepeth the paths of judgment**” means that God watches over His own as they walk in “**the way**” of justice or fairness for they may be tempted to turn aside out of that way.
- Second, Solomon said that God also “**preserveth the way of his saints**” meaning that the LORD guides and protects “**His saints**” in every area of their lives.

⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

- As we allow the LORD to direct us and call on His help, Solomon said that we will know how to conduct ourselves properly and rightly towards all men.
- We will **“understand”** by the Word of God, **“righteousness (right living), and judgment (justice), and equity (fairness).”**
- It will give the believer not only a right view of justice, but also the desire to practice it and treat everybody right.

¹⁰ When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

¹¹ Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

- When “**wisdom**,” God’s Word “**entereth**” or takes possession of one’s “**heart**” and “**knowledge is pleasant**” or a delight “**unto thy soul.**”
- “Verses 10-11 assert that Wisdom gives both pleasure and surefootedness in life. The more wisdom one learns, the more one desires and enjoys it. The protection wisdom gives, moreover, is that it keeps its follower from making decisions that will later bring only regret.” (Garrett)
- Both “**discretion**” and “**understanding**” are said to “**preserve**” and “**keep**” the believer. In essence, God keeps “*the way of his saints*” (see Proverbs 2:8), by giving us “**discretion**” or the ability to make wise decisions that will “**keep**” us out of harm’s way, and able to resist the temptations of the devil.