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## WAYS THAT SEEM RIGHT

*There is a way that seems right to a man,  
but its end is the way to death.*

PROVERBS 14:12

If you own a dog, you may know chocolate is toxic to them. Chocolate is something people eat as a treat, and many dogs will gladly gobble it up if they can get their paws on it. Unfortunately, this sweet dessert is poisonous and potentially deadly for your canine friends.

God tells us that it isn't always easy to know what is good for us. Some things that appear to be good or "neutral" (not obviously good or bad) to us might actually be harmful. Things like songs, books, movies, or shows might seem harmless, but if they teach something opposed to God's teaching, they can lead us astray or distract us from what is good. It is really important to know who to trust when you want to decide whether something is wrong or right. You can't just trust your instincts or desires because harmful things will often seem good to you.

If you are sick, you trust a doctor to advise you on how to get better. To pass a test at school, you trust your teacher to prepare you. To live a godly life, you shouldn't trust what anyone says is good unless it lines up with what God says. Christians don't follow the crowd unless the crowd is following Jesus. Even if everyone else we know is convinced something is right, and even if it seems right to us, if God says it is wrong, we will trust Him only.

The unbelieving people around us will tell us how normal and harmless some choices are. But the Bible would call those same choices selfish, immoral, dishonest, and sinful. As we get to know God and His Word, we will know better. God’s Word helps us “discern” what’s best. Discerning is the God-given ability to tell what is right from what is wrong.

As hard as it might be, we should stand up for what is right because we trust the all-knowing God over people’s opinions.

**1. Can you think of a time when your parents helped you see that something you did wasn’t the best option for you?**

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**2. Why is it hard to believe something when other people disagree with you?**

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**3. Why do you think some things that are wrong seem right to us?**

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**Read Matthew 7:13–14.** (This is a cross-reference, another verse in the Bible that is related to the one we are studying.)

**4. How are these words from Jesus related to Proverbs 14:12?**  
(Reminder: this is the verse at the beginning of the lesson.)

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**5. After reading these two passages, write out three questions you have about these verses.** (Questions might be something like: Why doesn't God just make me want what's good? Or, How do I know if I'm on the narrow, or right, path?)

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**6. What other verses in the Bible help to answer your questions?**  
(Reminder: use the concordance in the back of your Bible or ask a grown-up who loves God and reads the Bible.)

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**7. What do you think is the most important idea of these two passages, Matthew 7:13–14 and Proverbs 14:12?**

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**8. *What do these verses ask or inspire you to think, feel, or do?***

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# FINDING TREASURE

*Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,  
and the one who gets understanding,  
for the gain from her is better than gain from  
silver and her profit better than gold.  
She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.*

PROVERBS 3:13–15

Which is greater, a nickel or a dime? It depends, right? It's not that easy of a question. If you are talking about weight or size, a nickel is greater. If you are talking about monetary value, a dime is worth twice as much. Wouldn't it be foolish if someone wanted to trade dimes for nickels?

What is worth more to you, gold or wisdom? In other words, would you rather be wealthy or wise?

You can be the richest person in the world, but if you make foolish choices or act foolishly, you will hurt yourself and hurt others. You can be the smartest kid in your class, but if you only use your intelligence to make fun of people or so you can slack off in class, is your brilliance that valuable? If you are strong or fast or artistic or talented but you don't know the difference between right and wrong, then your skills won't end up helping you or anyone else.

God's Word says that wisdom is more valuable than gold, silver, and jewels. God is saying that knowing Him and trusting Him in how to live rightly is the most valuable thing you could seek in your life. Knowing the proverbs will help you do that. The understanding you'll gain will be more valuable than a treasure chest full of gold.

**1. What is the most valuable thing your mom or dad has ever taught you?**

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**2. What is your most valuable possession? If you lost it, how hard would you look for it?**

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**3. Is there anyone in your life who seems godly and wise to you? A parent? A teacher or coach? An aunt or uncle? What questions do you think they could help you answer to help you "find wisdom"?**

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**Read Matthew 13:44–46.**

**4. How are these words from Jesus about treasure similar to the treasures in Proverbs 3:13–15?**

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**5. After reading these two passages, write out three questions you have about these verses.**

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. What other verses in the Bible help to answer your questions?**

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**7. What do you think is the most important idea of these two passages, Matthew 13:44–46 and Proverbs 3:13–15?**

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**8. What do these verses ask or inspire you to think, feel, or do?**

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# YOU OBEY WHAT YOU FEAR

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

PROVERBS 1:7

The first time I saw a whale shark, I was standing against the glass of an enormous aquarium. Suddenly a spotted creature of unbelievable size glided slowly by, just a few feet in front of me. It was truly unnerving. I was in no danger, and whale sharks don't even eat people (or so they say), but it was so big that I was a little shaken by the experience.

The beginning of wisdom, or the start of not being a fool, is understanding that God is wiser than you are. The fear of God is the awesome recognition that God is powerful and wise beyond all of your comprehension. That's even more amazing than a whale shark swimming right in front of your face.

If you want to be wise, that starts with understanding that God knows better than you. Not just about some things; God knows better than you about everything. That is part of what makes Him God and makes you you. You need God. He does not need you, but in His love for you, He grants you His wisdom. Proverbs is full of knowledge and wisdom for you, and you need all of it. Not everyone loves and trusts God, but the people who *do* love, fear (honor and revere), and trust God are truly wise.

**1. What situation have you gone through where you were grateful and glad that your mom or dad was with you?**

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**2. How do you know that God is wiser than you?**

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**3. How do we get wisdom from God?**

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**Read John 3:18–21.**

**4. Proverbs 1:7 and John 3:18–21 talk about the benefits of trusting God. What are those benefits according to these verses?**

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**5. After reading these two passages, write out three questions you have about these verses.**

1. 

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**6. What other verses in the Bible help to answer your questions?**

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**7. What do you think is the most important idea of these two passages, John 3:18–21 and Proverbs 1:7?**

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**8. What do these verses ask you to think, feel, or do?**

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