



RCCG OCEANIA

Stewardship

Wisdom in Giving and Companionship

At a Glance

BIG IDEA

Life carries real uncertainty, so wisdom does not cling tightly or walk alone. Scripture points us toward open-handed giving and prudent distribution, while also warning that our closest relationships shape our direction. Choose generosity with foresight—and choose companions who cultivate wisdom.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

Proverbs 13:20

Ecclesiastes 11:2

Key Takeaways

- Practice giving as an intentional “portion,” not only as a spontaneous impulse.
- Distribute wisely (“to seven, or even to eight”) because you do not know what trouble may come.
- Your relationships shape your outcomes: walking with the wise grows wisdom.
- Keeping close company with fools brings harm, so choose your circle carefully.
- Wise living includes both open-handed generosity and guarded relational influence.

Introduction

Wisdom is not only a private idea; it becomes visible in what a person releases and who a person keeps close. Scripture highlights two everyday arenas where wisdom is tested: generosity in the face of uncertainty, and companionship in the face of influence. Wise people learn to give with intention and to build relationships that shape their character toward wisdom rather than harm.

Scripture Reading

- **Ecclesiastes 11:1-2** — These verses urge active generosity and broad sharing, grounded in the reality that the future is uncertain and trouble may arise unexpectedly.
- **Proverbs 13:20** — This proverb explains the formative power of close relationships: walking with the wise fosters wisdom, while close association with fools leads to harm.
- **Ecclesiastes 11:2** — This line emphasizes prudent distribution (“to seven, or even to eight”) as a wise response to not knowing what adversity may come.

Key Points

1. Give a Portion, Not an Excuse — Ecclesiastes presents giving as a deliberate practice: “Cast your bread upon the waters... Give a portion to seven, or even to eight.” Wisdom does not wait for ideal conditions or perfect certainty before acting with generosity. A “portion” implies intention—something set aside, not merely leftover. This kind of generosity is not driven only by emotion or impulse; it is shaped into a habit that becomes part of how a person manages resources and responds to need. Wise generosity is also proactive. Instead of clinging tightly because of

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Key Points (cont.)

1. Give a Portion, Not an Excuse (cont.) — fear, it chooses open-handedness as a disciplined pattern of life, trusting that withholding is not the only safe response to an unknown future.

- Decide on a concrete “portion” to give regularly, rather than relying only on occasional moments of impulse.
- Identify one area where fear of uncertainty has made you hesitant to give, and replace hesitation with a planned step of generosity.
- Practice giving that is purposeful: choose specific people or needs to support rather than waiting for convenience.
- Review how you handle resources and set aside generosity before other discretionary uses.
- Treat generosity as a spiritual habit: consistent, thoughtful, and practiced over time.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

Key Points (cont.)

2. Distribute Wisely Under Uncertainty — Ecclesiastes 11:2 gives a practical instruction: “Give a portion to seven, or even to eight.” The picture is not reckless scattering, but prudent distribution—sharing in more than one place rather than depending on a single outcome. The reason is stated plainly: “for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.” Wisdom acknowledges that the

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Key Points (cont.)

2. **Distribute Wisely Under Uncertainty (cont.)** — future is not fully controllable. Because trouble can arise in unexpected forms, wise people avoid putting all of their hope, help, or investment into only one channel. This principle encourages both generosity and prudence. It rejects tight-fisted fear, and it also ...

Key Points (cont.)

2. **Distribute Wisely Under Uncertainty (cont.)** — rejects naïve dependence on one plan. It calls for open-handedness paired with thoughtful breadth.
 - List the people, needs, or causes you support, and consider whether your giving is wisely distributed rather than concentrated without thought.
 - Make a simple plan to broaden generosity (for example, helping multiple needs in smaller portions) while remaining consistent.
 - When deciding how to give, ask: “Am I clinging to one plan because it feels safest, or am I responding wisely to uncertainty?”
 - Avoid delaying generosity until you feel certain about outcomes; instead, give with prudence while accepting limits in what you can predict.
 - Periodically review your giving patterns to ensure they reflect both compassion and wise distribution.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 11:2

Key Points (cont.)

3. Walk With the Wise — Proverbs 13:20 teaches that companionship is a pathway of formation: “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise.” Wisdom is not only learned through information; it is also absorbed through close association. “Walking with” implies time, closeness, and shared direction. Regular contact shapes language, priorities, habits, and decisions. Over time, wise companions can strengthen discernment, encourage integrity, and model how to respond to life with humility and prudence. This proverb invites intentionality. If wisdom is desired, then wise relationships should not be left to ...

Key Points (cont.)

3. Walk With the Wise (cont.) — chance. Choosing companions becomes part of choosing the kind of person one is becoming.

- Identify one relationship that consistently increases your wisdom and plan regular time for conversation and shared life.
- Ask: “Whose counsel do I seek most often?” and intentionally include wise voices in your decision-making.
- Look for patterns you admire in wise people (patience, restraint, honesty) and discuss how to grow in them.
- Strengthen your circle by pursuing friendships marked by truth, humility, and wise choices.
- Evaluate whether your daily influences (the people you “walk with”) align with your desire to become wise.

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20

Key Points (cont.)

4. Refuse Foolish Company That Harms — Proverbs 13:20 includes a warning alongside its promise: “the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Close association with foolishness is not neutral; it carries consequences. Foolish company can normalize poor judgment, weaken moral clarity, and pull a person toward patterns that damage life. Harm may come through pressure, imitation, shared risk, or simply the slow shaping of values over time. Wisdom, ...

Key Points (cont.)

4. **Refuse Foolish Company That Harms (cont.)** — therefore, includes guarding the most influential relationships. This is not a call to isolation, but a call to discern which voices have access to shape decisions, habits, and direction.
 - Name the relationships that most influence your choices, and honestly assess whether they push you toward wisdom or toward harm.
 - Set clear boundaries where companionship consistently leads you into foolish decisions or patterns.
 - If a relationship has been shaping you negatively, limit its influence while pursuing wise companionship more intentionally.
 - Before making major choices, seek input from wise people rather than from those who repeatedly dismiss wisdom.
 - Define what “harm” looks like in your life (compromise, instability, destructive habits) and refuse influences that lead you there.

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20

Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

Observation

- In Ecclesiastes 11:1-2, what actions are commanded regarding giving, and what reasons are provided?
- What does the phrase “to seven, or even to eight” communicate in Ecclesiastes 11:2?
- According to Proverbs 13:20, what are the two contrasting outcomes of walking with the wise versus being a companion of fools?
- What repeated theme connects the giving instruction in Ecclesiastes 11 with the relationship instruction in Proverbs 13:20?
- What words in these passages highlight uncertainty and influence as real factors in daily life?

Interpretation

- Why might Ecclesiastes connect generous distribution with the fact that trouble may come unexpectedly?
- How does the idea of giving a “portion” challenge common excuses for delaying generosity?
- What does “walking with the wise” suggest about how wisdom is gained over time?
- Why does Proverbs 13:20 present foolish companionship as leading to harm rather than merely inconvenience?
- How do these passages balance open-handed generosity with prudent, wise decision-making?

Application

- What specific “portion” could you set aside as a consistent practice of generosity, and what would make it sustainable?
- Where might you need to broaden or diversify your giving in response to uncertainty, without becoming careless?
- Who are the wisest people in your life, and what step could you take to “walk with” them more closely?
- Which relationships or influences most often pull you away from wisdom, and what boundary would be appropriate?

Application (cont.)

- How can you pursue generosity and wise companionship together so that both your resources and your relationships reflect wisdom?

Prayer Focus

- Ask God for faith to give consistently without fear of an uncertain future.
- Pray for wisdom to distribute resources thoughtfully and responsibly.
- Request discernment to pursue wise companions and receive their counsel.
- Ask for courage to set boundaries with influences that lead toward harm.

Next Step

Choose a clear portion to give regularly and identify one wise person to walk with intentionally for counsel and accountability.

Conclusion

Wisdom responds to life's uncertainty with thoughtful generosity, refusing to grip tightly out of fear. Wisdom also recognizes that companionship shapes character and direction over time. By practicing intentional, prudently distributed giving and by walking closely with wise people while guarding against harmful influences, life becomes more consistently shaped by wisdom rather than damage.