

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A winding road or path cuts through the center of the image, surrounded by lush green trees. The overall tone is dark and moody, with the green of the foliage contrasting against the darker shadows and the greyish tones of the surrounding forest.

# WISE UP

HOW TO FOOL-PROOF YOUR LIFE WITH GOD'S WISDOM

A MOSAIC CHURCH SERMON SERIES FROM SELECTED PROVERBS



## WEEK 1

# THE SOURCE OF WISDOM *Pastor Ta Tumu, Preaching*

### Proverbs 9:10

*Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.*

#### 1. The importance of wisdom

King Solomon reminds us that wisdom is more important than wealth, fame, and power for living a successful life. It's not just about being righteous or knowing the rules; it requires spiritual understanding of life's complexities. A life of godly wisdom can lead to deep joy and happiness, proving that wisdom is more valuable than any material thing.

#### 2. The definition of wisdom

The Book of Proverbs teaches us that wisdom requires understanding the true nature of the world, being able to distinguish truth from error, and knowing how to act in life's situations. Wisdom is more significant and character-defining than we might think.

#### 3. The problem of wisdom

The wisdom we need is fundamental to our living. God has a pattern for everything – physical, relational, and spiritual. Living in alignment with the patterns of God's creation leads to a better life, going against them causes problems. Knowing this pattern, even if we don't fully understand it, helps us avoid being too rigid or dismissive. This is the first step towards gaining true wisdom.

#### 4. The perfect example of wisdom

The Book of Proverbs encourages us to be inquisitive. Wisdom in Proverbs is not just an idea but a relationship, fully embodied in the life of Jesus Christ. The life and teachings of Jesus Christ are the ultimate source of wisdom, offering comfort and insight.

### Proverbs 8:10-16

*10 Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold.*

*11 For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it.*

*12 "I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.*

*13 All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.*

*14 Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine.*

*15 Because of me, kings reign, and rulers make just decrees.*

*16 Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments.*

### Reflection Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate how wise you are? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. When was the last time you encountered God's wisdom and put it into practice in specific way?

3. How can you grow in being a doer of God's word and not just a hearer? (James 1:22)

4. Has God placed a person in your life that you can share His wisdom with?

5. How can others be praying for you as we seek to grow in godly wisdom and share it with others in our daily lives?

Pray in light of this passage and about any applications you have made

## WEEK 2

# THE WISDOM OF DILIGENCE AND CONTENTMENT

*Evang. Harrison Amaghu, Preaching*

**Proverbs 16:8** *Better to have little, with godliness, than to be rich and dishonest.*

### 1. You have to do your work

Proverbs emphasizes diligence. Diligence is defined as *careful, honest and persistent work or effort*. The Book of Proverbs warns us about laziness and teaches us to find a healthy balance between work and rest. It also tells us that all work is honorable, but it should never get in the way of our service to the Lord. Not working meaningfully can lead to us feeling disconnected from our humanity and our spirituality.

Proverbs 10:4, *“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”*

Proverbs 13:4, *“The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.”*

### 2. You have to love your work

Our motivation for work matters. The Bible tells us that our work affects not just us, but also our families and communities. It teaches us to see work as a way to honor God, serve others and make a positive impact on society, not just a way to make money.

Proverbs 16:3, *“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”*

Colossians 3:23-24, *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*

### 3. You have to embrace contentment

God’s wisdom encourages us to embrace godly contentment. It asks us to align ourselves with what God gives us at the precise time or season in our lives. It teaches us to take one step at a time and allow gratefulness to rule our hearts.

1 Timothy 6:6–10, *But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

Hebrews 13:5 *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

### 4. Work hard, but keep the Sabbath

God wants us to follow His example of keeping a day of rest. While He doesn’t need rest, we do. The Bible is clear in making sure that we do not deplete ourselves to the point of exhaustion without proper replenishment physically and spiritually. Find time to rest for an entire day for the good of your body, and a time to worship for the good of your spirit.

Leviticus 23:3, *“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the LORD.*

### Reflection Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how happy are you with your work/job? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how content are you with your work/job? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3. Apart from financial gain, what sense does having a job do to you?
4. How is gratefulness an antidote to discontentment?

## WEEK 3

# THE POWER OF GENEROSITY *Pastor Ta Tumu, Preaching*

Learning about money's power and influence isn't just about knowing what's right or wrong. It's about understanding how to make smart choices in situations where the right answer isn't always clear. It's important to understand how money can control us and how we can control it for a well-rounded life. Even more importantly, we must embrace the virtue of generosity. For it is in giving, not keeping that leads to receiving.

**Proverbs 11:24**, *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*

**Acts 20:35**, *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

### 1. What the Bible says about Money

Proverbs talks about how working hard can lead to wealth, but it also warns about the dangers of focusing too much on money. It tells us that good people care more about helping others than their own profit, which challenges our society's emphasis on making money. The Bible's view on wealth, which includes the good and bad sides of making money and the importance of helping others, doesn't seem fit perfectly into either socialism or capitalism. It's counter-cultural! Proverbs 11:24, *One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*

### 2. The false security it gives

Money can trick us into thinking it provides importance and safety, taking God's place in our lives. Wealth can seem to give us identity and protection, but when hard times come, money can't really protect us, showing that it can't truly replace God, no matter what we believe.

### 3. Stop money from controlling you and start using it correctly?

Being too focused on material things can harm our spiritual lives. This is especially true for Americans, who often confuse what they want with what they need, not realizing the harm their obsession with wealth can cause. The Bible teaches us that real wealth grows when we're generous, like planting seeds. But to truly control money's influence, we need a deep change of heart, like the selfless love Jesus showed us.

Proverbs 3:9-10, *Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

Malachi 3:10, *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

1 Timothy 6:17, *Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.*

### Reflection Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is money to you? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. What false sense of security does money give you personally?
3. What is God teaching you about money today?

Pray in light of this passage and about any applications you have made

## WEEK 4

# THE SECRETS OF LIFE-LONG LEARNING *Pastor Elijah dela Cruz, Preaching*

### 1. The promise of wisdom

Wisdom is key to making good choices and dealing with life's challenges. Proverbs 3:1-4 teaches us to never forget teaching and commands. The promise of wisdom recorded in verse 3 is closely tied to how we pursue it. Consequently, wisdom gains the favor of both God and man.

Proverbs 3

- 1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,*
- 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.*
- 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*
- 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

### 2. The process of wisdom

The process of wisdom involves daily habits and gradual growth. It's important to know God, understand yourself, your friends, God's way of doing things, and to see problems in the right light. This proverb explicitly teaches us that the process of wisdom comes through consistently trusting and obeying, with results to follow.

Proverbs 3

- 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*
- 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*
- 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*
- 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

### 3. The pursuit of wisdom

It's not good enough to be a person of vision or moral values. For many of the decisions you have to make in your life-time, there are multiple permissible options, but wisdom is the ability to know what the right one is.

Proverbs 4

- 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them.*
- 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.*
- 7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get a wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*
- 8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you.*
- 9 She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.*

### Reflection Questions:

- 1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is learning to you?    1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10
- 2. Why is learning such a valued virtue in the Bible?
- 3. What is God teaching you about becoming a life-long learner today?

Pray in light of this passage and about any applications you have made

## WEEK 5

# THE LIFE OF HONOUR *Mr. Dan Allen, Preaching*

**Proverbs 22:4**, *Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honour and life.*

Many Proverbs teach us that wisdom isn't just about knowing right from wrong. It's also about understanding ourselves so we may grow in godly virtues. To be truly wise, we need to be humble, aware of our own mistakes, understand the dangers of pride, and look for ways to become people of honour.

### 1. The problem of pride

Proverbs describes pride as wanting to be better and have more than others. This can make us constantly seek approval and confirmation of our worth. This need can make us self-centred, scared, anxious, and dependent on others to feel good about ourselves, stopping us from fully experiencing life. In the end, pride can replace God's role in our life with a false sense of self-importance, which can lead to bad outcomes.

Proverbs 16:5 *Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.*

1 John 2:16 *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*

Galatians 6:3 *For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

### 2. The life of honour

When we focus on our own glory rather than giving it, we go against God's nature and purpose. God is about love and favoring those who are weak, poor, and excluded. But living a life of honour is the opposite of selfish pride. It begins with honouring God. Having a high view of God allow us to understand our place, and it helps us to uplift others.

A. Honour God above all. 1 Timothy 1:17 *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

B. Honour your parents. Deuteronomy 5:16 *Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*

C. Honour your spiritual leaders. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 12 *Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 13 Show them great respect and whole-hearted love because of their work.*

D. Honour marriage. Hebrews 13:4 *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.*

D. Honor others. Romans 12:10, *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*

### 3. How to overcome pride

God often chooses those who are overlooked by society. This shows us the transformative power of Jesus' teachings. Christianity's growth is tied to the message of hope and salvation through humility, grace, and forgiveness. Fear of the Lord and humility free us from the need to prove our worth. God's acceptance and love are all the affirmation we need. Remembering this daily can guide us to be wise and humble.

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.*

### Reflection Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how proud are you?    1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

2. What is God teaching you about selfish pride and godly honor today?

Pray in light of this passage and about any applications you have made

## WEEK 6

# THE LIFE OF TRUST *Pastor Ta Tumu, Preaching*

### Proverbs 3

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*

*6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

#### 1. The God who guides

The Bible shows a balance between our freedom to make choices and God's control over everything. We have free will, but God has the final say. This might be hard to understand, but it teaches us two things: we're responsible for our actions, and we can trust God, who's in control of everything.

#### 2. The Heart that trusts

Trusting God completely, even when things are uncertain, helps us become wise and successful. We gain wisdom by learning from our experiences, admitting our mistakes, and understanding what it feels like to be far from God. Making our own choices, getting advice from others, and understanding God's guidance are all important in making smart decisions. These can lead to surprising blessings and prepare us for what's to come.

#### 3. The Paths that bless

These proverb talks about fully trusting in God, which leads to wisdom and success. The people of Israel, though not perfect, were guided by God, who appeared as a cloud and fire. This symbolizes Jesus making the ultimate sacrifice for us. When Jesus calmed the storm, he showed his disciples he's always with us during hard times. This encourages us to trust him completely and make wise decisions.

#### Reflection Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you trust God? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. Why is trusting God so crucial to our life as His followers?
3. What is God teaching you about Proverbs 3:5-6 today?

Pray in light of this passage and about any applications you have made

# THE 7 QUALITIES OF PROVERBS 31 WOMAN

10 A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies.

11 Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.

12 She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.

13 She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.

14 She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.

15 She gets up while it is still night;  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her female servants.

16 She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17 She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.

18 She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.

19 In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

20 She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.

21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household;  
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

22 She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is respected at the city gate,  
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells them,  
and supplies the merchants with sashes.

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.

26 She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

27 She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:

29 "Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

*Pastor Jane Macariola, Preaching*

### 1. FEARLESS (V.10)

This Hebrew word for "noble" is often used in the Old Testament as a military term. It's used to describe the fearless warriors in Joshua 1:14. She is courageous and determined and doesn't run away in fear.

### 2. TRUSTWORTHY (VV.11-12)

She is a woman in whom her husband is completely confident to make himself totally vulnerable. She has the care her household.

### 3. DILIGENT (13-19)

She is hardworking, entrepreneurial and financially responsible, trading with others and providing food. She wakes up early which is perhaps why she can accomplish so much.

### 4. COMPASSIONATE (V20)

She's benevolent and kind. She goes out of her way to show care for the least of these.

### 5. PRUDENT (V21-22, 24-25)

That means she can predict what might happen in the future and plan accordingly. When it snows, her and her family aren't cold because she made them clothes or paid the heating bill (v21). Verse 25 literally says, "she laughs at the future." She's not afraid. She's prepared. She looks into the future, gets out her planner, and writes down what needs to be done.

### 6. HONORABLE (V23, 28, 31)

The way this woman carries herself and supports her family brings respect to her husband. People look at her husband and say, "Wow! You married up. You chose wisely." Her husband recognizes how great she is, and praises her with words of affirmation, but so do her children, they recognize how great their mom is.

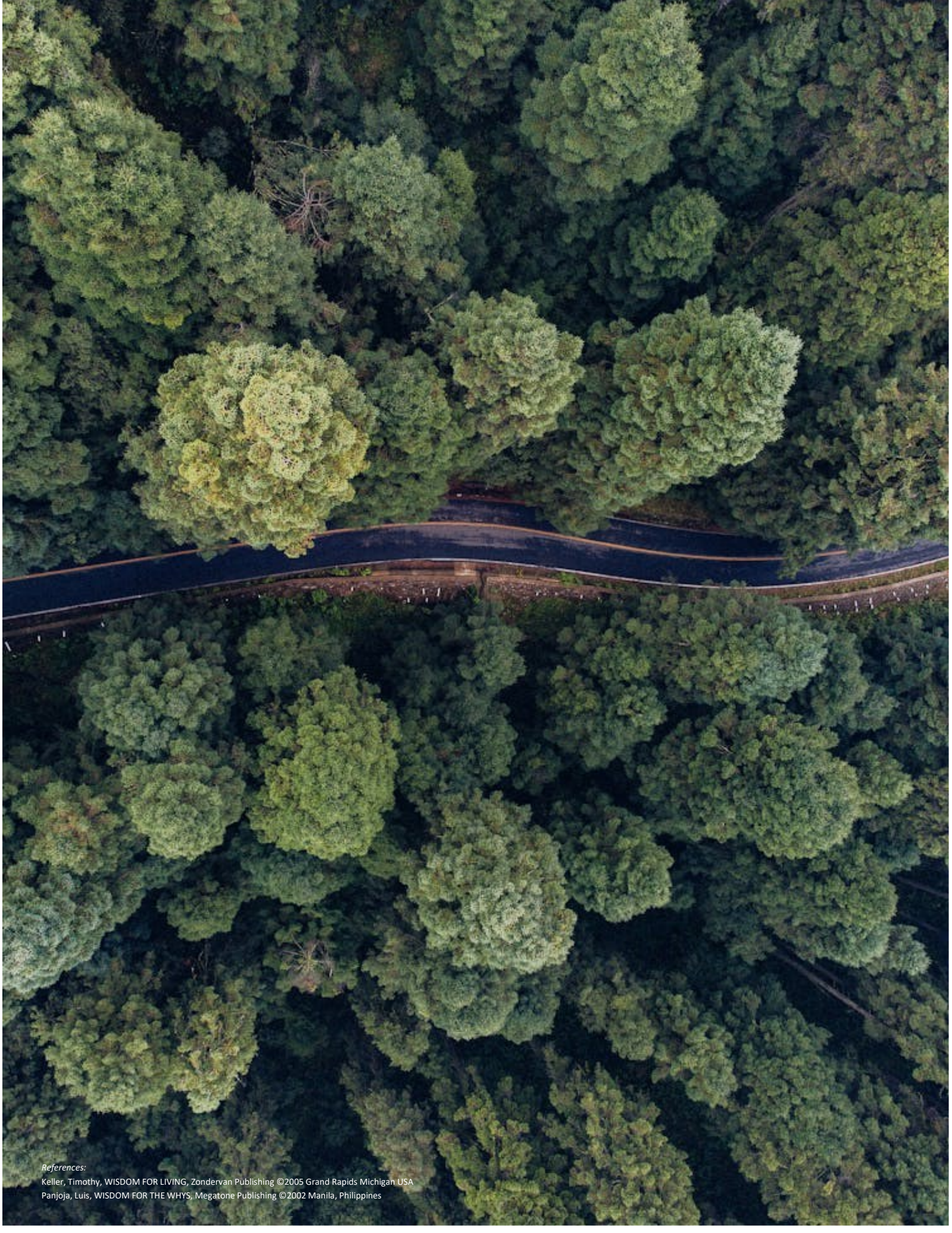
### 7. LOVES THE LORD (V26, 30)

She knows the Lord and his word. Verse 26, *She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue*. This isn't just that this woman is good at giving advice but that she is good at pointing her husband and son to the Scriptures and what God says.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What stands out about this description of the woman of noble character?
2. What parts of this description fit your expectation of "what you would expect the Bible to say about a good woman"?
3. What is surprising about this description? c. What do you find most





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