

Proverbs - Be a Wise Guy for God

The Simple, the Mocker and the Fool

Week 2

*How long will you simple ones love your simple ways?
How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? Proverbs 1:22*

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Class Topics

Week 1	Purposes of Proverbs
Week 2	The Simple, the Mocker and the Fool
Week 3	God and Man
Week 4	All in the Family
Week 5	Win Friends and Influence People
Week 6	Hard Work Versus Laziness

Purposes of Proverbs - Review

Proverbs are statements of commonplace truth using comparisons or figures of speech = Not always true
Hebrew poetry uses Parallelism and Intensification (vs rhythm and rhyme)
Proverbs was written by Solomon, Agur and Lemuel (Compiled under Hezekiah) = Multiple people
Solomon was given wisdom and great insight by God (Greater than any before or after)

Five purposes are given for the book of Proverbs:

- For attaining wisdom and discipline = mastery of life and self-control
- For understanding words of insight = discernment
- For acquiring a disciplined and prudent life (right, just and fair) = ethical and moral
- For teaching the wise and guiding the discerning
- For understanding proverbs and parables

Theme: *The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Proverbs 1:7)*

The Fear of the Lord is recognizing that He is in control and seeking to walk in His ways
By seeking God's truths, commands and wisdom we come to understand *The Fear of the Lord*
God gives wisdom, knowledge and understanding to those who fear Him
As we receive His wisdom, we grow to understand His Will & ways and want to follow Him more

Wisdom for Life (Proverbs 24:3-6)

What is Wisdom? = Write answers on board

Hebrew Word - *Chokmah* = Skillful mastery of life

What does wisdom do for our everyday lives?

Proverbs 24:3-4 = It builds a foundation for our lives and fills our lives with rich blessings

What does wisdom do for leaders?

Proverbs 24:5 = Gives power and strength

What does wisdom do for those in charge?

Proverbs 24:6 = Brings success and victory

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5 Rules for Living (Proverbs 3:1-12)

What 5 important command/reward lessons are given for living?

Command (3:1) = Remember and take to heart what you've been taught

Reward (3:2) = You will live long and prosper

Command (3:3) = Make love and faithfulness key parts of your life

Reward (3:4) = You will win favor and a good reputation with God and others

Command (3:5-6a) = Trust in God, not in yourself

Reward (3:6b) = He will show you the right way to go and will remove obstacles

Command (3:7) = Through *Fear of the Lord* look to God's wisdom, not your own

Reward (3:8) = A healthy life

Command (3:9) = Return to God the firstfruits of what He has given you

Reward (3:10) = He will bless you beyond measure - You can't out-give God

What does God's discipline have to go with wisdom?

Proverbs 3:11-12 = He loves us so much that He wants to guide us back into His ways

The Value of Wisdom (Proverbs 3:13-26)

What word does the poem in 3:13-18 begin and end with? = Blessed

Why is this word used for wisdom?

Proverbs 3:13-15 = Wisdom is more valuable than anything else in this world

Why is wisdom worth more than silver, gold and rubies?

Proverbs 3:16a = Long life

Proverbs 3:16b = Riches and honor

Proverbs 3:17a = Pleasant ways

Proverbs 3:17b = Peace

Proverbs 3:18a = Source of life

Proverbs 3:18b = Blessings

Why should we consider wisdom so valuable for our lives?

Proverbs 3:19-20 = It was through wisdom that God created us and everything we know

How does Solomon summarize his teaching on the value of wisdom?

Proverbs 3:21-26 = Follow God's wisdom and have His confidence to meet difficult situations

Those Who Reject Wisdom (Proverbs 1:20-33)

How accessible is wisdom for those who really seek it?

Proverbs 1:20-21 = Openly accessible for all not distracted by worldly things

What 3 groups are identified who lack wisdom? How do they differ?

Proverbs 1:22 = Simple ones (inexperienced), mockers (arrogant), fools (downright stupid)

What do the 3 groups have in common?

Proverbs 1:28-31 = Since they reject God & His wisdom, they'll reap consequences, not rewards

What can these 3 groups expect?

Proverbs 1:32 (see also 1:26-27) = Death and destruction without God's protection

How does this differ from those who seek wisdom?

Proverbs 1:33 = Those who follow God & His wisdom will live in the security of God's protection

How can we avoid the curses and consequences of those who reject God and His wisdom?

Proverbs 2:11-12 = Wisdom, discretion and understanding will keep us from their wicked ways

How do we then reap the rewards of God's wisdom?

Proverbs 2:20-22 = We instead walk in the righteousness of good men

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The Simple (Proverbs 9:1-6) = Inexperienced, gullible

What are some of the primary problems of the Simple?

Proverbs 7:7 = Young and inexperienced, Lack judgment

Proverbs 14:15 = Believes anything, Gullible

Proverbs 22:3 = Don't recognize danger and suffer for it

What can the Simple expect if he does not gain prudence?

Proverbs 14:18 = Stay simple and turn into a fool

Proverbs 1:32 = Short life

How can the Simple gain prudence and escape this destiny?

Proverbs 1:1-4 = By following the teachings of the experienced and wise

The Mocker (Proverbs 9:7-12) = Arrogant, self-opinionated

What is the primary problem of the Mocker?

Proverbs 21:24 = Arrogant pride

Proverbs 26:12 = *Wise in his own eyes ... More hope for a fool than for him*

Proverbs 29:8 (13:10) = Their pride creates problems for others

How easily can we correct the Mocker?

Proverbs 15:12 = *A mocker resents correction*

Proverbs 9:7-8 = *Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult*

How should a Mocker be treated?

Proverbs 22:10 = Avoid them, Remove them from your life and your life will be better

Proverbs 21:11 = *When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom*

The Fool (Proverbs 9:13-18) = Stupid

What are some of the characteristics of the Fool?

Proverbs 17:24 = Short attention span

Proverbs 12:11 (14:12) = *Chases fantasies, lacks judgment*

Proverbs 23:9 (17:10, 16; 27:22) = Slow to learn

Proverbs 1:7 = They despise wisdom and discipline

Proverbs 18:6-7 (12:23; 13:16; 17:28) = Speaks without thinking

Proverbs 24:7 = Has nothing to say of any value

Proverbs 18:2 (12:15; 20:3) = Doesn't care what others think, Won't compromise

Proverbs 29:11 (12:16) = Quick tempered

Proverbs 10:23 (13:19; 15:21) = *Finds pleasure in evil*

What does Solomon say about associating with the Fool?

Proverbs 13:20 = Walk with the wise or suffer with fools

Proverbs 17:12 = Being around fools is very dangerous to life

Proverbs 17:25 (17:21) = *A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to his mother*

Proverbs 26:4 (26:1-12) = Don't fall into the ways of a fool and become a fool yourself

How can parents keep the folly of children from growing into the Fool?

Proverbs 22:15 = Training and discipline

Proverbial Quiz (page 4) = Go over answers

Closing Prayer

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Proverbial Quiz

1. Match the two Bible Proverb halves in each grouping:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Reckless words pierce like a sword, but | a. teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. (9:9) |
| 2. Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; | b. with humility comes wisdom. (11:2) |
| 3. A simple man believes anything, but | c. the tongue of the wise brings healing. (12:18) |
| 4. When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but
= 1c, 2a, 3d, 4b | d. a prudent man gives thought to his steps. (14:15) |
| 5. A truthful witness does not deceive, but | e. if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer. (9:12) |
| 6. A truthful witness saves lives, but | f. a false witness tells lies. (12:17) |
| 7. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; | g. a false witness pours out lies. (14:5) |
| 8. A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but
= 5g, 6h, 7i, 8j | h. a false witness is deceitful. (14:25) |
| 9. The wealth of the wise is their crown, but | i. a wise man listens to advice. (12:15) |
| 10. The wise woman builds her house, but | j. the heart of fools blurts out folly. (12:23) |
| 11. He who trusts in himself is a fool, but | k. a companion of fools suffers harm. (13:20) |
| 12. The way of a fool seems right to him, but | l. with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down. (14:1) |
| 13. A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but | m. the folly of fools yields folly. (14:24) |
| 14. He who walks with the wise grows wise, but
= 9m, 10l, 11n, 12i, 13j, 14k | n. he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. (28:26) |

2. Fill in the blanks of these English proverbs:

A fool and his money are soon parted
A good man is hard to find
A little knowledge is a dangerous thing
Absolute power corrupts absolutely

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool
than to speak and remove all doubt
Boys will be boys
Easy come, easy go
Every dog has his day

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread
Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence
He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas
He who laughs last laughs longest
He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword

It takes one to know one
It's not worth crying over spilt milk
Live for today for tomorrow never comes
Misery loves company
People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones

Pride comes before a fall
Stupid is as stupid does
There are none so blind as those that will not see
There's a sucker born every minute

Those who do not learn from history
are doomed to repeat it
Tomorrow never comes
Two wrongs don't make a right
You can't teach an old dog new tricks