

## A Father's Instruction

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;  
pay attention and gain  
understanding.

I give you sound learning,  
so do not forsake my teaching.

When I was a boy in my father's house,  
still tender, and an only child of my  
mother,

he taught me and said,  
"Lay hold of my words with all your  
heart;  
keep my commands and you will live.  
Get wisdom, get understanding;  
do not forget my words or swerve  
from them.

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will  
protect you;  
love her, and she will watch over you.

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get  
wisdom.

Though it cost all you have, get  
understanding.

Esteem her, and she will exalt you;  
embrace her, and she will honor you.

She will set a garland of grace on your  
head

and present you with a crown of  
splendor."

Listen, my son, accept what I say,  
and the years of your life will be  
many.

I guide you in the way of wisdom  
and lead you along straight paths.

When you walk, your steps will not be  
hampered;

when you run, you will not stumble.

Proverbs 4:1-12