

Ancient wisdom that works today

Proverbs 3 – First steps

1. Trust in the Lord with all your heart

- First step – personally trusting in the Lord
 - The fool (1:7), The simple (1:22), The sluggard (6:6), The wise (1:5)
- Choices matter!
 - Choice to trust God, Choice to trust myself
 - Consequences follow choices; Fool, Simple, Sluggard and Wise.
- Little steps
 - Decision followed by action
 - We are not born wise we grow out of folly into wisdom.

2. Lean

- Always trust God's wisdom not your own.
- Human judgement is always limited and sometimes wrong! (Jeremiah 17: 5 - 10)
- God has given us two great gifts for life; His word and His Spirit

3. He will make your paths straight

- Health to your body
- Nourishment to your bones

4. Little steps great rewards

- Wealth v 9-10
- Discipline v 11-12
- Understanding and Peace v 13 – 18
- Creativity v 19 – 20
- Security and confidence v 21 – 26
- Compassion and good relationships v 27 – 32
- Honour v 34 – 35

Digging Deeper for personal reflection

Read Proverbs 3

1. What does it mean to trust God?
2. Why is trusting God in this way difficult?
3. Why is it tempting to trust our own judgement instead of God's?
4. How does the church family help us grow in trust and what action are you taking to help this growth take place?
5. Looking back at your life write down using the columns below one list the choices where you have followed God's path and on the other the choices you made a choice that followed your own wisdom and the consequences that followed.
6. What are your hopes and fears as we study Proverbs?
7. What do you hope to discover and put into action over the next quarter as we look at the book of Proverbs?

Choices I made following God's path:	Consequences

Choices I made following my own wisdom:	Consequences