

God Promises To Lead Us

Opener: When have you seen someone heading for trouble and tried to stop them? Did it work?

Scripture: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. ⁸ This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, ¹² because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. Proverbs 3:5-12

Discussion Questions

1. Proverbs 3¹ is all about choosing to live life God's way. It lays out God's way to live a life filled with wisdom and victory—but to live life His way requires trusting Him. How would you define trust? What makes it difficult to trust God? How does our own understanding get in the way of trusting God? Examples? Proverbs 3:5
2. Proverbs 3:6 promises that if we submit our ways to the Lord He will make our paths straight. Remember the Principle of the Path? It's **“Direction—not intention—determines destination.”** That just illustrates how we can make decisions that put us on a path to a destination we never intended to end up at. When have you (or someone you know) ended up somewhere you never intended to go?
3. Why do people tend to choose paths that lead away from where they actually want to go? How can we tell ahead of time if a particular path will lead to a destination we desire? What process do you use?
4. Proverbs 3:7 tells us to fear the Lord and shun evil and if we do we'll have good health. How is that possible? What's the link between evil and bad health? Does that mean we always did something evil if we have health problems? Why or why not?
5. Proverbs 3:9-10 describes giving to the Lord and says we'll be financially blessed if we do. Why would giving to the Lord lead to having more? Does it always? Is that why we should give?
6. Proverbs 3:11-12 tells us to welcome the Lord's discipline because that means He loves us. How does the Lord discipline us? How does discipline relate to staying on the right path?

Wrap Up: If we really want to be Jesus' disciple we'll chose the path He shows us, trusting that life lived His way is abundantly better than life lived any other way. Here are some key ideas:

- Understanding the Principle of the Path gives us the incentive to identify paths that lead to desirable destinations while avoiding those we'll regret.
- To find the path that will take us where we want to go means breaking the cycle of self-deception.
- Choosing the right path begins with trusting and submitting to the One who knows what's best for us better than we know what's best for ourselves.

¹ Note that Proverbs is included in the wisdom literature in the Bible. It expresses principles rather than rules and provides practical advice for daily living without guaranteeing any certain result. Wisdom books are Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs and the Song of Solomon.