

Women of Grace

Lesson 18 | Counsel

As a divinely indwelling Helper, the Spirit of Truth performs a function no human counselor can ever approach. He is constantly there, pointing the way to the truth, applying the truth directly to your heart, prompting you to conform to the truth—in short, He sanctifies you in the truth (John 17:17). Don't sin against the Holy Spirit by looking to sinful humans to accomplish spiritual transformation. Instead, 'if we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25).

— Adapted from *Introduction to Biblical Counseling*, John MacArthur and Wayne Mack

Memorization Verse
James 1:21

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness
and all that remains of wickedness,
in humility receive the word implanted,
which is able to save your souls.

Outline

- I. The Goal of Godly Counsel
- II. Conditions to Receive Godly Counsel
- III. Examples of Godly Counsel
- IV. Our Wonderful Counselor
- V. Our Counseling Call

DAY 1 | Two Different Counsels

Read Psalm 1:1–6 and Proverbs 13:20

1. From last week's lesson or lecture on diligence and laziness, what specific truth affected your thinking or behavior?

2. In Psalm 1:1–6, what two different counsels are represented?

- a. From these verses, give at least three identifying features of one who seeks wise counsel.

3. What spiritual truths and resources are found in Ephesians 6:10–14, 2 Peter 1:2–8, and Hebrews 4:15–16 to help the righteous woman “walk, stand, and sit?”
 - a. What does it look like to walk, stand, or sit with sinners (Psalm 1:1) in today’s culture?

 - b. What effect do you think that one’s companions have on the counsel one seeks?

4. From verses Psalm 1:3–4, contrast the results of godly counsel versus ungodly counsel?

5. How does Psalm 1:1–6 correlate to Proverbs 4:7, the foundation of our study in Proverbs?

6. Read Jeremiah 17:5–8 (a passage similar to Psalm 1). How are the two contrasting people described?

- a. What practical things can you do to grow to be more like the second man in verses 7–8?

DAY 2 | The Source of Wise Counsel

Read selected Scriptures

1. In Isaiah 9:6–7, to whom is the prophet referring, and how is He described? How is that counsel made available to believers today?

- a. Consider your own life and how godly, biblical counsel would strengthen you to face a challenging relationship or situation. Search Scripture for relevant principles and share that with your group.

2. According to the following verses, who gives wisdom, and to whom is it given?

- a. Psalm 119:24

- b. Proverbs 2:6–10

- c. James 1:5

- d. 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 2:14

3. Read Exodus 18:7–27, an example of wise counsel. Who are the three key characters?

- a. What problem did Jethro observe, and how did he counsel his son-in-law?

- b. How many times did Jethro refer to God in his counsel, and why is this significant?

- c. What character traits do you observe in Moses's response to the counsel?

- d. What principle from this account can you apply to your own life today?

DAY 3 | The Source of Ungodly Counsel

Read selected Scriptures

1. According to Genesis 3:1–7 and Jeremiah 17:9, where does evil or unwise counsel originate and reside?

2. Read 1 Kings 12:1–19, an example of ungodly counsel. From what two groups did Rehoboam seek counsel?
 - a. Which counsel did Rehoboam heed? What character traits did he exhibit by following these advisers?

b. How does Proverbs 10:17 relate to the account of Rehoboam?

c. How might your listening to unwise counsel affect others around you?

DAY 4 | Receiving Counsel

Read Proverbs 13:10

1. Consulting a dictionary, define “insolence,” used in Proverbs 13:10.

a. Why would insolence result in strife?

b. According to this verse, how is the person who accepts counsel described?

2. What character trait do you think is helpful or necessary in “those who receive counsel,” and why?

a. If pride or insolence results in strife, what is the implied result of humility?

3. From Proverbs 1:5 and 19:20, what two things are needed to receive wise counsel, and what is the outcome?
 - a. How might you apply this practically to situations in your own life today?

4. Do you think it's wise to seek counsel from an unbeliever? Explain your answer.

DAY 5 | Giving Wise Counsel

Read selected Scripture

1. According to Romans 15:14 and 1 Peter 3:15, what are believers called to do?

2. From Proverbs 15:1–2 and 23, 16:21, and 18:13, what qualities are emphasized for one giving counsel?

3. According to Proverbs 9:7–9, and 15:12, and Matthew 7:6, when and why would one refrain from giving counsel?

4. Evaluate the people in your life who are giving you counsel. How do you know if they are giving you godly, biblical advice? Identify one or two people whom you would trust to give you wise counsel, and commit to ask their input when you need advice or encouragement.
 - a. How do you know if you are giving others godly, biblical advice? What specific steps can you take to grow in this area?

5. From this lesson on wise counsel, what attribute of God has stood out to you, and why? How can your thoughts or actions reflect your thankfulness for this particular revelation of God's character?