

# Why We Need Proverbs

Proverbs 1

## **MEMORY VERSE**

PROVERBS 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Several sheets of newspaper crumpled into wads.

String and scissors.

A baking cup for each child, a pipe cleaner and crayons or markers.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **The Shield of Wisdom**

To introduce today's lesson play this fun game together. You will need several wadded up sheets of newspaper. Explain that we are going to play a game that is kind of like Dodge Ball. One person will stand in the center, and the rest of us will try to tag that person with newspapers. If you are tagged, you must pick someone to take your place in the center, then leave the game. Choose a volunteer to go first and begin play.

After playing for a while tell the children that you are going to change the rules. The person in the middle will now be able to choose four other people to act as "human shields." The people standing in the circle still have to try to tag the center person, but the human shields can catch the newspapers and throw them back or hit them out of the way. What will happen is that the center person will probably not get tagged. After a couple of minutes switch to let someone else be the center person.

After playing for a while, stop the game. Have the children pick up the newspapers from the floor and sit back down in the circle. Ask

them what it was like to be the center person at first. Then ask what it was like to be the center person after we allowed the “human shields.” There was protection from getting hit. Explain that our enemy, the devil is coming after us with fiery darts. If we want to be defended from them then we need to have God’s protection. Proverbs teaches us that if we will listen to God’s wisdom then we will be protected from bad choices and from the enemy. Now imagine the four human shields being wisdom, instruction, knowledge and understanding.

## **LESSON TIME!**

Knowledge is a wonderful thing. The desire to learn and understand things is a natural part of each one of us. We build schools, institutes, and universities where learned professors can teach us about the world and many other things. It seems as though we live in a day and age where technology has allowed us to tap into incredible sources of information, and knowledge is everywhere.

Knowledge is good, but there is a big difference between knowledge (having the facts), and wisdom (applying those facts to life). We may increase in knowledge, but without wisdom our knowledge is useless. We need to be able to apply and live out what we know. As we study our lesson in Proverbs today we will discover our great need for wisdom and that **True wisdom comes from God.**

### **PROVERBS 1:1-6**

**The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:**

**To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding,**

**To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity;**

To give prudence to the simple, to the young man  
knowledge and discretion—

A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a  
man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

To understand a proverb and an enigma, the words  
of the wise and their riddles.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, left us a treasury of written wisdom. God had blessed him with great wisdom, and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he gives practical insights and guidelines for life in the form of proverbs. These proverbs are short, wise, and easy to learn sayings that call a person to action. Solomon gives us hundreds of practical examples of how to live according to godly wisdom, which develops a closer and more intimate relationship with God.

Proverbs begins with a clear statement of its purpose to teach us wisdom for godly living. God wants us to seek His wisdom so we know how to live and how to act in every situation. With His wisdom we can be understanding, just, and fair in everything we do. Even the simple-minded can be wise, while those who are already wise, can be made much wiser. God desires that we use wisdom when faced with problems. Through Proverbs, we receive godly instructions for wise behavior. **True wisdom comes from God.**

### PROVERBS 1:7

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

How does a man become wise? The first step is to trust and respect the Lord. In this age of information, knowledge is plentiful but wisdom is scarce. Wisdom means far more than simply owning a lot of information. Wisdom comes only from God, but the first

step in receiving wisdom is to trust and respect God. We can have all of the knowledge in the world and still make bad choices in our lives and be destroyed. We need God's wisdom to know how to make good choices that will help us to have a wonderful life blessed by God.

Verse seven is the key verse here and throughout the book of Proverbs. If you refuse to respect God, you will only live the way of the fool, who is right in his own eyes, only to mock at sin (see Proverbs 12:15; 14:9). Fools are thickheaded and stubborn, refusing to listen to others. They have a lack of spiritual wisdom to make good decisions and through their arrogance they turn away from wise counsel. They will be hurt from their bad choices and finally judged by God.

You cannot gain knowledge of spiritual things if you begin in the wrong place. Wisdom begins when you fear the Lord. Recognize God's character and respond by revering, trusting, worshiping, obeying, and serving Him. Apart from Him, you cannot understand spiritual things. Trust in God and He will make you truly wise. **True wisdom comes from God.** Search for wisdom as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 2:4-5).

### PROVERBS 1:8-9

**My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother;**

**For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.**

Parents have a big responsibility to teach and train their children in the ways of the Lord. Children learn values, morals, and what is important by observing how their parents act and react to situations everyday. If parents live out a deep respect for God, their children will develop the same attitude. This was the

encouragement of these parents for their son. That he would apply his heart to his parents' wise sayings, and wear the ornament of their wise counsel and teaching in his life.

Also we can learn from these verses how to be good parents ourselves. We need to find our answers and wisdom in God's Word. Whether or not we become parents in the future, we can never go wrong when we learn God's Word and put His wisdom into practice.

We live in a day and age where the ornaments of body piercing and tattoos adorn the youth of today. Why not adorn ourselves with the ornament of God's wisdom, beginning with trust and reverence for Him? These things will truly catch someone's eye, since it is so different from the world.

#### PROVERBS 1:10-19

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause;

Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit;

We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil;

Cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse"—

My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path;

For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.

Surely, in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird;

But they lie in wait for their own blood, they lurk secretly for their own lives.

So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners.

Pressure to sin from other people can be hard to overcome, especially when you are enticed by those who are very persuasive. These verses give us a strong warning to avoid those who want to pull you into wicked and evil ways of living. Maybe there is someone who you are calling a “friend” who wants you to do bad things. These people are not really friends. We need to be strong and remain close to the Lord. God wants His people to set the example for others.

Sin can look good because it makes us feel like we can be one of the crowd. When we decide to go along with others and refuse to listen to the truth, our own fleshly appetites become our masters, and we will do anything to satisfy them. We need to be very careful not to listen to those who would try to talk us into doing bad things. They really don’t care about God or care about us. They just want us to join them. Sin destroys people and the devil wants to destroy as many people as he can. He will destroy us if we let him.

But sin, even though it may be attractive, it is deadly! We need to consider the consequences that our sin will bring us. We need to stay away from those who want to draw us into activities that we know are wrong. Do not even go near those people who would try to lead you that way. Hang around friends that truly care about you and want to see you grow in your relationship with the Lord.

Our only alternative is to turn and run from sin. We cannot be friendly with sin and expect our lives to remain unaffected. Being with those who seek to harm others for gain or pleasure will eventually bring harm to you. When a bird sees a trap set, it stays away (verse 17). A wise person will not run around with fools.

## **Double-minded Duos**

This game will teach the children about peer pressure and the need to be single minded about our commitment to the Lord. For this game you will need string and scissors. Have the children form pairs. Gently tie the partners together at the knees with string. Explain that this is a SILENT game and NO talking is allowed.

When everyone is ready explain that you will be calling out commands for the children to follow as pairs. Here are some examples of commands you can give:

1. Skip around the room backwards
2. Hop up and down three times
3. Lie on your side
4. Hop around in a circle

You can make up your own commands as well. The book of James (often called the Proverbs of the New Testament) tells us that we should not be double-minded. Ask the children if they had difficulty following the commands as partners. They all should have had a struggle. Explain that when two people, with two minds want to do something two different ways then it becomes difficult to get it done. We need to be careful about who we hang around with. We learn from Proverbs that whom we choose as friends is very important. We need to be single-minded, serving the Lord. If we hang out with others who want to sin and do bad things then they may cause us to be double-minded. Let's hang out with friends who think like Jesus!



## PROVERBS 1:20-27

Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares.

She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city she speaks her words:

“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge.

Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,

Because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke,

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,

When your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Solomon speaks of wisdom as one who shouts in the streets to get our attention. It's a beautiful picture of God's desire to share His wisdom with us. God's wisdom is in this world giving out invitations to people to come and enjoy. To receive wisdom and a great life blessed by the Lord. God has given us His wisdom in the book of Proverbs, and if we listen to His wisdom we can become wise. Wisdom calls out to each one of us and desires to help us to live for Jesus.

Some people might think that a fool is someone who isn't very smart. A fool can be a smart person who has knowledge, but they make bad choices. They don't want anything to do with God and His Word. They are neither dumb nor stupid. A foolish person is unable to tell right from wrong or good from bad. With a deaf ear towards God's Word and His instruction, the foolish person despises the knowledge and wisdom of God. **True wisdom comes from God.**

### PROVERBS 1:28-33

“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

They would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke.

Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies.

For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them;

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.”

There are serious problems that will come to those who don't want anything to do with God's wisdom. What is the fool going to do when troubles come? Who will they turn to? Problems will come to everyone in this life. The foolish man in Jesus' parable was the man who built his house on the sand. When the storm came his house was destroyed. To build our lives on this world or anything other than Jesus is to build our lives on sand. They will be

destroyed when the storms come. But to build our lives on Jesus is like the wise man that built his house on a rock. When the storms came it stood firm and strong.

To hear wisdom's advice we must be willing to listen. We should not let pride stand in our way. Our pride causes us to think more highly of our wisdom and desires. If we think we are wiser than God is, we have fallen into foolish pride, and that's a dangerous place to be.

For the Lord grants wisdom! His every Word is a treasure of knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6). Through His wisdom, He gives us safety and peace. The fool will only suffer through the wake of trails and despair to experience the full terrors of the pathway they have chosen. The knowledge of this world will only bring disappointment.

Again the place we start to get wisdom is by fearing the Lord. **True wisdom comes from God.** Wisdom is God's gift to us. In James 1 we are told that if we lack wisdom all we have to do is to ask the Lord for it and He will give it to us. I find that I need to ask for God's wisdom every day. How about you?

Through reverence and trust in God, we will begin to discover true wisdom. It will keep us from evil and lead us to a holy life, protecting us from a life of folly in every circumstance. **True wisdom comes from God.**

## The Wisdom Umbrella

For this craft you will need a baking cup for each child, a pipe cleaner and crayons or markers. Have children each color their own design on the outside of the baking cup, turn it upside down, and slide a pipe cleaner through the center. Show them how to make a small loop in the pipe cleaner above the cup and a curve in the pipe cleaner at the other end to make it look like an umbrella.

Explain that God gives us His wisdom, which is like an umbrella or protection for us. We should desire God's wisdom above anything else because it will protect us.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to fear the Lord and ask for wisdom every day. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.