

Embrace Jesus
Hold onto Jesus

Look to/ at Jesus (Hebrews 10:23; 12:2)

Pursue Jesus at all cost and prize Him with all your heart.

1 Cor 1:18-25

Believe in the supremacy of Jesus Christ over all things (especially your life) and pursue him though it cost you all you have.

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Why is it so important we put ourselves in the position of the sons being addressed?
- In your own words, describe the main point of this chapter. Are there any verses that capture the father's main purpose?
- The metaphors, imagery and poetic nature of the first 9 chapters in Proverbs are meant to leave wonderful truths dancing around in our heads. What part of proverbs 4 does this and how will that imagery serve you in the future?
- Describe some of the "lesser loves" that want to be the "greater love" of your life. How can you make sure the greater love of proverbs 4 remains the greatest love of your life?
- The father is definitely passionate about the topic he addresses. What do you think is driving the father's passion? What can all of us learn from the father?
- Describe the two paths of Proverbs 4:10-19. What happens if we don't listen to verses 13-15? How can we walk out verses 13 and 20-21 day to day?
- How can we understand this invitation to love wisdom as an invitation to love Jesus himself?
- How can we grow in our delight over, joy in, and passion for the wisdom of God revealed in the gospel of Jesus?

Wisdom is Supreme

Proverbs 4

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May 2, 2010

It's crucial we place ourselves in the position of the sons being addressed.

Proverbs 4

Take this instruction *personally*

Wisdom is supreme!

1. Embrace her (Proverbs 4:1-9)

Throughout the book of Proverbs wisdom is personified (represented) as a noble lady that should be *pursued*: **1:20–33; 3:13–20; 8:1–36; 9:1–18** (often contrasted with Lady Folly).

What the father is explaining has been passed down from *his* father.

This is about having an intimate relationship with wisdom

Compared to everything and everyone else; we're called to love wisdom the most!

We're surrounded by "lesser loves" that want to be the "greater love" of our lives.

Jesus is the embodiment of God's wisdom!

God incarnate. God in the flesh.

We should understand this invitation to love Lady Wisdom as an invitation to love Jesus himself.

Matt 13:45-46

Wisdom is supreme!

2. Hold her hand (Proverbs 4:10-19)

The son's lifestyle

The only way his son can stay the course of wisdom is to hold the hand of wisdom.

"...it is your life" – do you really believe this?

2 Timothy 1:13-14

Two paths are clearly set before us

If we flirt with this dark path we're in danger of letting go of wisdom's hand!

Learn from Demas

Philemon 1:24; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10

Don't dismiss the dangers of sin and temptation.

Wisdom is supreme!

3. Look at her (Proverbs 4:20-27)

The father is ultimately interested in one thing: that his son's "center" of life is set on wisdom - that his son's gaze is fixed straight ahead.

Stare at her.

Become intoxicated by her beauty.

Talk about her.

Sing about her. Be thankful for her. Obsess over her.

Mark 9:7 "This is my Son, whom I love...Listen to Him."

