



**Wisdom: Names For God**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions – May 14, 2023**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Genesis 1:26-** Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

**Genesis 3:5-** “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT)-** <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

**Proverbs 31:10–30 (NLT)-** <sup>10</sup> Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies. <sup>11</sup> Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. <sup>12</sup> She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. <sup>13</sup> She finds wool and flax and busily spins it. <sup>14</sup> She is like a merchant’s ship, bringing her food from afar. <sup>15</sup> She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day’s work for her servant girls. <sup>16</sup> She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard . . . <sup>18</sup> She makes sure her dealings are profitable.

<sup>17</sup> She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. <sup>20</sup> She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy. <sup>21</sup> She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes. <sup>22</sup> She makes her own bedspreads. She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns. <sup>25</sup> She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. <sup>26</sup> When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. <sup>27</sup> She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. <sup>28</sup> Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.

**Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)**- <sup>7</sup> Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

**Proverbs 31:30 (NLT)**- <sup>30</sup> Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.

**Proverbs 3:5–8 (NLT)**- <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. <sup>7</sup> Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup> Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

**Proverbs 18:10 (NLT)**- <sup>10</sup> The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.

**Genesis 1:1–2 (NLT)**- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

**Romans 8:11 (NLT)**- <sup>11</sup> The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

**Genesis 17:1 (NLT)**- When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am EI-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life.

**Genesis 22:14 (NIV84)**- <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

### **Warm Up:**

During this season of celebrating Fathers and Mothers, what are some things that you have appreciated about your parents or guardians growing up? If you are a parent, what do you love about parenting?

### **Discussion:**

1. Read Proverbs 31:10-30. What is the standard that this passage outlines? Is it attainable?
2. Who is it in your life that you are listening to, to tell you who you are? (identity)
3. What or who are you comparing yourself to, to tell you what you are worth? (value)
4. How does fear of the Lord turn our eyes back to our true image? What does God say about our identity and value? Are there certain passages that you can think of that show us that identity and value?
5. Read Proverbs 3:5-8. In what areas of your life are you tempted to lean on your own understanding? What does it look like to fear the Lord instead?
6. In his message, Pastor Tom uses two word pictures from Proverbs 3:8 to describe how he has crafted us and works in us.

The first is the word “body,” which means “naval.” This gives a picture of God’s healing as the source of life and Him as the nourishment giver.

What kind of healing do you think God may have to do in your “Body”?

The second is the word “bones,” which points to the structure of our lives being healed when we lean into what God says about us.

What kind of healing do you think God may have to do in your “Bones”?

### **Next Steps:**

Pastor Tom shared three names for God that we can reflect on when we are wrestling.

***Ruach—I don’t have energy, I need life, dead back to life***

***El Shaddai—I don’t have the strength and resources***

***Jireh—I don’t need a little, I need a lot. I need to know I am enough.***

Feel free to use these questions to guide your reflection or conversation:

Which of these names for God do you resonate with? It can be more than one.

What does it look like for you to ask for God to provide in these areas?

Take some time to specifically pray through these names of God and ask for his energy, strength, and provision.