

Background Scripture: Genesis 39; Proverbs 2 • Print Passage: Proverbs 2:1-11

**KEY VERSE:** The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.  
(Proverbs 2:6)



One of Cooper and Colin's favorite things to do is to take summer vacation with their grandfather. Since they were very young, their grandfather has spent time each summer taking the twins to major cities in the United States and to a few foreign countries.

Grandpa James used to select all the trips, but once Cooper and Colin reached the fifth grade, he let them participate in deciding where they would go. The boys visited their grandparents each year, during the Christmas break, and since fifth grade, they have come prepared with an essay or a creative presentation entitled "Where I Want to Go Next Summer." The other family members vote by secret ballot on the best presentation. The winner gets to help Grandpa James make plans and reservations for the trip.

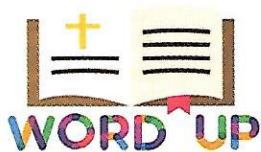
Cooper and Colin work hard on their presentations, but they never care which of them wins. No matter where they go, they always have a great time with Grandpa James. What the twins look forward to most of all is just talking. Grandpa



James is a retired military officer who has travelled all over the world. He has a fun sense of humor, tells great stories, explains current events, and teaches the twins a few fitness workouts and lessons from men in the Bible. Whatever subject they discuss, Grandpa James says that his goal is to help his grandsons be the best young men they can be. Cooper

and Colin know how blessed they are to have a wise grandfather like Grandpa James.

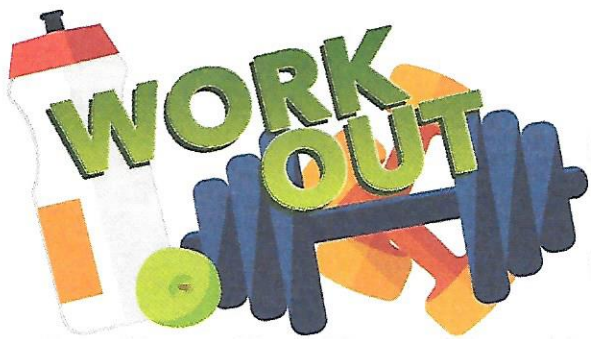
**What can the twins do to honor Grandpa James for being such a wise and loving role model for them? How do you respond to the people God has placed in your life to help you? Explain.**



### Proverbs 2:1-11

**1** My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, **2** turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— **3** indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, **4** and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, **5** then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. **6** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. **7** He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, **8** for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. **9** Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. **10** For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. **11** Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.





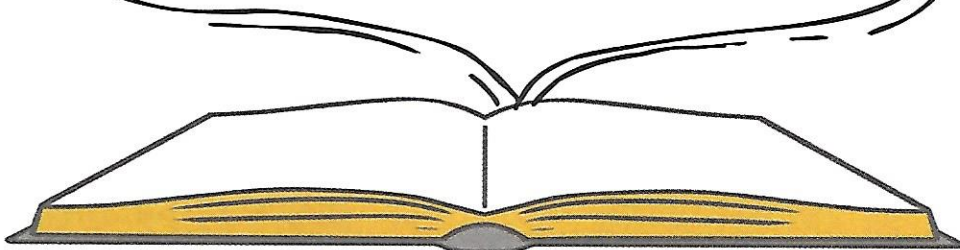
Today's Scripture passage highlights how wisdom comes to believers in two ways. First and most importantly, wisdom is a gift from God. This is the starting point for gaining wisdom—recognizing that wisdom is God-given. The second way to obtain wisdom is explained in verses 3 and 4. These verses emphasize that those who want wisdom must seek it. Believers should not expect wisdom to come automatically, simply because they are God's people—they must search for it (wisdom) as though they are looking for lost money. Those who seek wisdom seriously are the ones who will receive it. God grants wisdom freely to those

who are right and sincere in wanting to live a life that pleases Him.

Gaining wisdom is an ongoing process. Believers never reach the point of total perfection. Yet, through a right relationship with God, anyone can gain good understanding of how to live victoriously by avoiding temptations and harmful distractions. God desires to shield His people from life's pitfalls, but He cannot protect believers if they reject His teachings and choose to do things their own way. When believers surrender their hearts and wills to God and commit to following Him, God will empower them to walk in wisdom and knowledge. Wisdom is available to those who trust God and diligently seek ways to become more like Him.

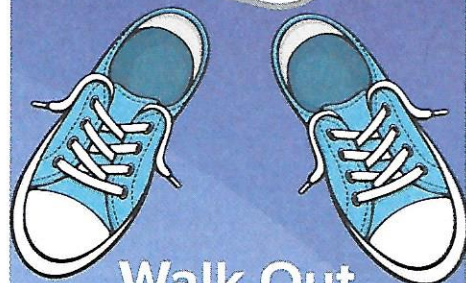
## INSIDE OUT

There are many smart people in the world who lack wisdom. They can solve complex scientific equations and recall all sorts of trivia and historical facts, while giving in to temptations that ruin their own opportunities, relationships, or health. The wisdom that believers receive from God is both practical and applicable for daily living situations. Wisdom from God balances knowledge and understanding with the ability to recognize the difference between right and wrong. Believers gain wisdom by centering their hearts, wills, and thoughts on God's wisdom. Is your heart surrendered to God?



## There's an App for That!

God has high expectations that His people will grow in faith, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. New Christians may not yet be very wise in spiritual matters. However, as their relationship with God grows, knowledge, faith, and obedience to God should also increase. Reflect on your relationship with God. Do you know more about God now than you did six months ago? What about one year ago? Christians should continually seek to learn more about God, and not be content with staying at the same level of understanding day after day. What can you do to strengthen your relationship with God?

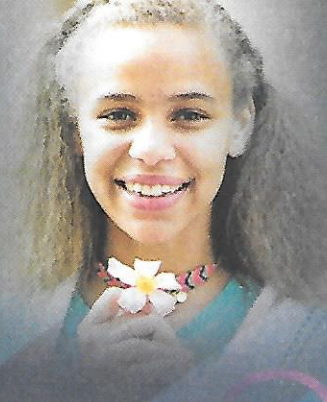


## Walk Out

Have you ever had to endure the consequences of your own bad choices? Were they decisions that you had committed to serious prayer? God's wisdom is available to those who are willing to obey Him. But those who ignore God are left to suffer with the outcomes of what they have chosen. Pray and ask God for wisdom.



# STEPPING OUT!



This week, think of someone who has been a positive spiritual influence for you. You are challenged to write a thank-you note to the person (either through handwritten correspondence, or via e-mail or text message). In the note, provide specific examples of how the individual has had a positive influence on your Christian walk. You are encouraged to share your experiences with the class during the next session. (You may choose to write a note to one or more persons for this activity.)

## It's Game Time!

### Two-minute Scramble

Using the letters in the word WISDOM, write down as many words as you can on the lines below.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

## Media Mission

Search the Internet for the article "50 Wise and Foolish Quotes from the Bible." They can be found at <https://letterpile.com/inspirational/Wise-and-Foolish-Quotes-from-the-Bible>. In the "wise people" section, the author, Dora Weithers, identifies several Bible characters who were noted for their wisdom. Select a character who may be less familiar to you and read the person's story in the Bible.

