

Lessons From The School of Hard Knocks
Prov. 4: 4-9

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1. This is a big week as far as our schools are concerned.
2. I want to start this message with an exercise in imagination, and it's an exercise in which anyone can participate whether you have children of your own or not. Imagine that you have been appointed to advise millions of parents who are now in the process of raising their children all over this country. What would you tell them?
3. One of the greatest things a parent can do for their kids is to encourage the growth of wisdom, because wisdom is a valuable asset in life.
King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived and one of the writers of the book of Proverbs, puts it this way...

I. Seek Wisdom In Order To Prolong Life. **Proverbs 4: 1-11**

- A There is quite a promise here! "Get wisdom, and you will be protected."
- B There are three levels of wisdom.
 1. The first is the kind that gives us the ability to handle day-to-day life.
 2. The second leads to sound judgment for successful living.
 3. The third and deepest level of wisdom produces spiritual perception.
- C How can parents impart wisdom? There's a four-part model here.
 1. The first part is to communicate with your child.
 2. The second tool comes from the phrase "treasure my instructions."
 3. Third, Solomon tells his son to "search for wisdom and understanding.
 4. Fourth, pray.

II. Learn Self Control. **Proverbs 18: 7**

- A Young people need to learn how to control their mouths.
- B They should learn to control their time. **Proverbs 10: 5**
- C They will need to learn to control their emotions. **Proverbs 12: 15**
- D Or course, they will want to learn to control their money. **Proverbs 21: 20**

III. Keep Yourself Pure. **Proverbs 9: 10**

- A Our young people need to see why it makes sense to live a righteous life.
- B I want to look at five steps from the text of **Psalms 119: 9-15**.
 1. Seek. vs. **10**. "I seek you with all my heart."
 2. Hide. vs. **11**. "I have hidden your word in my heart..."
 3. Recount. vs. **13** "With my lips I recount all the laws..."
 4. Rejoice. vs **14**. "I rejoice in following your statutes..."
 5. Meditate. vs **15**. "I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways."

IV. Be Aware of Your Influence. **Proverbs 13: 20**

- A Watch the influence of your friends on you. **1 Corinthians 15: 33**
- B Watch the influence you have on others. **Matthew 5: 13-16**