

December 2, 2012  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Proverbs

**“Wisdom with Wee Ones, Part One”**

## Discussion Questions:

1. What does Psalm 127 say about having children? Why are children ultimately seen as a gift and a blessing? Does everyone have that perspective about children?
2. Many people talk with fear about raising children in the coming days. What are some of the concerns that people have? In what sense are the problems we face “new” and in what sense are they the “same old problems”? Should a believer face parenting with fear & dread or with faith & hope?
3. Parenting often leads either to pride (arrogance) or despair (guilt). If you are godly parents do you have any guarantee that your children will be saved? If you train them properly do you have a guarantee that they will follow your instructions and be godly? Does Proverbs 22:6 give us an absolute guarantee that our children will ultimately come to salvation and be obedient? Can you find biblical examples of godly parents that had ungodly children and ungodly parents that had godly children? What are the implications of this for the guilt parents often feel over their wayward children? (See Dt. 24:16; Ezek. 18)
4. Secular psychologists often say that children are born a “blank slate” (morally). Does the Bible agree with that? (See Ps. 51:5; 58:3) Which of the following statements is correct biblically? 1) People are sinners because they sin; 2) People sin because they are sinners. How might a person’s answer to that question impact their parenting? (See Prov. 22:15) If children are inherently sinful what is their greatest need?
5. Proverbs speaks of children (and some adults) as “simple,” or “naïve.” They look at life with “rose colored glasses” and often don’t consider the consequences of their actions. How might that be different from being “sinful”? What do simple people need from their parents? What did Solomon offer to his son in Proverbs to help him overcome being simple? What are some practical ways you can help simple people understand that there are “consequences” in life?
6. Little children are also “childish.” What are the differences between being sinful, simple, and childish? The tendencies of childishness include: 1) Impulsive (Prov. 7:22-23; 14:6); 2) Insensitive to Danger (Prov. 27:12); 3) Easily Influenced or Led by Others (Prov. 14:15); 4) Undisciplined (they don’t deny themselves pleasure); 5) Don’t Appreciate Parental Discipline (Prov. 15:5); 6) Have a Flawed Value System (choose wealth over wisdom, etc.). Do you see any of those behaviors in “adults” in our culture? Do you see any of those in your own life? What must be done to help people stop being childish? What specific Proverbs can you find for each of the six tendencies of childish people?
7. How important are “family devotions” in parenting? What are the benefits of doing this daily? How could Proverbs be incorporated into your family devotions?
8. Does parenting ever stop this side of heaven? If not, how does it change as your children grow older, become adults, have their own children...?
9. What are the three best practices your parents did in raising you? What are (were) your the three best practices in raising your children? What one new practice can you incorporate this week that will make a significant difference in your parenting (grandparenting)?