



## Expository Study of Proverbs 3:5-6

### "Believe and Grow: in the Context of Discipleship of the Younger Generation"

Rika Yanti<sup>1\*</sup>, Sang Putra Immanuel Duha<sup>1</sup>, Timotius<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Sekolah Tinggi Teologi REAL Batam- Indonesia*

<sup>2</sup>*Northwestern Christian University- USA*

\**Corresponding author, pepetpromes@gmail.com*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63680/ijstate0725035.22>

#### Abstract

Discipling the younger generation in the Christian faith is not only aimed at transferring knowledge, but also at forming character according to God's will. Proverbs 3:11-12 teaches that God's discipline (מוּסָר, musar) and His love (אַהֲבָה, ahav) complement each other in forming a mature and loving character. God's discipline functions as a moral correction that disciplines, does not punish, and comes from His deep love. Proverbs 3:1-2 emphasizes the importance of keeping God's teachings (תּוֹרָתִי, Torati) and His commandments (מִצְוֹתַי, Mitzvotai) in the heart, which will bring a life full of wisdom (חֹכְמָה, Chokhmah) and peace (שְׁלוֹמִים, Shalom). Effective discipleship teaches young people to engage in healthy self-talk, remembering God's love and guidance in their lives. Through this approach, the church and spiritual leaders play an important role in helping them recognize and live out God's teachings, which bring true restoration, wisdom, and peace. The research method used in this study is a qualitative approach with Hebrew text exegesis, which focuses on the interpretation and in-depth analysis of the verses in Proverbs 3 to explore the theological and practical meaning of God's teachings in discipleship. Although research related to the topic of discipleship has been widely conducted, this study is different because it integrates Hebrew text exegesis, which has not been widely applied in studies of young generation discipleship, to deepen understanding of the context and teachings contained in the Book of Proverbs. God's promise in Proverbs 3:2, about long life and peace as blessings for those who keep His teachings, describes a life that is not only long, but full of divine purpose and a harmonious relationship with God.

**Keywords:** Discipleship, Young Generation, Exegesis, God's Discipline, God's Love

#### Introduction

Theology, as a discipline that studies the nature of God, faith, and human existence, Geoffrey W. Bromiley, quoted by Leon Morris, provides a concise definition of theology as everything that is thought and expressed

about God. In addition, Morris also quotes the definition of theology from The Shorter Oxford Dictionary , which states that theology is "the study or science of God, His nature and attributes, and His relationship to humanity and the entire universe."(Tamawiwiy, 2021) Nico Syukur Dister defines theology as a discipline that studies the doctrine of God, which also includes the teachings and practices of Christianity. (Yurlina Ndruru et al., 2024) Based on the understanding that has been explained, it can be concluded that theology includes everything related to God, including understanding His nature, attributes, and His relationship with His creation.

A growing church is a church that is actively involved in the discipleship process. This is because spiritual growth is one of the church's main tasks in guiding the congregation to reach full maturity in Christ, as expressed by Gernaida Krisna R. Pakpahan. (Pekuwali et al., n.d.)Ephesians 4:15, "but speaking the truth in love, we should grow up in all things into Him, that is, Christ." This shows that spiritual growth is an important part of a Christian's faith journey. The church cannot only focus on evangelism alone, without paying deep attention to discipleship and the growth of the congregation's faith. Apin Militia Christi, stated that without a continuous discipleship process, the church will not be able to guide the congregation to live according to God's will.

Darmawan stated that discipleship in Christianity is the process of guiding individuals or groups to become true followers of Christ through teaching, coaching, and character formation in accordance with biblical teachings. (Leonardo Presley Purba & Saptorini, 2021)The goal is to deepen faith, strengthen relationships with God, and apply Christian principles in everyday life. As stated in Matthew 28:19-20 , discipleship involves teaching and guiding to live according to Christ's commands. Discipleship is not only about knowledge, but also a life transformation that leads a person to grow in faith, obedience, and service, as emphasized in 2 Corinthians 3:18 , that we are transformed into the likeness of Christ in His glory.

Alan Hirsch and Jeff Vanderstelt (Dwi Bakti Susanto, n.d.), states that discipleship in Christianity is influenced by several main factors , such as a personal relationship with God through prayer and reading His word is the main foundation for spiritual growth (John 15:5). In addition, the example of leaders who reflect the life of Christ plays a very important role in the discipleship process (1 Corinthians 11:1). A supportive church community, a humble attitude, and a readiness to serve also accelerate the change in a disciple's life (Hebrews 10:24-25, Matthew 20:28). Sound biblical teaching becomes a solid foundation (2 Timothy 3:16), while life experiences and trials help strengthen the perseverance of faith (James 1:2-3). All these factors work together to form a true disciple of Christ.

Many Christian researchers have addressed the topic of discipleship among young people, but most of these studies focus solely on spiritual aspects or are viewed from a Christian faith perspective, without any integration with theological studies. Among these studies is the study by Saptorini et al. which places more emphasis on the role of digital media in discipling the younger generation of Christians in the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era, using a technological impact analysis approach, without emphasizing in-depth theological interpretation, in line with the command in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go and make disciples of all nations."(Triputra, 2018) On the other hand, Manao et al., used a spiritual education approach and tried to connect it with the concept of discipleship for the millennial generation based on Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it," but the explanation given is very limited, without conducting an in-depth textual analysis. (Manao et al., n.d.)James Adrian emphasized the importance of discipleship in the context of Christianity and concluded that discipleship is the main commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ which must be passed on continuously from generation to generation through living examples, not only through formal teaching .(Adrian, n.d.)

Since no Christian research has exegetically discussed Proverbs 3:5-6 and connected it to theological approaches to discipleship, it can be concluded that the author's research is relatively new and unprecedented. In Proverbs 3:5-6, the author finds teachings relevant to the spiritual life of the millennial generation, which can provide solutions to their spiritual challenges. Through the process of exegesis description, analysis, and interpretation a deeper concept of discipleship is obtained that is more appropriate to the current Christian context.

## Method

### Qualitative methods

This research uses thematic analysis, where a thematic analysis according to Sonny Eli Zaluchu (Riski et al., n.d.) is defined as an approach to identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) that emerge in qualitative data. This approach focuses on a deep understanding of the various themes or patterns that emerge in texts, interviews, or other forms of data. Zaluchu further emphasizes the importance of exploring the hidden meanings behind the data to understand the phenomena or problems being studied more holistically. Eko Setiawan (Simatupang, 2023) conclude that thematic is a learning approach that is carried out in an integrated manner by carrying a topic or theme as the main focus.

Through an exegetical study of Proverbs 3:5-6, this research highlights the importance of complete trust in God as the primary foundation in life, particularly in discipling the younger generation. The wisdom contained in this verse not only shapes character but also guides ongoing spiritual growth. To deepen the analysis, this research utilizes BibleWorks 8 as an exegetical tool and the Great Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) to clarify the meaning of words in practical application.

### Integration Method

Based on theological literacy and expository studies, the author attempts to examine theories and research findings related to the development of theology. Through the exploration of ideas, the search for relevant information, and an in-depth review of analyzed data, the author aims to find answers to the research questions. This step is expected to enrich existing data sources and strengthen the role of theological integration in discipleship formation among the younger generation.

## Results and Discussion

Proverbs 3: 5 says "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

בְּטַח אֵלֵי־יְהוָה בְּכָל־לִבְךָ וְאַל־בִּינְתָךְ אֶל־תִּשְׁעֶן

Betach el-YHWH b'khol libekha, ve'el binatkha al-tisha'en

(Hebrew WTT, BibleWorks8)

This verse is part of the wise counsel in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs 3:5 teaches a crucial principle in the life of a believer: to trust God wholeheartedly and not to rely on one's own understanding. This advice is often cited as a verse of encouragement in difficult situations, but its meaning goes far beyond mere comfort.

When compared to Jeremiah 17:7-8, a striking similarity emerges. Both passages emphasize the importance of a heart that is completely dependent on God. The difference is that Jeremiah describes it in a very poetic

and visual way . A person who believes in God is likened to a tree planted by the water, which remains fresh and bears fruit even though the dry season comes.

Proverbs 3:5 provides a principle, while Jeremiah 17:7-8 provides a concrete illustration of that principle in life. Therefore, it can be concluded that these two passages are not only harmonious but also mutually enriching in explaining how one should live in reliance on God.

same background ? “ No. ” Proverbs was written as a collection of wisdom, much of it dating from the reign of Solomon, while Jeremiah wrote during the stressful and agonizing time leading up to the exile of the Judeans. But herein lies its strength , “ in various seasons of life both in times of peace and times of crisis firm faith in God remains an unshakable foundation. ”

### **Proverbs 3: 6 explains "Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will make your paths straight."**

בְּכֹל דַּרְכֶיךָ דַּעֲהוּ וְהוֹיֵא יֵשׁוּר אֶרְחֹתֶיךָ

B'khol derakhekha da'ehu, ve'hu yeyasher orkhotekha

(Hebrew WTT, BibleWorks8)

In Proverbs 3:6 which says, "Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will make your paths straight," we can conclude that confession to God in all aspects of our lives is not just a verbal confession, but rather a real action in every life decision we make. The word "confess" (יָדַעַ, yāda) in the qal imperfect form shows that this confession must be a consistent and continuous habit, not just done once in a while.

During Solomon's time, the teaching of relying on God in every aspect of life was highly relevant, especially given the stable political and social conditions under his reign. This contrasted sharply with the turbulent reign of David. Solomon spoke of the importance of God's wisdom as a foundation for daily living (see 1 Kings 3:9). Although Solomon ruled during a time of peace, he continued to emphasize that only by acknowledging God in all our ways can we live according to His will.

Furthermore, this command can be understood in the context of the spiritual life of the Israelites. During Solomon's reign, the Temple that was built became the center of worship for the Israelites. This shows that acknowledgment of God in all things does not only apply to the practical aspects of life, but also includes worship and a spiritual relationship with God. For the Israelites, recognizing God was their way of living in complete devotion to Him (see 2 Chronicles 7:14).

Furthermore, this verse also reminds us of God's promise , "He will make your paths straight." The phrase "make your paths straight" indicates that God Himself will guide us to walk the right path. This reminds us of Jeremiah 10:23 which says, "I know, O LORD, that the path of a man is not in himself; it is not his who walks to direct his steps." These two verses have the same message, namely, that without acknowledging and surrendering to God, our lives will go astray.

However, does Proverbs 3:6 apply to the lives of every Israelite at that time? Perhaps not entirely. Proverbs speaks more to individuals as wise people who live by God's teachings. Meanwhile, Jeremiah wrote during a time of crisis, when the Israelites were facing exile. Although the backgrounds are different, these two verses still convey the same message : " The straight path can only be found through a right relationship with God. "

### **Believing and Growing in the Context of Younger Generation Discipleship based on Proverbs 3:5-6**

In discipleship, especially for the younger generation, building complete trust in God and growing in faith is crucial. Proverbs 3:5-6 emphasizes the importance of trusting God completely and acknowledging Him in all

aspects of our lives, which is the foundation for growing in true faith. Young people, who are still forming their worldview and values, desperately need guidance to understand the importance of trusting God in every step of their lives. Trust in God not only leads to a deeper closeness to Him but also encourages them to grow in wisdom and spiritual maturity.

### 1. Exegesis of Proverbs 3:5

Proverbs 3:5 teaches us to trust in the Lord with all our heart and not to rely on our own understanding. This sentence is an invitation to build our lives on a solid foundation of faith in God, not just on our own reason or limited understanding. In Hebrew, the word for trust used is *batach* (בָּטַח), which describes a form of complete dependence and unwavering confidence. In this context, *batach* indicates more than simply believing that God exists; it is complete confidence that God is the only source worthy of being relied upon in all aspects of life, including in situations full of uncertainty or challenges.

This phrase "with all our heart" uses the Hebrew word *leb* (לֵב), which means "heart" or "the source of a person's inner life." This word goes beyond mere emotions or feelings; it encompasses our thoughts, intentions, and will. Therefore, relying on God with all our heart means surrendering every aspect of our lives, including our thoughts, feelings, and actions, to living according to His will.

The next part of this verse reminds us not to rely on our own understanding. The Hebrew word for understanding is *biynah* (בִּינָה), which refers to intellectual ability or wisdom based on human reasoning. While our understanding can provide us with useful knowledge, Proverbs 3:5 reminds us that only God possesses perfect and infinite wisdom. Humans, with all their limitations, often see only part of the bigger, deeper picture.

Relevantly, this verse challenges us not to rely solely on our own abilities in making major life decisions. Amidst advances in technology and information, we often feel we can rely on ourselves to solve problems. However, Proverbs 3:5 reminds us that true wisdom comes from the Lord, and only by relying on Him can we know the right path. Our decisions, whether in our careers, relationships, or even in our daily lives, must be based on faith in God, not just on logic or personal experience.

In Jeremiah 17:5-7, there is a contrast between those who rely on themselves and those who rely on God. Those who rely on themselves are like trees growing in dry places and bearing no fruit, while those who rely on God are like trees growing by the water, always green and bearing fruit. This illustrates that dependence on God provides a stable and productive life, while dependence on oneself leads to disappointment and dryness.

### 2. Exegesis of Proverbs 3:6

Proverbs 3:6 continues the teaching of the previous verse with a crucial statement: "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Here, we are reminded that acknowledging God is not just something that happens at certain moments in our lives, but must be present in all our walks of life. The Hebrew word for acknowledge is *yada'* (יָדָע), which refers to a deep and personal knowledge of God. This is not just an intellectual or theoretical knowledge of God, but an intimate and personal relationship with Him. As in a friendship or marriage, this acknowledgement involves completely surrendering to God and seeking His will in every decision we make.

In this case, all your ways refer to everything we do in life, whether it's work, study, family relationships, or daily activities. This encompasses all aspects of our lives that need to be acknowledged and surrendered to God. Proverbs 3:6 emphasizes that no area of our lives is separate from God's guidance. Every step we take should always be based on the awareness that we live for God and should glorify Him in all things.

The phrase "He will make your paths straight" indicates that when we acknowledge God in all aspects of our lives, He will give us proper guidance and guide us on the right path. The Hebrew word "straighten" (yashar – יָשַׁר) describes a path that is uncurved, straight, and leads to the right goal. In other words, when we acknowledge God in our lives, He will show us the right direction even though the world around us is often full of its own confusion.

Practically speaking, Proverbs 3:6 encourages us to make God the center of every decision we make. This means asking God for guidance not only in the big issues but also in the small, everyday matters. When we learn to acknowledge God in every aspect of our lives, we will experience Him guiding us through difficult situations and guiding us on the right path.

Psalms 37:5 also teaches something similar: "Give your life to the LORD, trust in Him, and He will act." This underscores that we must surrender all our ways of life to God, and as a result, He will guide and act in our lives. Also, Isaiah 55:8-9 states that God's ways are far higher than man's ways, and by acknowledging God, we receive His perfect guidance, which is not limited by human understanding.

### 3. Application of Relevance in Everyday Life

Proverbs 3:5-6 teaches us to always rely on God in our lives and acknowledge Him in everything we do. In a fast-paced world that often emphasizes self-reliance, these verses remind us not to rely too much on our own abilities. Instead, we are invited to live in a deep relationship with God, entrusting every aspect of our lives to Him and seeking His guidance in all our decisions.

In the midst of life's big and small decisions such as choosing a career, planning for the future, managing personal relationships, or even deciding how to act in a particular situation, Proverbs 3:5-6 teaches us that God is the source of true wisdom and guidance. By relying on Him and acknowledging Him in all our paths, we will be guided in the right direction, with paths made straight by Him, leading us to a blessed destination.

Thus, Proverbs 3:5 teaches us to entrust ourselves completely to God, and Proverbs 3:6 continues by reminding us to acknowledge God in every aspect of our lives. These two verses provide guidance for life that is very relevant in the modern world, where many people tend to rely on themselves or their own ingenuity. True trust and full recognition of God are the keys to receiving divine wisdom and guidance in our lives.

#### Discovering the Source of Discipleship Proverbs 3: 11-12

According to the KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary), discipleship in the context of theology refers to the process or activity of guiding, teaching, or educating someone to follow religious teachings more deeply. This discipleship involves spiritual development, learning about religious teachings, and applying religious values in daily life, usually focusing on building faith, character, and a way of life that is in harmony with religious teachings. Proverbs 3:11 is an important guideline in this discipleship, because the verse teaches us to trust God wholeheartedly and acknowledge Him in all things. To better understand the meaning contained in this verse, let's explore the original text in Hebrew.

**Proverbs 3: 11 states " O children, do not reject the teachings of the LORD, and don't you are bored of His warning."**

בְּנֵי מוֹסֵר יְהוָה אֶל־תִּמְאָס וְאֶל־תִּקְוֹת בְּתוֹכָחָתוֹ

(Beni musar Adonai al-timaas ve'al-taqotz betokhachto)

(Hebrew WTT, BibleWorks8)

" My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord " (Proverbs 3:11) . The Hebrew word for "my son" is בְּנִי ( beni ), which comes from the root בָּן (ben) which means son . This word not only indicates a family relationship, but also a loving relationship between father and son that is full of guidance and responsibility. In this context, "ben" reflects the position of a disciple who is loved by God and called to listen and accept His discipline.

The word for "disciple" in this verse is musar, which means discipline , moral instruction , or correction . It comes from the root word yasar, which has the connotation of correcting or straightening through teaching or even suffering. Within the framework of discipleship, musar is not a destructive punishment, but a loving act of God to shape the character and lead His people to righteous living.

The phrase "do not reject" is translated from אַל־תִּמָּאֵס (al-timaas). The verb מָאָס (ma'as) means to reject , ignore , or belittle . In this form, it is a prohibition against disregarding or discarding God's teachings, no matter how uncomfortable or challenging they may be. In the process of growing in faith, accepting Yahweh's musar is key to growing into spiritual maturity.

" And do not grow weary of His reproof " (Proverbs 3:11) , f this sense in Hebrew is וְאַל־תִּקְוֹץ בְּתוֹכְחָתוֹ (ve'al-taqotz betokhachto). The word תִּקְוֹץ (taqotz) comes from the verb קוּץ (quts), which means to be weary , bored , or fed up . It implies a sense of frustration or reluctance toward constant correction. In the context of discipleship, this verse reminds the younger generation not to feel bored or annoyed by God's reproof, because behind the reproof there is an intention of love and formation.

The word for "His warning" is בְּתוֹכְחָתוֹ (betokhachto), derived from the root יָכַח (yakach), which means to rebuke , to convict , or to bring to truth . This shows that God's rebuke is guiding, not blindly punishing. His rebuke is a loving call to return us to the right path.

Proverbs 3:11 emphasizes that the process of discipleship involves an open heart to God's discipline and correction. In the context of mentoring the younger generation, this verse is relevant because it teaches that spiritual maturity comes from a willingness to be disciplined, not from mere comfort. Churches and spiritual leaders must instill the understanding that every correction from God is an expression of His love that restores and shapes a better future for those who believe.

**Proverbs 3:12 explains, " For the LORD disciplines those he loves, like a father to a beloved child. "**

כִּי אֵת אֲשֶׁר־יְאָהֵב יְהוָה יוֹכִיחַ וּכְאֵב אֶת־בְּנוֹ יִרְצֶה

( Ki et asher ye'ehav Adonai yokhiakh, u'k'av et-ben yirtzeh )

(Hebrew WTT, BibleWorks8)

"For the LORD disciplines those he loves , " The Hebrew word for "to love" is יְאָהֵב (ye'ehav) , a form of the root אָהַב (ahav) , which means to love deeply and personally . It describes a relationship of unconditional love, full of caring and emotional closeness. In the context of discipleship, this teaches that any form of correction from God is born of a loving relationship , not simply authority.

"To instruct" is translated from יוֹכִיחַ (yokhiakh) , from the root יָכַח (yakach) , which also appears in Proverbs 3:11 as to rebuke or correct with the aim of leading to righteousness . This reinforces the understanding that God's correction is not meant to punish, but rather to straighten and restore. an important element in the character formation of the younger generation.

"Like a father to a beloved child , " This sense uses the word אָב (av) for "father," which symbolically in the Hebrew context refers to a protective figure, caregiver, and guide in spiritual and social life.

While the word “cherished” comes from יִרְצֶה (yirtzeh) , the root word is רָצַח (ratsah) which means to accept with pleasure, to like, or to please . This shows that God treats His people like a father who educates a child who is very precious to him. not with anger, but with tender love and a noble purpose.

### **Connecting Proverbs 3: 11-12 in Discipleship of the Younger Generation**

Discipleship of the younger generation not only instills the values of faith and trust in God but also shapes character through a process of loving discipline. This principle is affirmed in Proverbs 3:11–12, which teaches the importance of accepting God's discipline and reproof as an integral part of spiritual growth.

"O my son, do not reject the teachings of the LORD, and do not grow weary of His warnings, for the LORD teaches those He loves, as a father does to a beloved child." Proverbs 3:11–12

The younger generation, who are in the process of forming their identity and understanding of life, desperately need constructive guidance and correction. However, they often view discipline as negative or a form of rejection. This is where discipleship plays a crucial role, helping them understand that every rebuke from God stems from His profound love.

"Whoever I love, I rebuke and chastise; therefore relax your heart and repent!" Revelation 3:19

Proverbs 3:11 says, “My son, do not reject the LORD’s discipline, and do not grow weary of his admonitions.” The Hebrew word for “discipline” is musar (מוֹסֵר), which means disciplinary instruction or moral correction that shapes one’s life. Meanwhile, “warning” comes from the root word yakach (יָכַח), which means to rebuke to bring to light or truth. These two terms demonstrate that the process of true discipleship cannot be separated from discipline and character formation aimed at making young people more like Christ.

“Rebuke given openly is better than love in secret.” Proverbs 27:5

Discipleship must teach that resistance to divine correction is a form of foolishness, while accepting discipline is a form of humility and readiness to grow.

"Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but whoever hates reproof is a fool." Proverbs 12:1

Continuing to Proverbs 3:12, it is written, “For the LORD disciplines the one he loves, as a father does the son in whom he delights.” In the Hebrew text, the phrase “whom he loves” is translated from אֲשֶׁר יֵאָהֵב יְהוָה ( asher ye'ehav Adonai). The word יֵאָהֵב (ye'ehav) comes from the root אָהַב (ahav), which means to love with a deep, relational love. This shows that discipline is not a form of God's wrath, but an expression of His true and active love. Just as a father educates the child he loves (בֶּן יִרְצֶה / k'Av et-ben yirtzeh), so too God shapes the younger generation through guidance and constructive rebuke.

“For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he scourges everyone he accepts as his son.” Hebrews 12:6

In the context of discipleship, the younger generation needs to be formed not to fear correction, but instead to see it as a form of God's concern for their lives.

“Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach from your law.” Psalm 94:12

The church and faith leaders must follow God's example in this matter. rebuke with love, guide patiently, and uphold the truth with gentleness.

"And you fathers, do not stir up anger in the hearts of your children, but educate them in the teachings and counsel of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

Just as God does not abandon His children in the midst of their formation, spiritual leaders must also be actively present in their lives, creating a safe space for growth in faith and character.

This process instills the value that discipleship is not merely doctrinal teaching, but rather a lifelong journey with God that includes correction, repentance, and restoration. God's discipline shapes the younger generation to become spiritually mature individuals, resilient in facing challenges, and faithful in their calling.

"For those who are educated by Him will enjoy true peace." Isaiah 54:13

Through this process, they learn that God's discipline is the path to holiness and the fulfillment of His plan.

"For at that time all the rewards did not bring joy, but sorrow. But then he produced the fruit of righteousness which gave peace to those who were trained by him." Hebrews 12:11

Proverbs 3:11-12, with its profound Hebrew meaning, provides a solid theological foundation for discipleship among young people. These verses emphasize that God is not only a Guide but also a Shaper, shaping young people through concrete love and saving reproof. By understanding and experiencing this within the community of faith, young people come to know God not only as Savior but also as a Father who guides them toward a life of purpose and divine fulfillment.

## **Coding Mechanism : Self-Healing by Doing Self-Talk**

### **1. Dedication and love of God in Discipleship of the Younger Generation**

God's discipline and love are two crucial aspects of discipleship and character formation in the Christian faith, especially for the younger generation. These two concepts play a significant role in guiding believers to grow in their knowledge and obedience to God.

God's upbringing (מוּסָר, *musar*), in Proverbs 3:11-12, we are taught to accept God's upbringing with an open heart, "O my son, do not reject the Lord's teachings, and do not get tired of His warnings. For the Lord teaches those He loves, like a father to a beloved child." The word מוּסָר (*musar*) in Hebrew has a deeper meaning than just simple education or instruction. *Musar* refers to discipline or moral correction that shapes and matures a person. This upbringing is not to punish, but to shape character and bring someone to the truth. In the context of discipleship, God's upbringing helps the younger generation understand that they are not only taught the truth, but also taught to live according to that truth. God uses His upbringing to perfect our character and make us more like Christ. Hebrews 12:6-7 also reminds us of the importance of God's discipline, "For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he scourges every son he receives. If you endure discipline, count it all joy." This verse affirms that God's discipline is a sign of his love, and although sometimes difficult, it is beneficial for our spiritual growth.

God's love (אָהַב, *ahav*), on the other hand, is the foundation upon which all His actions toward His people are based. In Proverbs 3:12, we find the expression that God disciplines those He loves, just as a father loves his children. The Hebrew word אָהַב (*ahav*) refers to a deep, relational love. This love is not passive, but active, seen in the way God guides and disciplines His people with the goal of leading them to a better life. God's love motivates His instruction and rebuke. Because of His love, God shapes us and gives us opportunities to grow. Strengthening of 1 John 4:9-10, "In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." God's profound love is not only evident in his sacrifice through Jesus Christ, but also in every step of his training for his people. God's love is the reason why he shapes us in sometimes difficult but purposeful ways.

The relationship between Discipline and God's Love : God's love and His discipline always go hand in hand.

God's love not only provides comfort, but also guides us to live in truth, even when that means discipline and correction. God's discipline is an expression of His profound love. Without His love, discipline can be harsh or threatening, but because of His love, God's discipline is always well-intentioned—to mature us and lead us to a better life.

In Revelation 3:19: "As many as I love, I warn and discipline; therefore be faithful and repent!" This verse confirms that God's true love includes discipline and reproof that build us up to live according to His will.

**Discipleship of the Younger Generation** In the context of discipleship of the younger generation, it is crucial to teach them that God's discipline is a sign of His love. Many young people may perceive discipline as a form of violence or indifference, but through proper teaching, they will understand that God's discipline is His way of training them for a blessed and peaceful life. By recognizing God's love in every form of His discipline, the younger generation will be better prepared to accept life's challenges and grow into better individuals, like Christ.

Discipleship of the younger generation must involve teaching about God's discipline and love. God's discipline teaches them to live according to His will, while His love gives them strength to endure and grow in the truth. These two aspects must be explained clearly and consistently in the church, so that the younger generation can understand that every rebuke and formation from God is an expression of perfect love that leads to restoration, growth, and a purposeful life. As stated in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Be ye followers of me, as I also am of Christ," this discipleship invites the younger generation to follow God's example of love and discipline in their lives, making God's love and discipline the foundation of their lives.

**The Church's Role in Guiding the Younger Generation:** The church plays an important role in guiding the younger generation through self-healing and self-talk based on the truth of God's Word. Proverbs 3:11-12 teaches us not to reject God's discipline, which in Hebrew is called *musar*, meaning instruction or moral correction that shapes one's life. *Musar* refers to discipline that is constructive, not punitive. This is a form of God's love that nurtures and shapes our character.

It is important to note that God's discipline is done with His deep love, as recorded in Proverbs 3:12, "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." The Hebrew word אָהַב (*ahav*) indicates a deep, relational love. God's love is not a distant or abstract love, but a love that is present in our daily lives, guiding and shaping us with understanding.

When the church teaches healthy self-talk, it means guiding young people to speak to themselves with words that remind them of God's love and guidance, and that God's discipline, though sometimes involving correction or rebuke, is always for their good. The church must help them understand that God's teaching is a manifestation of His love that not only directs but also heals, shapes, and shapes them into a more Christ-like state.

## 2. Approach with Self-Talk Method

Proverbs 3:1-2 explained, O my son, do not forget my teachings, and let your heart keep my commandments, because long life, years of age, and prosperity will be added to you.

כִּי-אַרְכִּימִים יְהִי־וַיִּחַי־לְךָ, מִיָּד וְשָׁלוֹם-רַב. בְּנִי, אֵל-תִּשְׁכַּח-תּוֹרָתִי, וּמִצְוֹתַי יִצֹר-לְבָבְךָ.

( Beni, al-tishkach torati, u-mitzvotai yitsor libekha. Ki-arukkayim yihyun lekha, yamekha u-shalom rav. )

(Hebrew WTT, BibleWorks8)

Proverbs 3:1-2 offers valuable advice to the younger generation, reminding them not to forget God's teachings and to always keep His commandments in their hearts. The word Beni, translated as "My son," is not only a family term of address but also an expression of the close and loving relationship between mentor and mentee. This demonstrates that discipleship is not simply a process of intellectual instruction, but rather a caring and loving relationship. Young people need to be taught to view God's teachings as something of great value and relevance to their daily lives, not as something to be simply accepted without understanding.

The word אל-תשכח (Al-tishkach), meaning "do not forget," warns against forgetting or neglecting God's teachings amidst life's distractions and challenges. The world often offers various temptations that can lead young people to forget the values taught in God's Word. Therefore, effective discipleship is one that not only teaches knowledge about God but also instills the habit of thinking about and applying God's Word in every aspect of their lives. This aligns with God's teachings, which are practical and applicable to all situations in daily life, both in big and small decisions.

The word תורת (Torati), meaning "my teachings," refers to the laws and principles of life given by God to guide His people in living a life pleasing to Him. In discipleship, these teachings lead not only to doctrinal instruction but also to the formation of character and behavior that reflect God's love and righteousness. ומצוות (u-mitzvotai), meaning His commandments, emphasize the importance of obedience to God. True discipleship requires the younger generation to live by these principles, not just in words, but in concrete actions that reflect love for God and others.

The last part of this verse, כי-ארוכיים (Ki-arukkayim), meaning long life, and שלום-רב (u-shalom rav), meaning peace, imply the promise of blessings that follow obedience to God's teachings. Long life means not only a long physical life, but also a life filled with wisdom, discernment, and a deep understanding of life's true purpose. Prosperity here includes inner peace, harmonious relationships with God and others, and the sense of security that comes from living in God's will. In the context of discipleship, this is a promise that a life filled with God's teachings brings true peace, not only in one's personal life but also in the community of faith.

Overall, Proverbs 3:1-2 teaches that discipling young people must involve more than just cognitive or intellectual instruction. Effective discipleship is a process that teaches them to guard and nurture God's teachings in their hearts, which in turn shapes their character and leads them to lives of blessing and peace. The church and spiritual leaders have a crucial role in helping this generation of young people know and live out God's teachings, so they can experience lives filled with wisdom, peace, and true divine purpose.

## Implications

By referring to an exegetical study of Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 3:11-12, and Proverbs 3:1-2, the author finds a profound connection between Christian theological teachings and a spiritual guidance approach in shaping the character of the younger generation, especially in developing healthy self-talk. The church has a crucial role in helping the younger generation continue to nurture God's teachings in their hearts. These teachings are not only intellectual in nature, but also shape behavior and character that reflect God's love. If theological teachings are accepted without being applied in daily life, they will be empty and have no meaningful impact. Conversely, applying God's teachings based on a deep understanding of God's character will guide the younger generation towards a life filled with blessings, peace, and true divine purpose.

## Recommendations for Further Research

Through the discussion of the church's role in guiding the younger generation through a healthy self-talk approach based on the theological teachings of Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 3:11-12, and Proverbs 3:1-2, there are still several aspects that can be explored further. However, due to space limitations, the author cannot discuss the teachings in this chapter in their entirety. Therefore, further research is needed to delve deeper into the application of God's teachings in Proverbs, especially in shaping the character of the younger generation amidst the challenges of contemporary life. In addition, further research is also needed to understand how the church can deepen discipleship that emphasizes not only doctrinal teaching but also teaches the application of the principles of God's Word in everyday life. Thus, a more in-depth study of the relationship between biblical teachings and the realities of the lives of the younger generation is essential to provide a more comprehensive view of the church's role in guiding them to live according to God's will.

## Conclusion

Based on an expository study of Proverbs 3:1-2, 3:5-6, and 3:11-12, it can be concluded that discipleship of the younger generation in Christianity is not sufficient only based on the transfer of theological knowledge, but also demands a comprehensive, relational, and applicable spiritual engagement. The teachings in Proverbs emphasize the importance of trusting God completely (בַּטַּח – batach ) and acknowledging Him in all aspects of life (יָדַע – yada' ), which is the foundation for the growth of Christian faith and character. God's discipline (מוּסָר – musar) and His love (אַהֲבָה – ahav ) are two complementary elements in forming a mature spiritual character. Through a discipleship approach that integrates the exegesis of Hebrew texts, the development of healthy self-talk , and pastoral guidance, the church can be an effective space in forming a young generation that is resilient, wise, and firmly rooted in Christ.

## Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and publication of this article.

## Funding

The author received no financial support for the research, authorship and publication of this article.

## References

- Adrian, J. (nd). Discipleship of the Young Generation in a Pluralistic Society at the GMIM “Damai” Belang Congregation, Belang Region. Titian Emas , 2020 (1), 39–58.
- Dwi Bakti Susanto. (nd). THE ROLE OF LEADERS IN THE CHURCH OF DISCIPLESHIP .
- Leonardo Presley Purba & Saptorini (2021). THE ROLE OF THE PASTOR IN MANAGING CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP PATTERNS IN 2 TIMOTHY 2:2 IN THE ERA OF DISRUPTIONS. In DIDASKO: Journal of Theology and Christian Education (Vol. 1). <http://e-journal.stakdiaspora.ac.id/index.php/didasko/index>
- Manao, ML, Manao, M., Purba, A., Nainggolan, AM, Ikat Jakarta, S., Arrabonar, S., Jakarta, SI, & Manado, I. (nd).

DIDASKALIA JOURNAL OF CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRODI PAK,-FIPK,-IAKN MANADO .  
<https://ejournal-iakn-manado.ac.id/index.php/didaskalia/article/view/465> .

Pekuwali, JR, Ruben, H., Suprapdi, Y., & Nugroho, K. (nd). Implementation of GC 7.0 Discipleship Implementation of GC 7.0 Discipleship to Increase the Spiritual Maturity of the Congregation at GBI Grow Center, South Jakarta .

Riski, Endah Totok Budiyo, & Farel Yosua Sualang. (nd). Exegetical Study of Proverbs 1-9: An Antithesis Between Fools and Wise Men . 15 (1), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.47154/sjtpk.v15i1.194>

Simatupang, R. (2023). BIBLE STUDY DESIGN AND MODEL . 8 (1), 73–87. <http://ejournal.iakntarutung.ac.id/index.php/>

Tamawiy, AC (2021). A FOUNDATION FOR A CULTURE OF JUSTPEACE: Church as a Hermeneutic Community to Promote Peace Narratives. MAHABBAH: Journal of Religion and Education , 2 (1), 61–72. <https://doi.org/10.47135/mahabbah.v2i1.3>

Triputra, P. (2018). Digital Media in Discipleship of Young Christians in the Industrial Era 4.0. Indonesian Journal of Communication , 5 (2). <https://doi.org/10.7454/jki.v5i2.8908>

Yurlina Ndruru, Andreas Teko, & Sandra Rosiana Tapilaha. (2024). Theology of Christian Religious Education: Foundations and Implications for Modern Education. Tri Tunggal: Journal of Christian and Catholic Education , 2 (2), 167–176. <https://doi.org/10.61132/tritunggal.v2i2.270>

BibleWorks8

Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI)