



*Journal the Word™*

# Reflecting on Biblical Wisdom

## 15 JOURNALING PROMPTS

Reading the Bible is a journey to hear from the Lord. It's a time to pause and reflect on God and the truths of Scripture. Journaling as you read the Bible is a valuable way to process your thoughts, reflect on God, and apply biblical wisdom to your life.

What better way to start the practice of journaling than reading through verses on biblical wisdom! These 15 passages are coupled with journaling prompts to help you meditate, reflect, and consider how the Scriptures can be applied to your life.

### **1 Administer Justice / Deuteronomy 16:18-20**

*You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

In this passage, God directed the Israelites to appoint wise judges and faithful administrators to lead their tribes. Judges were expected to be impartial and repudiate bribes which might change the balance in favor of the giver. Today, as in Old Testament times, we are to follow what is altogether just, reflecting God's love for what is just and true for the good of all people.

What does a wise judge and faithful administrator look like in your life? Are you taking your responsibility to "appoint" wise judges and faithful administrators" as seriously as you should? Consider ways you can help ensure that justice and God's ways prevail in your home, job, and church.

### **2 An Understanding Heart / 1 Kings 3:7-9**

*"Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"*

Solomon, son of King David, comes to God humbly asking for wisdom. Interestingly, he did not ask God to take away his problems, fears, and responsibilities. Instead, he expresses his desire for an "understanding heart" in order to lead well and make wise decisions.

The phrase "understanding heart" suggests a willingness to listen to all sides of an issue. What else does this phrase mean to you? Do you, like Solomon, have responsibilities that are weighing you down? Do you have any fears and concerns? Take a moment to ask God for an "understanding heart" and wisdom to address what troubles you. Acknowledge Him as the source of true wisdom.

### **3 Meditate on God's Word / Psalm 119:97-104**

*Oh, how I love Your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.  
You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies;  
For they are ever with me.  
I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
For Your testimonies are my meditation.  
I understand more than the ancients,  
Because I keep Your precepts.  
I have restrained my feet from every evil way,  
That I may keep Your word.  
I have not departed from Your judgments,  
For You Yourself have taught me.  
How sweet are Your words to my taste,  
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!  
Through Your precepts I get understanding;  
Therefore I hate every false way.*

The psalmist again and again proclaims his love for the Law in this passage. Why? Because he has experienced first hand how the meditation of God's Law has provided him with wisdom, understanding, and protection. Thinking on this causes him to express his deep love not only for the Law, but also for God Himself, the originator of the Law.

We become wise by meditating on the Law – God's Word to us. What does it mean to you to make the Bible your "meditation all the day?" Beyond just reading and understanding, we need to act on God's precepts. Just like the psalmist, take a moment to thank God for His Word and praise Him for how His wisdom has made a difference in your life.

### **4 Fear the Lord / Proverbs 1:7**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

All wisdom starts with knowing God and submitting to His will. "Fools" think they know everything and reject being open to discipline and counsel. Wisdom requires a humble attitude and awe of our amazing God.

Is there an area where you might be holding onto your own wisdom rather than God's? What is the cost of gaining wisdom in your life? What is the cost of rejecting wisdom? The word fear in this Scripture communicates respect and honor. Jot down ways you can honor and respect God in real, actionable ways.

### **5 Earnestly Seek God / Proverbs 2:3-6**

*Yes, if you cry out for discernment,  
And lift up your voice for understanding,  
If you seek her as silver,  
And search for her as for hidden treasures;  
Then you will understand the fear of the LORD,  
And find the knowledge of God.  
For the LORD gives wisdom;  
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

When we earnestly seek God, He provides the guidance and wisdom we need. Our quest for wisdom takes effort. It is an active endeavor. As the Scripture teaches, we can cry out, speak out loud, and should search Him diligently. In return, we will find Him and gain knowledge and understanding.

In what ways can you more actively seek God's wisdom? Thank God for the confidence we can have through this passage that He hears us and will provide the understanding and discernment we need. Ask Him to help you seek His wisdom in all you do.

## **6 A Parent's Responsibility / Proverbs 4:3-4**

*When I was my father's son,  
Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,  
He also taught me, and said to me:  
"Let your heart retain my words;  
Keep my commands, and live.*

In this passage, Solomon is remembering how his father, King David, taught and encouraged him as a child to seek wisdom.

Today, we are also called to teach the things of God to our children. If you are a parent, how can you encourage your children to seek God for wisdom? Did your parents teach you about God? How can you learn directly from the Scriptures today?

## **7 Be Humble / Proverbs 11:2**

*When pride comes, then comes shame;  
But with the humble is wisdom.*

Raging arrogance and presumptuous behavior hinders us from seeking the full wisdom of God. Pride assumes that it already knows the answers. The truth is that only God knows all the answers. We should humbly ask for guidance.

Can you think of a situation when you didn't seek the Lord's help before making a difficult decision? What was the outcome? Contrast that with a time when you humbly sought God and acted on His leading.

## **8 Walk with the Wise / Proverbs 13:20**

*He who walks with wise men will be wise,  
But the companion of fools will be destroyed.*

The people we associate with may affect us more than we realize. Our friends and close associates play an important role in shaping our character – both for the good as well as the bad.

Think about the people you spend the most time with. Are your closest friends the kind of people you want to grow to be like? Which of your friends speaks godly truth when needed? Are you being a wise friend to others?

## **9 Wisdom is a Gift from God / Ecclesiastes 8:1**

*Who is like a wise man?  
And who knows the interpretation of a thing?  
A man's wisdom makes his face shine,  
And the sternness of his face is changed.*

Wisdom is a gift from God and has the effect of brightening our face. Out of the depths of understanding, we are able to enjoy life and build others up.

We gain wisdom from knowing God and seeing life from His perspective. Think about the wise, godly people you know and their countenance. Is there someone who would benefit from the wisdom you've gained in knowing God?

## **10 His Understanding is Unsearchable / Isaiah 40:28**

*Have you not known?*

*Have you not heard?*

*The everlasting God, the LORD,*

*The Creator of the ends of the earth,*

*Neither faints nor is weary.*

*His understanding is unsearchable.*

Neither God's strength nor understanding can be equated with anything we experience here on earth. He is Creator, Everlasting, Omnipotent, and Inscrutable. He neither faints nor is weary and He has the ability to meet all our needs.

Is this your concept of God? In what other ways are God's ways unsearchable? In what ways might you be underestimating Him? Humbly thank God for His limitless understanding and the depths of His great power.

## **11 Wise Faithful Elders / Luke 2:36-38**

*Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

The prophet Anna testified of God's mighty acts. Anna had become a widow after just seven years of marriage and had served God faithfully with fastings and prayers day after day, year after year. Although she was very old, she never lost hope that she would see the Messiah and was among the first to bear witness to Jesus.

Is there an older wise Christian in your life who you can learn from? Think about ways you are faithfully trusting God and gaining wisdom. Recount the ways that God has honored your faithfulness.

## **12 The Wisdom of Knowing Christ / 1 Corinthians 1:24-25**

*but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

Knowing Christ personally is the greatest wisdom we can have. As "foolish" people, we who accept Christ's offer of salvation will live eternally with God.

What does the phrase "wisdom of God" mean to you? If you have accepted Christ as your Savior reflect back to God what the wisdom of knowing Him means to you.

## **13 Making the Most of Our Days / Ephesians 5:15-16**

*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Paul directs us to make the most of our days and communicates a sense of urgency with the pervasiveness of evil in our world. We are wise to take advantage of every opportunity for service and to advance Christ's purposes in this world, making the most of our limited days on earth.

Think about how you are using your time and how you might "redeem" it. To "walk circumspectly" means to step gingerly. Think about the path you are on in terms of the people you spend time with and the opportunities you have for service.

## **14 Speak Wisely / Colossians 4:5-6**

*Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

We should be wise in our contacts with non-believers making the most of opportunities that God gives us to share the Good News of Jesus.

Are you conscious of your "witness" to those who don't know Christ? Are you respectful and gracious? Is there something God is doing in your life that you might share and bring Him glory?

## **15 God Gives Generously / James 1:5**

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

During difficult circumstances, James tells us that if we need wisdom, we can pray to God, and He will generously give us what we need. The wisdom God gives during these times is often the way through the difficulty rather than how to make the difficulty go away.

Do you have a steadfast confidence that God controls all circumstances and is guiding all things for His good purposes? Ask God for wisdom in the things that challenge you today. Thank Him that He is able and always supplies our needs through every trial.