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## Sermon Series: The Principle Thing

Key Reading: Proverbs 4: 1-9 Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. 2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. 3 For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. 4 Then he taught me, and he said to me, "Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. 7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. 8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown."

| Weekly Reading |  |
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| Date           | Scripture Focus  |
| January 18     | Proverbs 1:7<br>Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.   |
| January 19     | Proverbs 3:7<br>Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.  |
| January 20     | Proverbs 10:13<br>Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.   |
| January 21     | Ecclesiastes 2:26<br>To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. |
| January 22     | Ecclesiastes 7:12<br>For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.  |
| January 23     | 1 Corinthians 1:25<br>For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.  |

What is your definition of wisdom?

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What are some of the benefits of possessing wisdom?

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What wisdom or sage advice did you learn from your parents and/or grandparents?

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Name one life event that taught you a great lesson.

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Key Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 7-10 <sup>7</sup> “For what great nation *is there* that has God[b] so near to it, as the Lord our God *is* to us, for whatever *reason* we may call upon Him? <sup>8</sup> And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? <sup>9</sup> Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, <sup>10</sup> *especially concerning* the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.’”

| Weekly Reading |   |
|----------------|---|
| Date           | Scripture Focus   |
| January 24     | Mark 8: 36<br>For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?  |
| January 25     | Matthew 6:33<br>But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.  |
| January 26     | Matthew 6: 19-21<br>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. |
| January 27     | Mark 8:35<br>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and for the gospel will save it.   |
| January 28     | Luke 12:33<br>Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide yourselves with purses that will not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.   |
| January 29     | Mark 10:21<br>Jesus looked at him, loved him, and said to him, "There is one thing you lack: Go, sell everything you own and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."   |

How do you define success?

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What might a good and prosperous life look like for you?

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In what things have you invested your heart?

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What spiritual practices help anchor your soul? How much time per day do you give to these practices?

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In what ways has your body responded to recent stressors? How might you redress those issues in order to resume a healthy normal life?

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