

Session 2: Wisdom

Scripture questions:

To understand this material you must first think about how you view wisdom. How would you define wisdom? What do you need, or have to do, to be considered wise?

Proverbs 1:1-7

What is the purpose of these proverbs or “sayings?” What are the benefits of wisdom?

What does “fear of the Lord” mean? Why is it the foundation of wisdom?

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom is portrayed as a classy lady. What is “Lady Wisdom” described as doing? Do people naturally seek her out or must she seek them out?

What are the consequences for those who listen to or ignore “Lady Wisdom”?

Proverbs 7:1-27

Foolishness is described as a tempting adulteress. What is “Lady Foolishness” doing in this

passage?

What are the consequences for those who listen to the call of Foolishness?

Proverbs 12:1-25

Each of these verses are insights of what wise action looks like. In a brief sentence, write down the central lesson learned from each of these proverbs.

In modern society, **wisdom** is described as a mixture of intelligence and life experiences. The Old Testament concept of **wisdom** involves a careful view of the world and helps us discover the order of God's creation, right actions, and attitudes.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
Proverbs 1:7 NIV*

The Fear of the Lord

- This means putting yourself in the right relationship to God.
- We must recognize the benefits and dangers of God's creation before we discover its value.

Lady Wisdom

- The writer of Proverbs personifies wisdom as a lady. Even though we benefit from wisdom, wisdom has to pursue us and convince us to listen.
- Proverbs 1:26-27 warns those who ignore wisdom of the tragic consequences.

Foolishness

- The writer personifies foolishness as an alluring and enticing adulteress.
- Embracing foolishness and rejecting the pursuit of wisdom results in us willfully going to our own destruction.
- If you choose not to pursue wisdom, you are described as chasing foolishness.

Proverb: a brief statement of wisdom about God's order.

Proverbs emphasizes that the wise, and those that pursue wisdom, are righteous, but those who do not seek wisdom are sinful and foolish. There is no in-between with wisdom. If we don't chase wisdom, the result is us willfully going to our own destruction. It is our responsibility to learn and apply God's wisdom to our lives, so we too can be wise.

Application Questions:

Knowing that the fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom, and knowing what the phrase means, how do you demonstrate that in the way you think and live?

How do you seek or embrace foolishness in your life? What can you do to encourage the pursuit of wisdom?

Select a partner and then each of you select three proverbs from chapter 12. How can you apply those proverbs in your life? For the remainder of this module, keep each other accountable to apply those proverbs to your life.

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