



# RCCG OCEANIA

Stewardship

## Wisdom in Giving and Companionship

### At a Glance

#### BIG IDEA

Life carries uncertainty, so Scripture urges us to respond with wisdom, not fear. Giving should be intentional and broadened rather than narrow and impulsive. At the same time, the people we walk with shape who we become—wisdom grows in wise company.

#### PRIMARY PASSAGES

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

Proverbs 13:20

Proverbs 13:21

## Key Takeaways

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- Uncertainty is real; wisdom prepares rather than postpones obedience.
- “Give a portion to seven, and also to eight” points to generous, distributed giving instead of putting everything in one place.
- Walking with the wise is a deliberate choice that shapes outcomes and character.
- Companionship is formative: wise relationships cultivate wisdom; harmful relationships invite trouble.
- Generosity and wise walking work together as practical wisdom for daily life.

## Introduction

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Life includes unknowns that cannot be fully managed. Scripture does not ask believers to pretend uncertainty is not there; it teaches practical wisdom in how to respond. Two everyday areas reveal whether wisdom is guiding decisions: how resources are given and how companionship is chosen. Giving can be narrow and reactive, or it can be generous and wisely distributed. Likewise, relationships can be accidental and harmful, or they can be intentional and wise —because who you walk with shapes who you become.

## Scripture Reading

- **Ecclesiastes 11:1-2** — These verses commend a wise, generous posture in the face of not knowing what may happen in the future, urging action rather than delay and describing giving in a broadened way.
- **Proverbs 13:20** — This proverb teaches that wisdom is shaped through close association; the one who walks with the wise becomes wise, while unwise companionship brings harm.
- **Proverbs 13:21** — This verse contrasts outcomes, reinforcing that choices and paths lead toward either trouble or good, with consequences that follow a person's direction in life.

## Key Points

1. **Wisdom faces uncertainty** — Ecclesiastes acknowledges an unpredictable future without treating it as a reason to freeze. Uncertainty is not an excuse to postpone wise obedience; it is a reason to practice it. Wisdom is not the absence of risk; it is faithful action in the presence of risk. Instead of waiting for perfect information, Scripture directs believers toward purposeful decisions that can endure changing circumstances. A wise approach asks: What step honors God even if tomorrow changes? It chooses steadiness over anxiety and direction over delay.
  - Identify one area where fear of uncertainty has stalled obedience; take one concrete step forward.
  - Replace “when things feel safer” thinking with a simple practice of consistent, wise action.
  - Review decision-making habits: are choices driven by panic, comfort, or Scripture-shaped wisdom?
  - Pray for clarity to act wisely even when outcomes are not guaranteed.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

## Key Points (cont.)

2. Give in portions, not in panic — Ecclesiastes urges generous action and describes giving with a picture: “Give a portion to seven, and also to eight.” The language pushes against narrow, all-in-or-nothing reactions and encourages broadened generosity. A “portion” mindset is intentional. It plans to share rather than clutch, and it spreads giving rather than concentrating everything in one place. “Seven” and “eight” communicate abundance and expansion—an open-handed posture that does not assume control of tomorrow. This is not a call to impulsive giving, but to wise, steady generosity. Distributed giving trains the heart away from fear and toward faithful stewardship amid uncertainty.

- Set aside a regular portion for generosity rather than waiting for a perfect moment.
- Practice broadened giving: consider multiple needs or people instead of focusing only on one outlet.
- Before giving, ask: Is this decision driven by panic or by wise purpose?
- Choose one way to increase generosity this week (time, attention, hospitality, or material help) in a measured portion.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

## Key Points (cont.)

**3. Walk with the wise** — Proverbs teaches that companionship is formative: “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise.” Wisdom is not only learned from ideas; it is often absorbed through close, repeated patterns of life with others. To walk with someone implies nearness, time, and shared direction. Companions shape priorities, normalize behaviors, and influence what feels “reasonable.” Because of this, choosing wise relationships is an act of wisdom—not an accident. Wise companionship can include people who speak truth, model restraint, encourage generosity, and help keep decisions aligned with Scripture.

- Name two people whose life reflects wisdom; choose to walk more closely with them through regular conversation and shared practices.
- Evaluate your closest influences: do they move you toward wisdom or away from it?
- Invite wise accountability in areas where you are prone to fear, impulse, or isolation.
- Be a wise companion to someone else by offering steady encouragement and truthful counsel.

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20

## Key Points (cont.)

4. Expect different outcomes from different paths — Proverbs emphasizes that paths lead somewhere. The companion you walk with and the conduct you adopt are not neutral; they shape outcomes over time. Proverbs 13:21 reinforces this contrast: trouble pursues one direction, while good is repaid to another. This principle strengthens the urgency of intentional choices. If relationships and habits have momentum, then wisdom means choosing a direction aligned with good rather than drifting into what is easiest. Wise giving and wise walking reinforce each other. Generosity practiced in wise company can become steady and sustainable; ...

## Key Points (cont.)

4. Expect different outcomes from different paths (cont.) — harmful companionship can pressure people toward fear, selfishness, or reckless decisions that invite trouble.
- Map one “path” you are currently on (money habits, friendships, time use) and ask where it will likely lead if unchanged.
  - Reduce exposure to influences that consistently normalize foolishness or invite trouble.
  - Add one wise practice that supports long-term good outcomes (planned generosity, careful counsel, consistent integrity).
  - When making a major choice, ask: What outcome does this path usually produce according to Scripture?

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20      Proverbs 13:21

## Group Discussion

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

## Observation

- In Ecclesiastes 11:1-2, what words or phrases highlight uncertainty about the future?
- What does the instruction to give a “portion” suggest about how giving is practiced?
- What do the numbers “seven” and “eight” communicate in the flow of Ecclesiastes 11:1-2?
- According to Proverbs 13:20, what is the stated result of choosing to walk with the wise?
- In Proverbs 13:21, what contrast is made between trouble and good, and how is it connected to a person’s direction in life?

## Interpretation

- Why might Scripture connect uncertainty with a call to action rather than delay in Ecclesiastes 11:1-2?
- How does giving in broadened portions protect against both fear and impulsiveness?
- What does it practically mean to “walk” with someone, not merely know them?
- Why does Proverbs treat companionship as a wisdom issue rather than a preference issue?

## Interpretation (cont.)

- How do Proverbs 13:20-21 together teach that different paths produce different outcomes over time?

## Application

- Where are you tempted to postpone obedience until conditions feel certain, and what wise step can you take now?
- What would it look like for you to give a consistent portion—perhaps to seven, and also to eight—rather than concentrating generosity narrowly?
- Who are you currently walking with most closely, and how is that influence shaping your choices?
- What relationship or influence may be inviting trouble, and what boundary would be wise to set?
- What is one specific practice you can adopt to align both your giving and your companionship with wisdom?

## Prayer Focus

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- Ask God for wisdom to act faithfully without fear of the unknown.
- Ask for a generous heart that gives in intentional portions to multiple needs.
- Ask God to surround you with wise companions and help you walk closely with them.
- Ask for courage to set boundaries with influences that lead toward trouble.

## Next Step

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Choose a consistent portion to give and arrange a regular, intentional connection with a wise believer who will help you walk in godly direction.

## Conclusion

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Scripture offers practical wisdom for life in an uncertain world: act with steady purpose, give generously in well-placed portions, and choose to walk with the wise. These choices are not minor; they shape direction, character, and outcomes. A wise life does not deny uncertainty—it responds to it with faithful generosity and intentional companionship that leads toward good.