



The two Bible studies are complementary to the worship session messages. The format is facilitation and discussion. Because students will participate in 4 worship sessions and 2 breakout sessions, where student vocalization won't be as evident, the Bible studies have the wonderful opportunity to encourage student involvement through discussion questions. The more involved you are able to get students in the studies, the more fruitful the studies will be.

Keep in mind that you will likely have an age and spiritual spectrum, so there may be additional explaining necessary in certain areas. Look out for students who seem confused, and encourage them to speak up with questions of their own. A good practice is to not assume a Biblical concept is known by the students. Bible literacy is low in our present age, which is one reason why these studies were intentionally written to encourage deep spiritual recognition of the things of God: namely the role of wisdom and the role of thankfulness in our lives.

Below I've included a few ideas to increase student engagement, especially for students who you are confident may not voluntarily answer open ended questions. There are also a few tips for some who may be new to leading a bible study with students, or who just need some fresh perspective on the differences between facilitation and lecture.

Tips for facilitation:

- Ask a question, then be silent (10 seconds) so students may think and answer
- "I don't know, but we can find out" is a perfectly appropriate answer. :)
- Ensure that not any one student is controlling the discussion by inviting others to speak.

Student Engagement Ideas

- Ask students to read scripture (be sure to give them the address beforehand)
- Use notecards for discussion questions. Hand them out and ask students to read their question when the time comes. (Number the cards so you can simply ask, "who has question #3?")
- Limit your input, and stay on topic.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [ccdrpastor@gmail.com](mailto:ccdrpastor@gmail.com).

May God's grace be with you all!  
Matt Mayberry

Bible Study 1: The Time is Now for Wisdom  
Proverbs 2:1-6

1. Three ifs... (1-4)
  - a. Accept wisdom
  - b. Call out to wisdom
  - c. Seek wisdom
2. Two promises...(5)
  - a. Understand fear of God.
  - b. Discover knowledge of God.
3. One source...(6)
  - a. The LORD.

Begin this study by playing a rousing game of “Choose a Side.” Have your group stand and explain that you’ll announce several pairs of choices and that you’ll designate a side of the area for each choice. The students must choose a side by moving to that side. Upon completion, have students return once more to their places.

- Practice: Peanut Butter & Jelly v. Ham & Cheese.
- One million dollars now v. One hundred thousand dollars over the next ten years
- Owning a mansion and living alone v. Owning a studio apartment with your family
- Being a martial arts black belt who cannot fight v. Being a pacifist who must fight

Explain: Though the game was silly, each choice required students to use some type of perceived wisdom or understanding. The wisdom of the options from the game could be debated based on circumstances, or even preference to an extent. But when we consider everyday choices in our lives, we tend to ignore wisdom and chase selfishness. Last night’s message mentioned God’s command to live in wisdom. This study will help us find out how and why this is possible and right. As we seek to RESET our lives according to God’s will, the time is now for wisdom to overtake our lives.

Read Proverbs 2:1-6 (or better yet, invite a student to do so)

Explain: Proverbs is a book of wisdom. It gives many wise teachings and sayings. In the beginning of the book, it introduces the reader to the value of wisdom. This is what we find in these verses we just read.

Discussion Question: In verses 1-4, the writer mentioned three if statements about wisdom.

- What are they? What does each statement mean?
  - Three ifs... (1-4)
    - Accept and store up wisdom (most ignore and toss out wisdom)
    - Call out to wisdom (most call out to selfishness or popular culture)
    - Seek wisdom (most seek what is easy to find)
- Who bears the responsibility in these statements? (Lead students to the truth that we bear the responsibility.)

- Why does God make wisdom conditional? (The qualifier “if” shows that wisdom is conditional. Allow for discussion. Help students see that the effort given to gaining wisdom provides rich reward. Ignoring wisdom provides poor reward (v. 4).

Explain: The three ifs expressed in v. 1-4 culminate in v. 5 with two promises that are enjoyed in wisdom: 1) Understand the fear of God and 2) Discover the knowledge of God. Wisdom is never empty! With wisdom comes understanding and knowledge.

Discussion Questions:

- Considering the “if” statements, what would happen if we didn’t accept and store up wisdom, call out to wisdom, or seek wisdom? (We would be without understanding of the fear of God and without knowledge of God.)
- What does it mean to understand the fear of the LORD? (The fear of the Lord causes us to love, trust, and obey God. Fulfilling the “ifs” leads us to love, trust, and obey God.)
- What does it mean to discover the knowledge of God? (Discovering the knowledge of God provides us with never ending opportunities to grow in affection, intimacy, gratitude, information, and desire for God. Because God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent we will never come to an end of the knowledge of God.)

Explain: Finally, in verse 6, we see that the three ifs, completed by the two promises, come from one source: the LORD! Let’s study this final verse and see how we can grasp onto and grow in wisdom.

Discussion Questions:

- According to v. 6, God is the source of wisdom. More specifically though, how does God give wisdom? (From his mouth)
- How are knowledge and understanding connected to wisdom? (Knowledge with understanding brings about wisdom. Only knowledge or only understanding leaves one lacking. Ex: Electricians have wisdom (knowledge and understanding) of light switches, while most people only have knowledge- flip the switch and the light turns on/off.)
- Why is it so important that God is the source of wisdom? (As the source of wisdom, he stands as the creator of wisdom, the giver of wisdom, as wisdom itself. We can trust the Lord because of this.)

Explain: Three ifs, two promises, one source. The time is now for wisdom to lead your decision making. Accept and store up wisdom, call out to God who is wise, seek wisdom as if it is a treasure. God promises to provide understanding and knowledge of himself for you. He is the only one who can give wisdom, and he already has spoken wisdom through his word. God has given us the Bible, the very word spoken by him that we may know him. The time is now for wisdom to invade your life by learning God’s word, keeping God’s word, and loving God’s word. Listen to the fruit of wisdom by reading the rest of Proverbs 2:7-22. Note how wonderful and rewarding wisdom is and how detrimental sin and wickedness is.

Read Proverbs 2:7-22, clearly and steadily. Close in prayer.

Bible Study 2: The Time is Now for Thankfulness  
1 Chronicles 29:10-13

1. Recognize who God is. (10)
2. Recognize what is God's. (11)
3. Recognize what God gives. (12)
4. Give thanks! (13)

Inform students that you're about to ask them a series of questions about thankfulness. Their role is to consider how they would answer each question. As you ask each question, allow time for students to think. (If possible, bring some notecards and writing utensils so students may record their answers.)

- When was the last time you realized you were thankful for something?
- What were you thankful for?
- Why were you thankful?
- What most often keeps you from thankfulness?

Explain: Thankfulness is severely overlooked in our culture. We are often so concerned with getting more, getting what's new, and getting what's different that we fail to truly be thankful. Because thankfulness is so uncommon, it's necessary to RESET our lives according to God's will and realize that the time is now for thankfulness.

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-13.

Explain: The four verses that we just read address King David of Israel praying to God. This is just the beginning of a longer prayer, but you might notice something: David's first words of prayer give praise and thanks to God. He doesn't begin with requests or needs, he begins with adoration. We are going to see that David recognizes three things about God that lead him to thankfulness, and that we must recognize these things too so that we may be thankful. First, just like David we must recognize who God is.

Discussion Questions:

- Take another look at verse 10. How does David recognize who God is? (LORD God. As LORD, he is able to be blessed from eternity to eternity because he is eternal.)
- Why is it important for us to recognize that God is eternal? (Lead students to recognize God is eternal. It is not merely something true about him, but it is a vital truth that provides immense reason for us to be thankful. God being "from eternity to eternity" sets himself completely outside of who we are. This makes him worthy of our thankfulness.)

Explain: After David recognizes who God is, he recognizes what is God's. In other words, he, a king, acknowledges God's sovereignty over him. It is necessary to know that God does not fight for possession of anything, but is owner of all that we seek.

Discussion Questions:

- Describe what is recognized as God's in v. 11. (Greatness, power, glory, splendor, majesty, everything, kingdom.)
- Which of the things mentioned do humans desire to own? When we aim to own these things, does it spark thankfulness or selfishness? (Each of them. Selfishness for sure!)
- What results from God's ownership of all things? (He is exalted!)

Explain: The final thing David recognizes in this section of his prayer is found in v. 12: he recognizes what God gives. What a wonderful truth it is that God, the eternal one, the owner of all things, gives generously to those who are his children.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you see that God gives? (Riches, honor, greatness, strength)
- Recognizing that God gives these things should make us trust him to give them. How do we usually go about trying to receive these things? (Riches- please the world, fame, run over others; honor- demand it by achieving status; greatness- forsake God and be greater than others; strength- fight and prove ourselves as stronger than others/Social Darwinism)
- Why should God's generosity spark thankfulness? (God is not obligated to give good things. In fact, because of our sin, we are deserving of condemnation. It is his grace that gives so generously.)

Explain: After these initial recognitions, David states, "Now therefore". He has established truths about who God is, what is God's, and what God gives. This leads him to acknowledge that the time is NOW for thankfulness. He must wait no longer. He must give thanks!

Discussion Questions:

- Why does David declare that it is time to give thanks and praise? (Because of all that he recognizes about God. God is the subject of thankfulness and praise, not the things of this earth.)
- How can you enjoy a reset in your life that leads you to thankfulness? (Recognize what David did: who God is, what is God's, and what God gives.)

Explain: We have been selfish for far too long, demanding more and more without seeing who God is, what is his, and what he gives. The time is now for thankfulness. If there is nothing for which you can think to be thankful, consider this: "God demonstrated his love for us in this way, that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rm 5:8) and "If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart, God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rm 10:9) God gives salvation, trust in Christ Jesus and be thankful!

Offer a time of response. Close in prayer.