

## **Dr. August Konkell, Proverbs, Session 5, Learning to Live [Lectures III, IV, V, VI, VII] Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Konkell, Proverbs, Session 5, Learning to Live [Lectures III, IV, V, VI, VII], Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. August Konkell's** fifth session on the Book of Proverbs examines several passages focusing on parental instruction of children. **He analyzes** how parents instill wisdom and the fear of the Lord, emphasizing the importance of trusting God over self-reliance. **Konkell connects** these teachings to practical aspects of life, including health, wealth, and relationships, highlighting the consequences of choosing a path of wickedness. **The lectures** also explore the role of education in instilling these values across generations, illustrating the importance of guarding one's mind and thoughts. **Ultimately**, the sessions aim to guide listeners towards a life of integrity and right relationship with God and others.

**2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Konkell, Session 5 – Double click icon to play in Windows  
media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and  
click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Psalms &  
Wisdom → Proverbs).**



**Konkell\_Prov\_Session  
n05.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Konkell, Proverbs, Session 5, Learning to Live [Lectures III, IV, V, VI, VII]

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. August Konkell's Proverbs Session 5:

#### Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkell on Proverbs Session 5

##### Introduction:

This document summarizes the key themes and ideas presented by Dr. August Konkell in Session 5 of his lectures on the Book of Proverbs. The session focuses on the parental instruction found in the first few chapters of Proverbs, particularly chapters 3 and 4, examining several "little talks" from parent to child. Konkell emphasizes the importance of wisdom, the fear of the Lord, and the impact of one's thinking on life's trajectory. He also explores the transmission of wisdom from generation to generation and the need to guard against the influence of the "wicked."

##### Main Themes and Ideas:

1. **Parental Instruction and the Importance of Wisdom (Proverbs 3:1-12):**
  - **Focus on Internalizing Instruction:** The parent urges the child to not forget instruction and to guard commandments in their minds. This is not merely rote learning but a deep internalization of values.
  - Quote: *"do not forget my instruction. Guard my commandments in your mind."*
  - **Wisdom as a Path to a Good Life:** Following these instructions leads to "good days or long days" and involves mercy and faithfulness.
  - **The Fear of the Lord as a Foundation:** The "fear of the Lord" is emphasized as a dependency on God, rejecting the idea of self-determination of right and wrong.
  - Quote: *"the fear of the Lord, which we have said is a dependency on God, rejecting the idea that we ourselves have the ability to determine what is right and what is wrong within our own thinking."*
  - **Trust in the Lord, Not Self:** The passage urges the child to "trust in the Lord with all your mind and do not lean on your own understanding." Rejecting self-reliance is key.
  - **Benefits of Wisdom (Health, Wealth, Correction):** Wisdom provides benefits like health, filled barns and the ability to receive correction. Konkell emphasizes that

this isn't a guarantee of perfect health or wealth, but rather a path where difficulties can be understood as corrective measures.

- **God's Priority of Character over Comfort:** God is more concerned with character development than freedom from pain, evidenced by examples like the Apostle Paul's thorn in the flesh.

#### 1. **Competence, Discretion and Security (Proverbs 3:21-26):**

- **Security through Wisdom:** Competence and discretion are presented as sources of security.
- Quote: *"Hold on to competence and discretion. This is what gives you real security."*
- **Living a Life of Integrity:** The use of money, and how one deals with it, reveals whether or not a person understands true wisdom and the fear of the Lord. Treating others fairly and avoiding scheming is emphasized.
- **Consequences of Wise vs. Foolish Living:** Living according to wisdom leads to a life of dignity, blessing, grace, and honor, while the opposite brings a curse, scorn and shame.

#### 1. **The Transmission of Wisdom Across Generations (Proverbs 4:1-9):**

- **Learning from Parents:** The father recounts learning wisdom from his own parents, illustrating intergenerational transmission of values.
- Quote: *"And now as I look back on my life, I just realize that the things that I learned to value, and the things that I learned were important, I learned from my parents."*
- **Importance of Keeping One's Word:** Konkel shares an anecdote about his father's commitment to keeping his word, demonstrating that wisdom is not just theory but lived experience.
- **Education in the Home:** In ancient Israel, education, including literacy, primarily took place in the home, highlighting the vital role parents played as teachers.

#### 1. **Warning Against the Wicked (Proverbs 4:14-19):**

- **Two Paths:** The lecture contrasts the path of wisdom with the "open road" of wickedness, emphasizing that it is easy to wander from the right path.

- **Culture's Influence:** The "wicked" represent the pull of culture, which can subtly lead people away from their professed values and a life of wisdom.
- Quote: *"We profess that we're Christians...But when you look at the way that we actually live...we see that the culture...has a way of making us wander."*
- **Coercive Nature of Culture:** Dr. Konkel makes a specific observation that societal pressures in his current location of Canada have become increasingly coercive in nature.
- Quote: *"In fact, our Prime Minister went so far as to say, if you're going to belong to my party, then you're going to approve of abortion. Straightforward and simple. That's the way that the wicked operate."*

#### 1. The Importance of Guarding the Mind (Proverbs 4:23-27):

- **Mind as the Source of Action:** The mind is presented as the source of all life decisions. What one thinks is what one ultimately is.
- Quote: *"Of all the things that you watch, guard your mind, for from your mind proceed the decisions of life."*
- **The Need for Focus:** Following the "narrow path" requires intense focus and vigilance against rationalizations.
- **Connection to Jesus' Teachings:** The concept of guarding the mind is linked to Jesus' teachings on adultery starting in the heart/mind and the Mosaic law regarding coveting.

#### Conclusion:

Dr. Konkel's lecture highlights the crucial role of parental instruction in the formation of character and wisdom. He emphasizes that wisdom is not simply intellectual knowledge but a way of life rooted in the fear of the Lord, trust in God, and a commitment to integrity. The lecture also issues a warning about the seductive power of culture and the need for constant vigilance in guarding one's mind. He uses the early chapters of Proverbs as a basis for demonstrating this truth. Ultimately, wisdom is presented as a precious inheritance passed down through generations, guiding individuals to a life of purpose and right relationship with both God and others.

## 4. Study Guide: Konkel, Proverbs, Session 5, Learning to Live [Lectures III, IV, V, VI, VII]

### Proverbs Study Guide: Sessions 3-7

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. According to Konkel, what is the primary focus of the first nine chapters of Proverbs?
2. What does the phrase "fear of the Lord" mean, according to the source?
3. What is the relationship between independence and wisdom, as described in the lecture?
4. What three benefits are associated with following wisdom, according to Proverbs 3?
5. How does Proverbs connect the use of money with understanding wisdom and the fear of the Lord?
6. What does the story of Linus and his blanket illustrate about the concept of security?
7. How did learning typically take place in ancient Israel, according to the lecture?
8. What does the term "tzav l'tzav, tzav l'tzav" refer to?
9. How do the wicked operate, according to the lecture, and what is their ultimate goal?
10. Why is it so crucial to guard one's mind, according to Proverbs 4:23?

#### Answer Key

1. The primary focus of the first nine chapters of Proverbs is a series of talks from parents to their children, instructing them in the ways of wisdom. These are presented as a guide for life, passed down through generations.
2. The "fear of the Lord" means dependency on God and rejecting the idea that one has the ability to determine right and wrong independently. It is a foundational principle for understanding wisdom and is directly related to humility.

3. Independence, the belief that one can decide what is right and wrong without God, is presented as the opposite of wisdom. Wisdom stems from fear of the Lord, acknowledging God's way as the only way that leads to life.
4. Following wisdom brings benefits in health, wealth, and correction. While not guaranteeing freedom from illness or poverty, it guides one toward practices that promote well-being and recognition of corrective measures from God.
5. The use of money reveals what a person truly values. How one handles their money reflects understanding of wisdom and the fear of the Lord, especially in their attitude toward the needs of others and resisting selfishness.
6. The story of Linus illustrates the innate human desire for security and the lengths to which people will go to achieve it. It also highlights that security cannot be found in material things, like a blanket, but rather through wisdom and righteousness.
7. Learning in ancient Israel primarily took place in the home. Parents, especially fathers, were responsible for teaching their children the alphabet, scriptures, and the ways of wisdom.
8. The phrase "tzav l'tzav, tzav l'tzav" is a repetition of Hebrew letters used to teach children the alphabet. It demonstrates the early learning practices in Israelite homes.
9. The wicked try to draw others into their way of life, which is the path of darkness. They manipulate and coerce, seeking to undermine a life of wisdom and integrity, often through cultural norms.
10. Guarding one's mind is crucial because decisions and actions stem from one's thoughts. The mind is the starting point of both right and wrong actions, therefore one's true character is reflected in their thoughts.

## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Answer the following essay questions with detailed analysis drawing upon your knowledge of the text.

1. Discuss the role of parental instruction in the book of Proverbs, using specific examples from the lectures. How does the father's teaching style contribute to the larger themes of the book?
2. Explain the contrast between wisdom and independence in Proverbs. How does the pursuit of one affect a person's life compared to the pursuit of the other, according to Konkel?
3. Analyze the concept of "security" as it is presented in the lectures. How does Proverbs define true security, and how does this differ from the world's understanding of security?
4. Explore the relationship between practical living and spiritual wisdom, as presented in the lectures. How does the lecture emphasize the importance of daily actions reflecting a deep understanding of biblical principles?
5. Examine the tension between cultural norms and a life of wisdom, according to the lectures. What advice does the text offer for navigating cultural pressures that contradict a life of faith?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Fear of the Lord:** A foundational concept in Proverbs, it refers to a deep reverence and dependency on God, acknowledging Him as the source of all wisdom and understanding. It involves a humble submission to God's will.
- **Wisdom:** In Proverbs, wisdom is not merely intellectual knowledge but a practical skill for living a life that is pleasing to God. It is often personified as a woman who calls people to choose her path.
- **Independence:** The belief that one can determine right and wrong apart from God. This concept is considered the opposite of wisdom and is described as a dangerous path that leads to destruction.
- **Mercy and Faithfulness:** Key characteristics that stem from a life lived in the fear of the Lord, they guide one's relationships and lead to favor with both God and people.
- **Ani (אני):** A Hebrew term meaning humble, poor or afflicted. The term in the Proverbs is associated with someone who is dependent on God and others, in contrast to the self-reliant.
- **Tzav l'tzav, tzav l'tzav:** A Hebrew phrase, repeating Hebrew letters, that refers to the way parents in ancient Israel taught their children the alphabet and basic literacy skills in the home.
- **The Wicked:** In Proverbs, the wicked represent those who choose a path that is contrary to God's wisdom. They are characterized by their desire to lead others into their own destructive ways.
- **Narrow Path:** A metaphor for the path of wisdom and righteousness, which requires focus, discipline, and avoidance of rationalizations. This is contrasted with the open path of the wicked.
- **Rationalization:** A false or self-serving reason given to justify a bad decision or action.
- **Mind:** The central location of thought and decision-making. According to Proverbs, it is vital to guard one's mind to live a life that is right and pleasing to God.



## 5. FAQs on Konkel, Proverbs, Session 5, Learning to Live [Lectures III, IV, V, VI, VII], Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ on Proverbs and Wisdom

1. **What is the primary setting and purpose of the first nine chapters of Proverbs, according to Dr. Konkel?**
2. Dr. Konkel explains that the first nine chapters of Proverbs are structured as a series of talks from parents to their children, particularly focusing on the instruction given to adolescents. The main purpose is to guide them in the path of wisdom, teaching them how to live in a way that aligns with God's principles and values.
3. **How does Proverbs emphasize the importance of fearing the Lord, and how does this relate to individual wisdom?**

The "fear of the Lord" is portrayed as a foundational principle, signifying a dependency on God rather than relying on one's own understanding. It is not a fear of punishment, but an acknowledgment that God's way of life is the correct one, and that deviating from this path will lead to destruction. Individual wisdom, according to Proverbs, does not come from one's own intellect but from aligning one's thinking and actions with God's wisdom, which requires humility and dependence on Him.

1. **What are some benefits of following wisdom as outlined in Proverbs?**

Following wisdom, according to Proverbs, brings a range of benefits, including improved health, potential material prosperity, and correction when one makes mistakes. It is crucial to understand that these are not guaranteed outcomes, and Proverbs is not claiming that one will never experience illness or poverty if they follow wisdom. Instead, following wisdom is seen as living a life that is more likely to bring about well-being. God's correction is seen as a benefit because it helps improve character and understanding.

### **1. How does Proverbs connect financial decisions with wisdom and faith?**

Proverbs emphasizes that how one manages their money is a reflection of their true values and understanding of wisdom. If someone is wise they will be generous, helping those who have a need without delay. Wise people do not scheme or benefit themselves at the expense of others, but rather focus on being a good neighbor. One's approach to finances is a clear indicator of the values one holds and whether they are truly following wisdom.

#### **1. What role do parents play in teaching wisdom to their children, as suggested by Proverbs?**

2. Proverbs highlights that parents have a crucial role as teachers of wisdom, passing down their values and principles from one generation to the next. Education in ancient Israel often took place within the home and parents acted as the primary educators. Dr. Konkel illustrates this with his own experiences, emphasizing how the values and principles he learned from his parents, particularly his father's commitment to his word, had a lasting impact on his life.

### **3. What does Proverbs say about the nature of the "wicked" and their influence?**

Proverbs describes the "wicked" as those who are actively engaged in leading others away from the path of wisdom and into a destructive way of life. They are portrayed as restless and driven to pull others into their schemes and ways. The influence of the "wicked" is not just from individuals but can also be the influence of the surrounding culture. The pull of culture can be particularly harmful when it promotes values that are contrary to God's ways and it is easy to fall into these destructive patterns.

#### **1. Why does Proverbs put so much emphasis on guarding one's mind?**

The focus on guarding one's mind stems from the belief that the mind is the root of all actions and decisions. Proverbs stresses that a person's true self is reflected in their thoughts. Adultery, for example, begins in the mind. It is necessary to be careful about rationalizations and to focus on what is right to stay on the right path, keeping oneself aligned with God's will. It stresses the need for focus to avoid wrong choices.

1. **How does Dr. Konkel connect the teachings of Proverbs to modern life, particularly within a cultural context?**
2. Dr. Konkel uses examples from contemporary culture to show the relevance of Proverbs. He highlights how the surrounding culture can draw people away from Christian values and the challenge this poses. He also discusses how political and societal pressures can compel individuals to endorse values that are contrary to Christian wisdom. Ultimately he urges Christians to be mindful of their thought processes and to remain committed to the path of wisdom laid out in the proverbs to ensure one has a life that is pleasing to God.