



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Meet Woman Wisdom (Proverbs 9:1-6)

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Meet this friend of ours!

Challenging class discussion questions:

How do you get on a fast track to success?

Who can mentor you for greater leadership skills?

What invitation lists are you on?

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, you developed a relationship with one or more special people who were to become a major influence in your life. Thinking back, you can still remember the names of each of these. This study will introduce you to the “woman” who can have a most profound impact on your life (and your eternity).

Please keep in mind that Proverbs is written in Hebrew poetry. Rather than rhyming, the second line typically clarifies or intensifies the first. Wisdom, from the Hebrew word “hokmah,” is the theme of the book of Proverbs. Hokmah is used to describe the skill of workers. Proverbs was written as a teacher’s handbook. The purpose was to prepare young royalty for leadership in the kingdom.¹ Are you in the royal line, destined for even greater responsibility and leadership?

Proverbs 9:1-6 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.”²

THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WISDOM

This is the ultimate encounter between you, the reader, and this mysterious woman, Wisdom. You are the one who must now make a choice.

A few words of illustration may help us pull more of the meaning out of these verses. House refers to a dwelling or place for gathering together. The Scriptures always use *seven* in reference to sufficiency or completeness. God created the earth in six days and rested on the seventh (Genesis 1 & 2). Reference to food and a banquet refers to the lavish/abundant substance of this wisdom that we are invited to partake of. Note that this wine is mixed: This is typically as much as 8 to 1 with water (and often spices) to dilute its power to intoxicate (Proverbs 20, 23, 29, 31 and Luke 1:15).³

SHE IS BOLD

This call to wisdom is public: We find Woman Wisdom in the city squares and gates (Proverbs 1:20). She shouts from the heights and crossroads (Proverbs 8:1). She sends her servants (including this pastor) to invite you. Will you come and take of this nourishment? Note this strongly implied reference to the call of Jesus and His ultimate banquet (Luke 14:15-23; Revelation 22:17).

Who is this call directed to? Remember that this teaching is directed to young princes, those destined for high leadership: Those who will need greater knowledge and judgment.

NOTICE THE COMPANY SHE KEEPS

Woman Wisdom is a companion of righteousness; she speaks noble things (Proverbs 8:6). She tells the truth and walks with integrity (Proverbs 8:7). Her behavior is wholesome and her judgment sound (Proverbs 8:8).

BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERS/LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS 7-7:50 AM, CAPITOL - ROOM 142 SOUTH
STAFF & GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12:05 – 12:55 PM, CAPITOL - ROOM 171 W (SPEAKERS CONFERENCE ROOM)

Kansas

Meet Woman Wisdom

Wisdom loves justice and her common sense, insight and knowledge enables her to govern the nation well. She offers what is priceless (Proverbs 8:9-15).⁴

NOTICE THE COMPANY SHE AVOIDS

Wisdom hates lies, wickedness and every kind of deception (Proverbs 8:7-8). She avoids any sign of pride, arrogance, and corruption (Proverbs 8:13).

SHE DOES NOT TOLERATE REJECTION

8:23-32 *I was formed at the very beginning. I was formed before the world began. Before there were any oceans, I was born. There weren't any springs of water at that time. Before the mountains were settled in place, I was born. Before there were any hills, I was born. It happened before the Lord made the earth and its fields. It was before he made the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place. When he marked out the place where the sky meets the sea, I was there. That was when he put the clouds above. It was when he fixed the ocean springs in place. It was when he set limits for the sea so that the waters had to obey his command. When he marked out the foundations of the earth, I was there. I was the skilled worker at his side. I was filled with delight day after day. I was always happy to be with him. His whole world filled me with joy. I took delight in all human beings. "My children, listen to me. Blessed are those who keep my ways."⁵*

Intolerant, yes but the promises are out of this world!

8:33 *"But he who listens to me shall live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil."*

WHO IS WOMAN WISDOM?

Wisdom was firstborn of creation; the first creation of God (Proverbs 8:22-26). Wisdom was the master craftsman, the architect in all creation; rejoicing with God and delighting with the human family (Proverbs 8:30-31). God is the source of true wisdom. Jesus is the perfect expression of God's wisdom in human form. He is the "Word of Life" (1 John 1:1, Colossians 2:3, Hebrews 1:3).⁶

CONCLUSION

To follow Jesus is to embrace wisdom. He enables princes to rule and nobles to decree justice (Proverbs 8:14-18). Most profoundly, Jesus promises eternal life to those who come (Revelation 22:17).

¹ Proverbs, A NavPress Bible study. (The Navigators). 1990. p10-12.

² The Holy Bible. New Living Translation (Tyndale House) 2004.

³ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible (Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982. p876.

⁴ Tremper Longman III, How to Read Proverbs. (InterVarsity Press) 2002.p30.

⁵ The Holy Bible, New International Readers Version (Biblica, Inc.) 1996, 1998.

⁶ Anthony Selvaggio, A Proverbs Driven Life (Shepherd Press) 2008. p21.