**WISDOM FROM PROVERBS:**

**OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD**

***INTRODUCTION:***

1. The Book of Proverbs, as we have seen in other lessons, contains inspired wisdom on a lot of different subjects.
2. In this lesson, we want to focus on what it teaches us about our relationship to God.

***BODY:***

1. It teaches us that there is a great need for a fear of the Lord.
	1. Why is there such a need?
		1. Because, as we see in Proverbs 1:7, it is the beginning of knowledge. If we have a fear of the Lord, we want to know exactly what to do to please Him.
		2. Notice what is said about “fools” in the latter part of the verse: “despise wisdom and instruction.”
		3. Those who have a fear of the Lord will embrace wisdom and instruction.
	2. But let’s notice some other valuable things about this fear of the Lord.
		1. Read Proverbs 10:27—“prolongs days.” How does it do that?
			1. Read Proverbs 16:6, then 19:23. A fear of the Lord keeps us from doing evil things, and then suffering the consequences of doing those evil things.
			2. Think about how many lives are cut short by wickedness.
				1. Diseases contracted because of sexual immorality.
				2. Alcohol, tobacco have killed many.
				3. Even the stress associated with guilt takes a toll on some people.
			3. But if we fear the Lord and heed His word, we are spared from these things.
		2. Read Proverbs 22:4—not only can the fear of the Lord increase the quantity of days; it can also increase the quality of life. How?
			1. Proverbs 15:16.
			2. Proverbs 14:26-27.
				1. We can be confident, knowing that we are listening to God and heeding His word.
				2. We have in Him a place of refuge, someone to turn to when times get rough.
				3. Read 1 John 3:19-22.
		3. This fear of the Lord is also what will lead us to eternal life.
			1. Proverbs 23:17-18.
2. We also learn from the wisdom in Proverbs that some things are an abomination to God.
	1. Seven of these are listed in Proverbs 6:16-19.
		1. A proud look—also 16:5.
		2. A lying tongue—also 12:22.
		3. Hands that shed innocent blood (murder)
		4. A heart that devises wicked plans.
		5. Feet that are swift in running to evil (quick to do evil rather than good).
		6. A false witness who speaks lies—also 17:15.
		7. On who sows discord among brethren.
	2. Some other abominations
		1. Proverbs 11:1—dishonest scales. This would cheat others.
		2. 16:12—kings who commit wickedness.
		3. 15:8; 28:9—the worship and prayer of those who are wicked, those who turn away from God’s law.
3. Finally, we learn that our relationship with God is affected by our relationship with others.
	1. How we treat those in need greatly affects our relationship with God.
		1. Proverbs 14:31—Does this not remind you of Jesus’ words in Matt. 25:31-46?
		2. 17:5—We certainly don’t want to make fun of anyone’s misfortune.
		3. 19:17—The Lord will pay back those who give to the poor.
		4. 22:22-23.
		5. 15:25—The Lord is concerned for the widow, and so should we.
		6. 23:10-11—Concerned also for the fatherless.
	2. Even our relationship with our enemies will affect our relationship with God.
		1. Proverbs 24:17-18.
		2. 25:21-22.

***CONCLUSION:***

1. Summarize the three main points.