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
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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
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 do 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

You can find this Study on the Book of Proverbs on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com/Proverbs
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 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 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

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

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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 d. a prudent man gives thought to his steps. (14:15)

= 1c, 2a, 3d, 4b

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 h. a false witness is deceitful. (14:25)

= 5g, 6h, 7i, 8j

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 blurs 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 n. he who walks in wisdom is kept safe. (28:26)

= 9m, 10l, 11n, 12i, 13j, 14k

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