

Heeding Wise Counsel

Introduction

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

We should never stop learning, never stop seeking counsel, never stop paying attention to wise people, and most of all, never stop paying attention to, and heeding God's Word, the Source of all Truth and all True Wisdom. All of our problems result from doing what we *think* is right instead of heeding wise counsel.

The Scripture

Read the Scripture to the group.

“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.” —Proverbs 1:5

A Real Life Example

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

Heeding Wise Counsel

Melanie had been invited to go with Dawn to visit Dawn's grandmother. Dawn's grandmother had a house with an immense back yard—nearly two acres. And it bordered on a stream in the back. The girls had been playing for hours, and it was nearly time for Dawn's dad to come and take them home.

Pointing to the stream, Dawn said, “I want to go down there. It is so pretty!”

Melanie looked at Dawn and said, “Dawn, your grandmother said that the only place that we should not go is down by the stream in the far corner of the yard. There are plants down there that are not good for us.”

“I don't think she is right,” said Dawn. “I know what poison ivy looks like, and I don't see any. Besides, I shall be very careful that we don't run into any.”

Melanie thought of a Bible verse that she had been memorizing: *“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.”* “I think that I will just stay here,” she said.

“Suit yourself,” said Dawn, and she was off to the edge of the stream.

In ten minutes Dawn's father had arrived and they were on their way home. The next day when Melanie visited Dawn, Dawn's mother answered the door. She said that Dawn could not play because she was quite miserable, and had evidently gotten into some poison oak at her grandmother's house.

“Poison oak?” thought Melanie. “Dawn thought she should watch out for poison ivy. I guess she should not have thought herself smarter than her grandmother.” Melanie thanked God for her

timely Bible verse.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did Dawn's grandmother say about going down by the stream at the corner of the yard?
2. What did Dawn want to do?
3. Why did Dawn think that it would be okay to go even after her grandmother's warning?
4. How did wisdom help Melanie make her decision?
5. How might things have turned out if Melanie had decided to listen to Dawn?
6. Why do you think Melanie made the right decision.
7. Do you have any areas in your life that you can apply this Scripture to?

Conclusion and Resolution

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

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Heed means to listen and listen hard, and heed implies that the hearer, if he is really heeding, will be obeying. Obedience to God's Word is essential to wisdom. There is no wisdom without obedience.

Teacher's Notes
