

Background Scripture: Job 1; 42; Proverbs 8 • Print Passage: Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

**KEY VERSES:** “Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.”  
(Proverbs 8:10-11)



Carlos had a difficult choice to make: he could work for his uncle—helping him with his lawncare business—or accept the job at a local movie theater. The pay would be about the same, but Carlos would receive free movie passes for the summer. Two of Carlos’s friends had already accepted jobs at the theater. Carlos thought about how much fun he could have working with his buddies, but he was not sure what to do.

Carlos decided to ask his older brother for advice.

“Hey, Bro, I have a question for you. Where do you think I should work for the rest of the summer—with Uncle Nick or at the movie theater?” Carlos asked.

His brother said, “If it were me, Little Bro, I would work for Uncle Nick. First, Uncle Nick is a good dude. You’re too young to drive, and Uncle Nick will come pick you up and bring you back home. Second, you’ll get started early with Uncle Nick and have

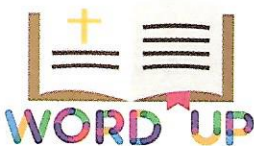


your evenings free to do whatever you want. Third, being stuck in a ticket booth all night isn’t going to be as much fun as you think. And fourth, Uncle Nick will pay you, and treat you to a big lunch every day. You know how he likes to eat! Seriously, when I worked for Uncle Nick, I didn’t realize how much I was learning about accounting, customer service, and running a business. The lessons he taught me were more valuable than money. It may

not seem like it, but you will learn a lot more working with Uncle Nick, and have more fun doing it.”

Carlos knew he would miss those free movie passes, but he thanked his brother and decided to work for his Uncle Nick, instead. He could hang out with his friends whenever they were not stuck at the movie theater.

**Do you think Carlos made the right decision? Explain.**



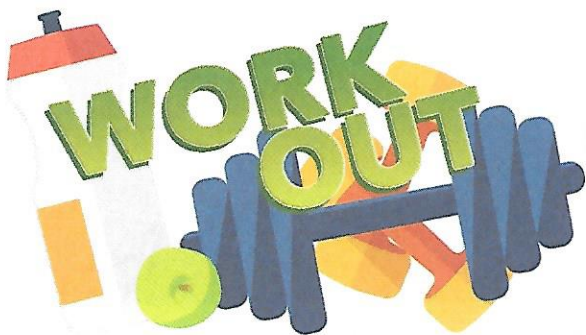
### Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

8 “All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. 9 To the discerning all of them are right; they are upright to those who have found knowledge. 10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, 11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 12 I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. 13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. 14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power.”

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17 “I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. 18 With me are riches and honor enduring wealth and prosperity. 19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, 21 bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me and making their treasuries full.”





Proverbs presents wisdom as a woman. The beginning of chapter 8 describes a scene where Wisdom, as a woman, is calling out across the land compelling hearers to listen to the important things she has to say. Wisdom is designed by God to guide every aspect of a person's life. People who seek God's instruction and want understanding will grow in knowledge. Verses 6–9 explain that Wisdom will lead a person down the right path in life. There is nothing deceptive or evil about Wisdom. Wisdom leads to good outcomes; however, Wisdom does not come to anyone without effort. Verse 9 emphasizes that Wisdom is

only available to those who want to learn. Fools reject Wisdom because they are not interested in living wisely, according to God's Word.

The world places high value on material things such as riches and possessions. Verse 10 highlights the fact that wisdom is even more precious and valuable than anything we can physically possess. Verse 12 explains that wisdom is the mark of good judgment, which leads to the discovery of knowledge and discernment. Verse 13 leads to a greater understanding that those who love God will hate evil. Believers cannot claim to truly love God while practicing sinful habits without regret. Wisdom points the believer's heart to God and away from sin. Those who search for wisdom will find treasures that cannot be measured by earthly standards.

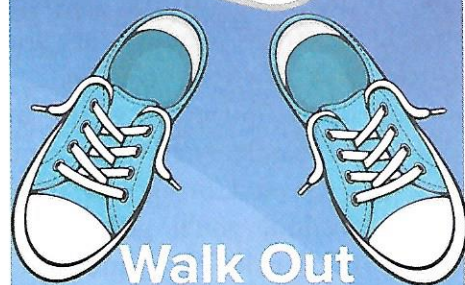
## There's an App for That!

Wisdom is available for everyone, regardless of their age. God grants wisdom to those who seek Him sincerely and are trying to live a good Christian life. Many people make decisions based on what people will think of them. When we are more interested in pleasing others instead of pleasing God, we are likely to make poor decisions that lead to sin and bad consequences. What challenges or decisions are you facing? Pray and ask God to help you choose wisely so that your decisions result in what is best for you. Making wise decisions honors God and leads to God's best plan for your life.

## INSIDE OUT

Respond to the questions/statements below.

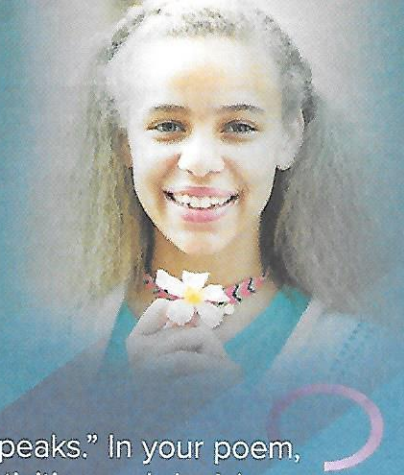
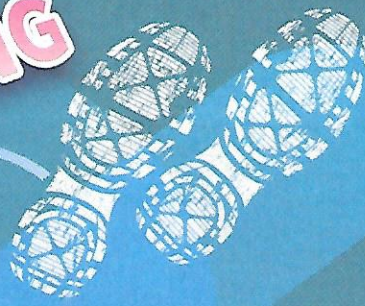
1. In your own words, describe how Wisdom speaks to the listener.
2. Explain the comparison between silver and gold and wisdom. Why is receiving wisdom better than having silver or gold?
3. What must a person do in order to receive wisdom from God?



In today's contemporary story, Carlos decided to work with his uncle instead of with his friends at the movie theater. Explain why Carlos's decision is a wise one, even though his friends may not agree.



# STEPPING OUT!



This week, create a poem using the title “When Wisdom Speaks.” In your poem, discuss how wisdom leads and guides you in your daily activities and decisions. Try searching the Internet for poems about wisdom to get ideas on how to construct your poem. Your poem should be a reminder that you can live wisely by committing yourself completely to God.

## It's Game Time!

Using the space below, write your own modern translation of the Key Verse. If time permits, share your version with the class.

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## Media Mission

Based on the old hymn “I’d Rather Have Jesus,” gospel recording artist Kirk Franklin produced a song in 1993 that has stood the test of time. Visit the Web site <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06iCEqwOdI8> to listen to Franklin’s throwback classic “Silver and Gold.” Meditate on the lyrics of this song that emphasize the benefits of having a relationship with Jesus versus seeking worldly treasures.

