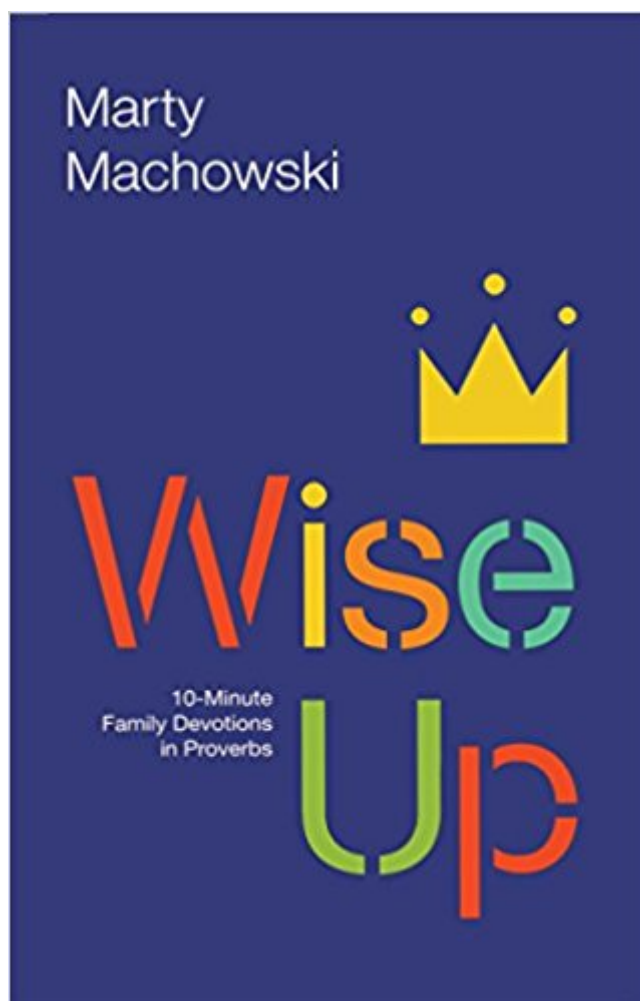


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Wise Up: Ten-Minute Family Devotions In Proverbs



Synopsis

Every parent wants to see their children make good choices, grow in wisdom, and learn how to live a God-honoring life. But Christian parents know that teaching good morals isn't enough. Kids (and adults) need gospel power in order to *wise up*! • *Wise Up*, the newest family devotional from best-selling children's author and family pastor, Marty Machowski, will help make learning the truths of Proverbs fun and memorable for first- to sixth-grade kids as it points them to the true wisdom that is only found in Christ. Like his acclaimed *Long Story Short* and *Old Story New* devotionals, *Wise Up* offers families an easy-to-use, gospel-focused resource that can be successfully completed in just ten minutes a day, five days per week. Each session features Bible reading, discussion questions, a fun activity, and a song to make the study memorable for everyone in the family. In twelve short weeks, you can walk your entire family through the book of Proverbs, keeping them focused on the gospel the whole time. Unlike some other kids resources on Proverbs, *Wise Up* is not a study on good morals. Machowski examines Proverbs from a biblical-theological perspective—avoiding the dangers of moralism while still teaching gospel-motivated good choices. Each wisdom theme in *Wise Up* is carefully and repeatedly connected to the good news of Jesus's life, death, resurrection, and coming return. Ultimately, the goal of this family devotional is to present the wisdom of Solomon against the backdrop of the gospel to show children that real wisdom comes only as we depend on Jesus for daily help and forgiveness. As a result, *Wise Up* moves families beyond the practical wisdom of Proverbs, to connect the teaching of Solomon to God's larger story of salvation. A corresponding music CD, *Walking with the Wise*, helps families remember and reflect on these truths and is available from Sovereign Grace Music.

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Customer Reviews

“Marty Machowski has delivered yet another faithful, clear, and accessible book for parents and families. *Wise Up* is a compelling resource that winsomely communicates the wisdom of Proverbs to a modern generation, while also showing how Proverbs fits within the biblical storyline that culminates in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This book is a helpful tool for any parent who treasures the spiritual lives of their children and wants to nourish them in the faith once for all delivered to the saints.” - R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY

In *Wise Up*, Marty Machowski has given parents a thoughtful, creative, compelling, gospel-centered resource to train their kids in biblical wisdom and Christ-exalting living. Marty’s love for his readers and the Savior are obvious throughout, and I was overjoyed that Sovereign Grace Music could partner with New Growth Press for this project. If you’re a parent looking for help with family devotions, this is a gold mine.” - Bob Kauflin, Director of Sovereign Grace Music

I am pleased to recommend another of Marty Machowski’s wonderful family worship resources. *Wise Up* is a twelve-week study in the Proverbs. Each family devotional can be done in about ten minutes and includes Scripture reading, brief comments followed by provocative questions and a suggestion for prayer time. This book is engaging, interesting, full of good content, and above all doable—a valuable resource. Get it and use it for the good of your kids and generations yet unborn!

Dr. Tedd Tripp, Author, conference speaker

Wise Up by Marty Machowski is an excellent resource for family devotions. Over the course of twelve weeks, he provides engaging lessons that help families explore the wisdom of Proverbs in a five-day-a-week format. *Wise Up* uses songs, purposeful activities, and probing questions to draw families into the Bible, allowing them to grow closer to one another as they grow closer to God. Of all the activities we can do with our children, family devotions are the one opportunity we cannot afford to miss!

Melissa Kruger, Women’s Ministry Coordinator at Uptown Church PCA, author of *The Envy of Eve: Finding Contentment in a Covetous World* and *Walking with God in the Season of Motherhood*

In this volume, Marty Machowski has provided a precious gift to Christian families. In the pages of this book parents will find an accessible road map for sharing the riches of the wisdom of the book of Proverbs with their children. The author assists parents with this task by providing illustrative activities and songs, facilitating prayer, and by providing relevant questions aimed at unfolding the wisdom of God’s Word.” - Anthony T. Selvaggio, Preacher; lecturer;

author of *The Proverbs Driven Life* "Wise parents want to raise wise children. But life conspires to make us live less wisely than we'd like, or they need. *Wise Up* helps parents to live wisely and instill that wisdom in their children. By means of fun projects, daily Scriptures, insightful explanations, helpful discussion questions, and even memorable songs, *Wise Up* makes family devotions doable and enjoyable for everyone." - John Kitchen, Senior Pastor, Stow Alliance Fellowship, Stow, Ohio and author of *Proverbs: A Mentor Commentary* "Wise Up will help your children see that a life of wisdom is honest, hard-working, forgiving, generous, and faithful. But best of all, Marty Machowski shows us that this God-fearing life will only be ours when our hearts are made new by Jesus, who is himself God's wisdom for us "our righteousness, holiness, and redemption." - Jared Kennedy, Pastor of Families, Sojourn Community Church "Midtown Congregation, Louisville, KY

Marty Machowski is a Family Life Pastor at Covenant Fellowship Church, a Sovereign Grace Ministries church in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, where he has served on the pastoral staff for over twenty years. He is the author of *The Gospel Story for Kids* series, *Prepare Him Room Advent* curriculum and devotional, and *The Ology*. He and his wife Lois and their six children reside in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Marty Machowski hits it out of the ballpark again! Ten minutes during dinner when everyone is wiped from the end of the day and we're still getting really great discussions out of it. Currently our kids listening in are 17, 15, 13, and 9. The older girls respectfully obliged at first but now they join right in. Marty doesn't talk down to the reader and he's written great food for thought.

Love it! Very encouraging for me and my family.

Great Devo for the family. My 11 year old son asked if we could Read More!

Gift for my daughter-in-law....she loved it!!

I've been helping a friend search for a good family devotional through *Proverbs*. This one was promising based on the author. Marty also wrote *The Ology* which is the book my friend's family had just finished using for their family devotions (which I highly recommend). However, unlike *The Ology*, this devotional is a little more involved. There are a lot of activities to put together and even

additional CDs to buy (for the "sing together" days). Not to mention, we were hoping for a systematic exegetical study, not one that focuses on individual portions and passages. That said, this was certainly better than any others I'd looked at, and you can always skip the activities for quick(er) before school or bedtime devotions.

Proverbs is one of the most popular books in the Bible, probably right there with the book of Psalms. Who doesn't want to be wise, right? Wise people know what to say, when to say it, and when to say nothing. They know what it means to be honest, kind, faithful, diligent, generous, and respectful. The book of Proverbs gives us God's wisdom on all of these areas, and more, and we rightly turn to this book to help us grow in wisdom. However, true, godly wisdom cannot come simply by following a list of what to do and what not to do, or by memorizing dozens of pithy sayings. True wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord, and true wisdom only comes to the individual who has turned from his sins and placed his faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

A New Family Devotional That is the conviction behind an excellent new family devotional by Marty Machowski called *Wise Up: 10-Minute Family Devotions in Proverbs*. You may recognize the author's name from his popular family devotions: *Old Story New* and *Long Story Short*. These 2 family devotion books are among the best out there at helping a family walk through the whole Bible together. And now, in this new book, Machowski offers families, and specifically parents, another excellent resource to help lead their family in family devotions through the book of Proverbs.

The Structure The book consists of 12 weeks, with each week exploring a different theme in the book of Proverbs. These include topics such as "God's Word: The Greatest Treasure," "Pay Attention: Learning to Follow your Parents' Instruction," and "Looking to the Ants: Learning Diligence." Each week consists of 5 days worth of family devotions. Each is short, concise, and could easily be done in 5-10 minutes each night. The first section is always "Dig Into The Word," where a passage is read, and then there is a short reading giving a better understanding of the meaning of that passage. There are then 2 more sections for each day, one called "Talk About It," which includes some discussion questions for the parents to lead their family in discussing the passage read, and the other called "Pray About It," where the parents lead the family to pray about the topic at hand. Also, in each week, there is a "Sing Together" section, which includes a song of the week that goes along with that week's topic. These songs all come from Sovereign Grace's "Walking With The Wise" album, which the author encourages you to use along with the devotional each week. Finally, each week contains a section called "Wisdom At Work," which is a fun family activity meant to further drive home the topic that will be discussed for that week.

Conclusion I firmly believe that, as parents, we are (and should be) the primary teachers,

instructors, and influencers in our children's lives. As such, having a daily time of family devotions "where the parents lead the family to look at God's Word, discuss God's Word, pray God's Word, and sing God's Word" is indispensable to raising our children in a God-centered, Gospel-focused way. There are many excellent resources out there to help in this regard, but this new resource on Proverbs by Machowski is an excellent one for you to consider using for your family. If you are a parent of children living at home now, I'd encourage you to get this book and begin using it as soon as possible. If you have grown children, or do not yet have children, perhaps consider buying a copy of this for someone in your life who does have children and would benefit from such a family devotional. With Christmas coming up, this would be a wonderful family gift. Whether your children are toddlers, beginning school, in middle school, or about to graduate, we can all benefit from growing in wisdom according to God's Word. This resource will enable you to help your children do just that. In accordance with FTC regulations, I would like to thank New Growth Press for providing me with a review copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

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