



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE WISDOM WAY ~~TH~~

The way to
Trust the Lord

OVERVIEW

Proverbs 3 shows us the importance of trusting in God and avoiding quick fixes that only cause problems. Disobedience often happens when we forget to trust, but following God's plan brings real direction. When we trust His care and correction, we feel His love guiding us through life's adventures.

Scripture Passage

Proverbs 3:3–11 (NKJV)

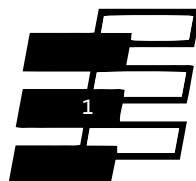
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes:

fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction:

EDUCATE

Picture this: You're a brand new driver, and you're navigating the streets with your very own set of wheels. But your car has a manual transmission. What is that? A manual transmission (also called a stick shift) requires you to manually change gears as you go faster or slower. But before you shift the gears, you have to press a pedal called the clutch with your left foot. If you don't step on the clutch before you shift gears, the car will sound like it's falling apart. Imagine you're driving your manual-transmission car with your dad, and you're intensely focused on the precise foot and hand coordination you need to keep from ruining your car. Believe it or not, those kinds of cars are still around, and they are still cool but pretty rare.

Releasing the brake, pushing in the clutch, shifting gears, easing off the clutch while applying the gas pedal is pretty complicated stuff. Plus, you've got to do all that without stalling or leaving tire marks on the pavement. And let's not even discuss conquering hills without rolling back into traffic! That's enough to scare anybody silly.



Lesson 1

But here's the kicker: even when you think you have it all figured out, you may still have difficulties. At a stoplight, you yank the emergency brake to prevent rolling backward. Genius move, right? No, not really. Your shortcut might work temporarily but would ultimately damage both the brake and transmission. What's a new driver to do?

This story mirrors life. We all have crafty ways of dodging rules, thinking we're in control and we have it all figured out. But here's the truth: The longer we stay on that path of self-sufficiency and shortcuts, the likelier we are to crash. Do you ever wonder why we disobey? It's not always a conscious choice to break rules. It often starts from distrust—doubting the one who is giving orders. Maybe we think they won't understand us or have forgotten who they are.

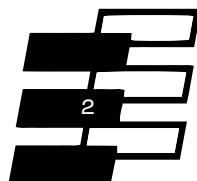
But the good news is there's a remedy for our rebellious tendencies. It's called trust. We must trust in God—His wisdom, love, and plans. In the Book of Proverbs, we're invited to lean on God, to trust Him instead of relying on our own flawed judgment. Let's dive into Proverbs 3 together and discover the power of trusting in God's wisdom.

Trusting God's Plan

Disobedience often stems from forgetting who God is or assuming He has forgotten us. Proverbs 3 urges us to trust in God, grounded in the assurance of His kindness and truth, which embody His unwavering devotion to us. In Exodus 34:6–7, God's character is revealed as compassionate, gracious, and rich in love and mercy. The key truth that God forgives us even when His righteousness calls Him to judge us can fuel our eagerness to trust God wholeheartedly.

Trusting God's plan demands surrendering our limited understanding. Proverbs 14:12 warns against relying solely on our own judgment, which leads to destruction. Living our lives without considering God's ways is like us navigating a manual transmission without the full grasp of how it works. It won't end well. True trust begins with acknowledging our limitations and opening ourselves to God's wisdom and power.

While life remains challenging, following God's plan eliminates self-induced obstacles. Straight paths signify the avoidance of needless hardships caused by our human limitations and short-sighted decisions. We will face challenges in life—that's life—but those challenges won't be of our own making when we follow God's plan. Trusting God's plan isn't about taking the easy route but choosing the most effective and fulfilling path. It's acknowledging that life's difficulties are compounded when we veer from God's guidance. Embracing His plan means relinquishing reliance on our flawed understanding and submitting to His wisdom, leading to a smoother journey towards our intended destination.



Lesson 1

Discussion Question: How can we actively entrust ourselves to God's plan even in the middle of difficulty or confusion?

Trusting God's Commands

Now, let's dive deeper into how to trust God. It's pretty simple, actually—just follow what He says. Sounds easy, right? But why do we sometimes ignore or disobey His commands?

Sometimes we don't take them seriously, we somehow think they don't really apply to us, or maybe we believe we're strong and smart enough to handle things on our own. Perhaps we're convinced that God's rules are just there to spoil our fun or make life harder. None of those are true.

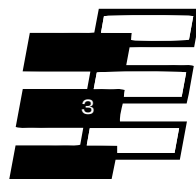
Proverbs also warns against being too self-assured. Don't think you're so smart that you don't need any help or guidance. If you earn a 4.2 GPA and go to an Ivy League school on a full-ride scholarship, you're still not smart enough to live above God's help or guidance. When we listen to God and follow His commands, it's like giving our body and soul a big, refreshing drink of water. Living according to God's instructions brings peace, joy, and healing to our lives.

Discussion Question: How can we remind ourselves to trust God's commands even when it seems easier to do things our own way?

Trusting God's Correction

Trusting God extends to accepting His discipline. Sometimes we wonder why bad things happen. Often bad things happen just because we live in a broken world. But the Bible offers insight, suggesting that tough times may occur to prompt us to reevaluate our actions and turn back to God. For instance, in Haggai 2:17–19, God allowed hardship to draw His people closer to Him, promising blessings when they do.

God corrects us because He loves us. Yet, it's challenging to grasp His love when we're going through trials. Realizing our identity in God is key to emerging victorious whether we are just going through a tough season of life or if we are dealing with the consequences of sin. Like a father correcting his beloved son, God's correction comes from His delight in us. Even in our wrongdoing, we remain loved by Him. His correction signifies His enduring love, not the end of it. We should remember:



Lesson 1

- We don't have to strive to earn His love.
- His love for us is unconditional.
- Trusting God's devotion to us looks like correction sometimes, and that is okay.
- He is making us more like Him!

Discussion Questions: How do you respond to challenges or corrections?

Closing

We've explored some key truths from Proverbs about trusting God in every area of our lives. We've learned that trusting Him means obeying His plan, recognizing His commands, and accepting His correction. Ultimately we surrender our way of doing life to instead pursue His way. Obeying His commands acknowledges that He knows what's best for us. Trusting God's correction is about understanding that His discipline comes from a place of love. He corrects us not to condemn us, but to guide us back to the path of life. Even in our toughest moments, God never stops loving us. Let's trust His ways, obey His commands, and accept His correction. Because when we trust in God, we're opening ourselves up to a life filled with His blessings and His goodness.

ENGAGE

Think about the areas of your life where trusting God is a struggle. Examine yourself by asking the following questions:

- Am I struggling to obey the Lord's commands?
- Am I willing to accept His correction?
- Am I willing to surrender every part of myself to God in prayer.

Ask God to deepen your trust and guide you in walking boldly in His love and truth.

