

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Proverbs 2:1-4 (DNow Sunday)

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Proverbs 2, reread Proverbs 2:1-4

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined>. Commands are double-underlined>. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

My son,
if you will receive my words
 and treasure my commandments within you,
 ² Make your ear attentive to wisdom,
 Incline your heart to understanding;
³ For if you cry for discernment,
 Lift your voice for understanding;
⁴ If you seek her as silver
 And search for her as for hidden treasures;

1. Who is speaking? Who wrote this proverb?
2. Who is the author speaking to? What descriptive language do we have about the recipient?
3. Read Proverbs 1:8, 3:1, 4:1, 5:1, 6:1, 7:1. What pattern is being set in these first several chapters?
4. Compare three to five different English translations of Proverbs 2:1-5. What differences do you notice? (For example: Compare the NASB 1995, ESV, NIV, and CSB)

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5. Read Proverbs 2:1-4 out loud. Notice the punctuation in verses 1-4. Are these complete sentences? Explain. What are these phrases leading you to expect? (Note: this may be slightly clearer in a translation like the ESV).
6. There are a series of “if” statements made in these four verses that make up a string of conditions. What are all the conditions that ought to be met?
7. How many if statements are there? (Note: the NASB had a matching number of “ifs” to the original Hebrew text.)
8. Are these conditions here because they are supposed to be optional? Consider Proverbs 1:32.

❖ Day 2

Read Proverbs 2 again.

9. Consider the implication of these conditions. Do these conditions mean that the “then” coming in verse 5 and following is promised? Is the “then” a guarantee?

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10. List the verbs found in these four verses. In what ways are these verbs similar? In what ways are they distinct?

11. Do a quick investigation of the word “treasure” from verse 1 (consider using blue letter bible or the literal word app). Consider Psalm 119:11 which uses this word again, and the echo of these themes in Proverbs 3:1, 3:3, and Proverbs 7:1. What does this word, “treasure” mean?

12. Based on your working definition of treasuring from question 10, how would someone practically fulfill the condition of treasuring these commandments? What activities would put into practice this kind of treasuring?

13. How would one accomplish the task of making their ear attentive?

14. What is the “heart” described in verse 2? Is this the organ or something different? How do you know?

15. How can a heart inclined toward something? What would it look like to practice this?

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❖ Day 3

Read Proverbs 2 again.

16. Read Genesis 45:2. How does this inform the meaning of “lift your voice” in verse 3?
17. Read James 1:5. How does this describe the response of God to those who do cry out and do lift their voice to God for discernment and understanding?
18. What excuses do people make for not completing these conditions? What excuses do you make?
19. What adjectives would you use to describe hidden treasures and silver? How do those adjectives speak to the condition being made in verse 4?
20. What intensity is being described in verse 4? Read Matthew 13:44-46. How does this illustration provide a picture to understand the meaning of Proverbs 2:4?
21. What does it mean to “seek” as described in verse 4? Is this an active or passive activity?
22. Describe the meaning of these 4 verses in one sentence that is 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray crying out to God and lifting your voice asking for wisdom from God. Pray you would be given strength to pursue the wisdom of God and not of man. Pray to incline your own heart toward the wisdom of God that you would be attentive to his instruction.