

Set 2, Meeting 1: Wisdom is Yours Highlights

0:00 – 16:27 Commentary on Proverbs 8: 1-12

Main points:

- What all parents need is wisdom (=integration of knowledge and understanding plus the resulting action)
- God is Wisdom
- Wisdom is not only not hidden, but it also calls out to parents AND children since their birth
- A parent is the representation of wisdom to a child until they have a mature personal relationship with God
- A parent's role is to take the child from foolishness (hard-heartedness, being reactive, being unteachable) to prudence (cautiousness, thoughtfulness, being slow to anger)
- It is wise to train the child to use their common sense by giving less instructions and asking more questions of the type: *Do you have a plan?*
- Speak noble things to your children (do not conform to the norm of the rest of the world)
- Turn to God to know what and when to speak to your child – right and truthful things
- Language and tone transmit more to your children than words themselves
- Pray for wisdom every day
- If you want wisdom, work on your prudence: you cannot be a reactive parent
- Wisdom (God) is initiating, not reactive!
- The Word of God is the most excellent parenting book

16:28 – 21:00

- Bill Johnston: "A very large percentage of my Bible study, of my prayer time, I studied the Bible constantly, but I studied for my family."
- Jer 24: I will give them a heart to know me.
- Claim and declare such promises over your children, they are the goal for your parenting

21:10 – 23:38

Handout – 6 insights:

1. Get a very high view of parenting
2. It is not reasonable to think that bringing a child into the world automatically equips you to be an excellent parent. Determinately become a passionate learner and feel really good about that.

3. Develop a philosophy of parenting that is so clear it reveals and constrains your options as to how you parent
4. Come to know exactly where you are aiming at in the larger context of your child's life
5. Don't use the people around you as to whether or not you are a good parent, use the Word of God. This includes your own personal tolerance levels
6. At any given age view your child as an adult in process

23:39 – 48:00 Details on insight 1 – High View of Parenting

- Jan's testimony on her career vs family decision
- You are replaceable at every level but as the mother of this particular child (biological and adoptive)
- Parenting is an awe-inspiring role, God-given and far beyond our own choice and convenience
- Your children are not yours, they are under your custody
- Stewardship implies personal responsibility and increase: Your ceiling (in God's estimation) should be your children's floor
- Childhood, by God's design, is a very short period of time – the job of the parent as a guide or a steward is not long
- On the other hand, parents should be life-long intercessors for their children

40:20 – 47:38 Details on insight 6 - Even during early childhood, you should regard your children as adults in the making!

- Children will naturally gravitate towards the company of adults unless we teach them to prefer the company of other children/TV/technology
- It is important to use normal voice with children, as with everyone else. Also, big words!

48:08 – 59:00 Details on insight 2 – Parent = expert?

- Dick's first plumbing experience
- First negative outcome is feeling devastated
- Next, you become very defensive because you refuse to admit you don't know how to "plumb"
- When it goes badly, you start to dislike parenting and try to get away, although you love your children
- When it gets tough, it is not the time to move away – it is the time to move in! It is time to pray and search for wisdom, and try until it works out.
- It is wise to take on assignments and participate in things where you can bring your kids (they have been trained to behave well)

59:00 Discussion

- List of desirable character traits for your child – the character of Jesus Christ
- Decree them over your kids – how am I to contribute?
- If you are aiming at developing those, you can't parent according to your own personal tolerance levels, you have to look at God's standards

1:01:28 The three simple behaviors that promote peace at home and maturity in your children:

- Little children can learn to eat in a genteel refined way – eating together is a very spiritual experience – and it will generalize in their lives. Observation: A child that eats like an animal, acts like an animal.

1:05: 50 Final prayer