As we see here, a wise man learns from everyone he meets and from every experience of life. It is his pleasure as well as his habit to grasp new knowledge. As a result, he is well-equipped not only to cope with events in his own life, but to guide others through their difficulties.

**Proverbs 10:13-17**

**In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.**

**Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.**

**The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.**

**The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.**

**He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.**

But the foolish man has the opposite experience. He despises knowledge and understanding. What he is forced to learn he makes no effort to remember. As a natural consequence, he is ill-equipped to deal with life’s problems.

This laziness of mind can easily be understood to be a cause of the poverty mentioned in the next verse. Solomon has already mentioned that the righteous and industrious have no need to fear poverty:

**The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked. He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.**

**--Proverbs 10:3-4**

The wise heed instruction and soon acquire necessary understanding. But the fools refuse reproof—they cannot be guided or taught—and thus they might easily fall into a life of poverty or even crime. There is no need for this life, however.

God provides plentiful instruction for us, through the Bible, through nature, and especially through our families, our church families as well as our blood relations. Those who are wise give heed to the instructions and reproofs that are given to them.

**Bonobos**

These great apes live in large, peaceful groups of around 100 individuals. They were previously referred to as “pygmy chimpanzees,” because they are closely related to chimpanzees though only slightly smaller. Like many of the great apes, there is a strong bond between mothers and children, with the mothers spending a lot of time and effort to teach their children and give them a good start in life. Many studies indicate that females have a high social status in bonobo society. A male derives his status from the status of his mother. The mother–son bond often stays strong and continues throughout life. The young bonobos are offered opportunities to learn, particularly by their mother, and the wise ones take advantage of these opportunities. Just as we should.

Life Story

Episode 6: “Parenthood”

Start: 29:27 (19:30 from End)

End: 33:55 (15:02 from End)