

Walking *with* Wisdom

A Devotional Journey for Fathers and Sons



TRACING THE LEGACY OF WISDOM

FROM DAVID TO SOLOMON

Walking with Wisdom: A Devotional Journey for Fathers and Sons
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*For Jim, my father,
and
Benjamin and Noah, my sons*

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INTRODUCTION

When I think about wisdom being passed down from one generation to the next, I picture Solomon growing up in David's house. He would have watched his father at celebrations and through difficult challenges, gaining wisdom simply by hearing stories of past victories and failures. He witnessed the faith that shaped David's life. While God gave Solomon the gift of being the wisest to have ever lived, Scripture doesn't say he was born with it. I imagine that he, like most of us, learned to interpret knowledge, apply it, and live it out through his father's example. In the same way, fathers and sons today grow through the lives they share, the lessons they learn, and the faith that is modeled in ordinary and defining moments alike.

My own life is marked by the wisdom of my father, Jim. He taught me Scripture, guided me with his humor and insight, and helped me understand not only when to speak but when to stay silent. I would not be the man I am without him, just as he was shaped by the generation before him. My sons, Benjamin and Noah, are being shaped similarly, and even my son-in-law is now part of this ongoing responsibility to pass on wisdom as he looks to raise a family with my daughter. Through the years, simple truths

have become guiding principles for us, including one I've coined since reading *StrengthsFinder* more than twenty years ago: too much of a good thing is a bad thing. Lessons like this have become part of our family's language, shaping how we live and lead.

This devotional is written for fathers and sons, but also for any man seeking to grow in wisdom. You may read it on your own, walk through it with your son or father, or share it in a small group. A man can respond as both a father and a son, while younger men can engage it as mentees even when the "father" in their life is not related but influential. In my life, that came from men like Dick Hardel, Wayne Hastings, and Bill McAtee.

Walking with Wisdom unfolds across five parts, each building on what came before. **Part 1: Learning to Trust** establishes the foundation every man needs: confidence in God's character, patience in waiting, and rest in His presence. **Part 2: Growing in Wisdom** moves inward, examining the heart, cultivating humility, and developing the self-control that shapes mature character. **Part 3: Becoming a Man of Character** applies that inner work outward through integrity, speech, and the relationships that test who we really are. **Part 4: Walking with Others** expands further into community, exploring friendship, forgiveness, justice, and generosity. Finally, **Part 5: Stewarding Your Life** brings the journey full circle, addressing how we lead, work, plan, and ultimately pass wisdom to the next generation.



Each day follows a consistent structure. The selected Scripture pairs a passage from David's Psalms with one from Solomon's Proverbs. THE CONNECTION weaves their voices together, showing how the son learned from the father and applied that wisdom in his own words. In the FOR THE FATHER section, the elder goes first, encouraged to apply the Scripture to his own life before teaching his son. In the FOR THE SON section, the younger is invited to first reflect before responding and think before acting, with space for personal application and response. Both sections end with a prayer, giving fathers and sons words to bring their thoughts before God. Each day closes with a WISDOM TO SHARE, a new common language for you and your father or son, a single line worth remembering, embracing, and passing on. A lined page follows for prayer and reflection on the day.

These readings are designed to stand alone or spark meaningful conversations, providing an opportunity for reflection, guidance, and shared growth. My hope is that, as we look to David and Solomon, we will walk together in the strength of the Lord and in the wisdom He provides, becoming men who lead, love, and live with purpose across every generation.

Walking with you,

Jeremy



PART 1

LEARNING TO TRUST





DAY 1

TRUSTING GOD WITH EVERY STEP

DAVID'S WISDOM

Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

– *Psalm 37:3–5*

SOLOMON'S WISDOM

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

– *Proverbs 3:5–6*



THE CONNECTION

David's life was filled with both triumphs and failures. Anointed as king, David lived as a fugitive hiding in caves while Saul pursued him. Twice he had the chance to kill Saul and end his suffering, and twice he refused, trusting God's timing instead of seizing control. When his son Absalom rebelled and drove him from Jerusalem, David fled without fighting back, leaving the outcome in God's hands. Yet through it all, he learned to trust the Lord as the one who never failed him.

Solomon, his son, inherited this legacy of wisdom, not just in wealth or knowledge, but in the posture of the heart. He grew up learning from his father's example as David navigated the consequences of both obedience and failure.

Where David sang of committing his path to God, Solomon taught that trusting God with the heart is the only way to make sense of the path ahead. Together, they give us a blueprint for faith: let go of the need to understand everything, and lean into the God who understands all things.

Whether you're leading your family or guiding generations after you, or just growing up yourself, this trust is not passive. It's a daily choice to surrender, to walk with God through uncertainty, and to show others how to do the same.



FOR THE FATHER

Apply: Regardless of your age or stage of fatherhood, whether you have toddlers or adult children, your example still matters. Think of a time when trusting God cost you something: a business decision where integrity meant financial or positional loss, a friendship that you had to let go, or a family crisis where you had to wait instead of fix. Share that story. Your scars may be your son's compass.

Teach: Share a specific time when trusting God cost you something but proved faithful. Don't just ask about his uncertainty, let him see yours first. Then ask: "In what areas or situations do you feel uncertain right now?" and "What would it look like for you to trust God instead of trying to control it?" Faith often begins with being honest about where we don't trust Him enough.

PRAY: *Father God, I don't always have the answers. Thank You that I don't need to. Help me live a life that points to You, not just with my words, but with the steps I take each day. May my children and those around me see my life as a reflection of my trust in You.*



FOR THE SON

Reflect: Being a son is a part of who we are, regardless of our age. Sometimes everything is going well and it's comfortable, other times it feels like a weight. In what areas of your life are you still trying to lead without letting go? Maybe in your relationships where you try to control the way things turn out? Are you chasing a career for financial security over a calling? Do you overthink every option before deciding? What would trusting God more mean to you today?

Respond: If your father is present, take a moment to thank him for a time in your life where he showed trust in God. If he's gone or never offered that example, thank God for His fathering presence. Then write down one specific area where you'll practice trust instead of control. Check back in a few days and see what happens when you loosen your grip.

PRAY: *Lord, I want to trust You more than I trust myself. Remind me when I want to take control that my strength comes through surrender. Help me carry forward the wisdom I've received from my father, from others, and from You.*



