

# Dancing with Wisdom Journaling Guide

*DAY 1: Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks. (Proverbs 1:20-21)*

**In what ways have you noticed God inviting you to pursue wisdom?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 2: Whether we like it or not there are two types of wisdom... the tree of life versus the tree of knowledge in Genesis, lady wisdom versus harlot wisdom in Proverbs, the wisdom of the cross versus the wisdom of the age in First Corinthians, heavenly wisdom versus demonic wisdom in James and, most importantly, the wisdom of Jesus versus religious wisdom in the Gospels. (From chapter 1)*

**What has the conflict between the two types of wisdom looked like, in and around your own life?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 3: The solution is not trying harder. That would just translate to doing more of the same. Rather, the answer is to return to a place of dependence on the Father and His goodness. This is the true definition of repentance: coming home. (From chapter 2)*

**What is your experience with the two versions of repentance, trying harder or coming home? Which kind has led to lasting change?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 4: Religion's attraction is that it offers self-improvement, often in the form of wisdom and becoming like God, and clarity, determining good from evil. It often comes in a form that appears shiny and appealing.. (From chapter 3)*

**In what ways have you been attracted to the shiny nature of religion?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 5: Western wisdom's goal is competence and ultimately, independence. It is inherently transactional not relational. The goal of God's wisdom is intimacy, partnership, fellowship... (From chapter 4)*

**If wisdom is primarily relational not transactional, how does that change your approach?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 6: It is obvious from reading the New Testament that scripture knowledge alone does not translate to a renewed mind, since Jesus' most vocal opponents were those who knew the Old Testament the best. (From chapter 5)*

**How could you cooperate with God in the renewing of your mind beyond simply reading and studying the Bible?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 7: If we had been created for maximum efficiency, there would be no need for artificial intelligence because it wouldn't be capable of improving on us! (From chapter 6)*

**If God created you for relationship not productivity, how might you want to adjust your priorities and use of time?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 8: In the church, theologies have been built on top of these distorted father types. Many Christians believe in their hearts that they must earn God's love, which is a reflection of the performance-oriented father type. Others are drawn to a "desperate for God" culture, which is surely a reflection of the passive or absent father type, who is unmoved by anything less than absolute desperation. Still others, are drawn to legalism, which reflects an authoritarian view of God. (From chapter 8)*

**In what ways has your childhood and upbringing distorted how you see God the Father?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 9: I started to consider how I related to Him (the Father) compared to how I relate to my own children. I expected God to provide for me, if... If I asked in just the right way. And... if I really needed whatever it was... On the other hand, I routinely gave my children what they didn't ask for and didn't need. (From chapter 10)*

**In what areas of your life do you need to adjust your thinking and expectations of the Father? Where have you unintentionally judged Him by expecting more of yourself than you do of Him?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 10: In the gospels, we see the disciples and others experience the fear of the Lord on a few occasions...Not one of these actions were negative, none of them included judgment or punishment, none of them gave anyone cause to question the Lord's love or goodness. (From chapter 11)*

**When was the last time you were amazed and in awe of the Father's goodness and power?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 11: Although, there is value to studying the names of God, it is misleading if we believe that each of these names are equally complete and descriptive of God's nature. (From chapter 12)*

**If you think about the gospels, what was the most astounding thing Jesus said or did, when you recall that He only ever did what He saw the Father doing and heard the Father saying?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 12: The Father does not respond to sin by bringing about separation; He acknowledges that we have chosen separation ourselves, and He responds by seeking to bring us home again. (From chapter 14)*

**If sin separates us from the Father, rather than the Father separating Himself from us because we sin, how does that change how you will respond, next time?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 13: Encountering kindness is the doorway into transformation. And the transformation becomes permanent through abiding. (From chapter 16)*

**If the Father's plan is to transform you by demonstrating His kindness towards you, what might that look like?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 14: It is pointless to confess that God is our provider during a declaration at church or during a quiet time but then plead poverty throughout the course of the week in other settings. (From chapter 17)*

**Where does your language need to change, so that you are not declaring a biblical truth one minute but denying it the next?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 15: You are the only you that exists. That means that you are the best you that exists. So, you are not competing with anyone else for the Father's love. (From chapter 18)*

**If you are uniquely loved and, therefore not in competition with anyone, how does that change the way you can relate to the Father and to others?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 16: As we allow our understanding of God, and our definition of the word father to be overruled and overwritten by Jesus, and as we recognize that the nature of God includes feminine attributes, we will experience both comfort and freedom, compassion and courage. (From chapter 19)*

**How is it comforting and freeing to consider that God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) want to mother you as well as father you?**

KEY TAKEAWAY



*Day 17: Most believers have been conditioned to think of the work of the Holy Spirit in one of two ways: conviction or power. However, I'd like to suggest that we have overlooked another extremely important aspect of the work of the Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who communicates the Father's love and affection. (From chapter 20 - paraphrased)*

**How does it reframe your experiences with the Holy Spirit, if you think of them through the lens of the Father demonstrating His affection towards you?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 18: We receive our spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit and our callings and mission from the Lord Jesus, but we can only receive our identity from the Father. (From chapter 21)*

**What are some of the ways you have related to God as if you were an orphan rather than a son or daughter?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 19: In a Father-focused church, the emphasis will not be on doing or gifting, it will be on being. It will be on identity. (From chapter 22)*

**How might your understanding and expression of your faith change, if the Father became your primary focus?**

KEY TAKEAWAY

*Day 20*

1. **Ask the Father, “How do You fulfill my deepest longings?”**