

"Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death." Proverbs 8:32-36 (NIV)

Be Wise

Would you like to be wise? Would you like your life to be blessed? Would you like to find life? Would you like to receive my favor? Yes, I want all these things to be true of my life. Who wouldn't want to be wise? Who wouldn't want your blessing on their life? Who wouldn't want to find life? Who wouldn't want to receive your favor? Someone not wanting these things would have to be very foolish. **Is that all?** No, someone not wanting these things would need to be very stubborn. **Is there anything else?** Well yes, someone not willing to receive all these blessings from you must have some form of hatred toward you. They must live in darkness. They must not want to come into the light. They must love doing what is evil. Their evil life, that is filled with death, must repulse them from you. That is hard to imagine. But I have no doubt that it is true. **Yes, unfortunately it is true. Those that love the darkness of evil will never come into the light to receive me and the blessings that I want to give to them.** That is so sad. **Yes, it is.**

But let's talk about you. What about me? **What must you do if you want to be wise? What must you do if you want your life to be blessed? What will you do so that you can find life and receive my favor?** I will give my heart and mind and life to you. I will follow you as my Savior and Lord. I will live my life in full devotion to you. It will be my pleasure and joy to love and follow and serve you with all that is within me. I will listen attentively to you. I will follow your wisdom. I will receive your instruction. I will allow your word to guard and guide my life. I will live day by day in an intimate relationship with you. I will follow you to where you lead me. I will do whatever you ask of me. My life will be in your hands. I will allow you to mold and shape me into the person you want me to become. **That will be very good. Then you will be able to receive all that I have to give you.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I know I have been proud. I know I have been stubborn. I know I have foolishly followed my own wisdom. No more! Now, I will listen attentively to your wisdom. Now, I will closely follow your instruction. Please guard and guide my life with your wisdom. Amen

Promises*Be Wise*

"Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."

NIV

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

"And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death."

ESV

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

"And so, my children, listen to me, for all who follow my ways are joyful. Listen to my instruction and be wise. Don't ignore it. Joyful are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home! For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. But those who miss me injure themselves. All who hate me love death."

NLT

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

"Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD; But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

NKJV

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

"And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD; but those who miss me injure themselves; all who hate me love death."

NRSV

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Live Wisely*

"So, my dear friends, listen carefully; those who embrace these my ways are most blessed. Mark a life of discipline and live wisely; don't squander your precious life. Blessed the man, blessed the woman, who listens to me, awake and ready for me each morning, alert and responsive as I start my day's work. When you find me, you find life, real life, to say nothing of GOD's good pleasure. But if you wrong me, you damage your very soul; when you reject me, you're flirting with death."

MSG

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

Now therefore listen to me, O you sons; for blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not refuse or neglect it. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me [Wisdom] finds life and draws forth and obtains favor from the Lord. But he who misses me or sins against me wrongs and injures himself; all who hate me love and court death.

AMP

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

And so, young men, listen to me, for how happy are all who follow my instructions. "Listen to my counsel—oh, don't refuse it—and be wise. Happy is the man who is so anxious to be with me that he watches for me daily at my gates, or waits for me outside my home! For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the Lord. But the one who misses me has injured himself irreparably. Those who refuse me show that they love death."

TLB

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

"Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways. "Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect it. "Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts. "For he who finds me finds life And obtains favor from the LORD. "But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

NASB

Proverbs 8:32-36

Promises*Be Wise*

"Now, my children, listen to me, because those who follow my ways are happy. Listen to my teaching, and you will be wise; do not ignore it. Happy are those who listen to me, watching at my door every day, waiting at my open doorway. Those who find me find life, and the LORD will be pleased with them. Those who do not find me hurt themselves. Those who hate me love death."

NCV

Proverbs 8:32-36

Listen To My Instruction

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – Proverbs 8:32-36

In Context: *Read Proverbs 8*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death." Proverbs 8:32-36 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Now then, | my sons, | listen to me; | blessed are those | who keep | my ways. | Listen to | my instruction | and | be wise; | do not | ignore it. | Blessed is | the man | who listens | to me, | watching daily | at my doors, | waiting at | my doorway. | For whoever finds me | finds life | and receives favor | from the LORD. | But whoever fails | to find me | harms himself; | all who hate me | love death." Proverbs 8:32-36 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I know I have been proud. I know I have been stubborn. I know I have foolishly followed my own wisdom. No more! Now, I will listen attentively to your wisdom. Now, I will closely follow your instruction. Please guard and guide my life with your wisdom. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Who has the Lord used to speak wisdom into your life so you could change your course?

How has God used His word to speak timely and powerful wisdom into your life?

When have you foolishly and pridefully failed to listen to and follow wisdom from the Lord?

What has been the result of your foolishly and pridefully not listening to wisdom from the Lord?

How has listening to and following the Lord's wisdom kept you on course throughout life?

How determined are you to live your life according to the Lord's wisdom?

How has the Lord's favor blessed your life as you listened to and followed His wisdom?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it the priority of your life to listen to and follow the Lord's wisdom.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord's favor will bless your life as you listen to and follow His wisdom.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are listening to and following the Lord's wisdom.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you listen to and follow wisdom from the Lord so His favor will rest on you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will listen to and follow your wisdom so you can guide the course of my life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to use your wisdom to guard and guide my life today?
