



## WEEK ONE

## WISDOM IS ESSENTIAL

Proverbs 1-2

### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

### BIBLE STUDY

1. Proverbs 1:1-6 lists purposes for the book of Proverbs. What are those purposes?
2. How are Proverbs 1:15-16 and Psalm 1:1 similar?
3. Why do you think metaphors about paths, ways, and roads (Prov. 1:15, 19; Prov. 2:9, 12-15, 18-19, 20-22) are used when teaching about wisdom?
4. According to Proverbs 2:1-8, how can you grow in the fear of the Lord?

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Think about someone you consider wise. What attributes cause you to view them as wise?
2. Proverbs 1:5-6 teaches us that a wise person is marked by teachability. Are you teachable? What about those closest to you? Why or why not?
3. Is it possible for someone to be wise yet reject Christ?

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Talk with your children about why listening is necessary in order to gain wisdom. Perhaps start with a simple object lesson on knowledge vs. wisdom, like this [sponge and water](#) analogy.

*Wisdom allows us to live in a way honoring to God. Why do you think wisdom is important (wait for responses)? How do you think we get wisdom (wait for responses)? Listening is the first step to growing in wisdom. When we listen, we are able to soak up a lot of knowledge from those who love us!*

*Listen to what King Solomon, King David's son, told children to do with their parent's teaching, "Pay close attention, friend, to what your father tells you; never forget what you learned at your mother's knee. Wear their counsel like flowers in your hair, like rings on your fingers" (Prov. 1:8-9 MSG).*

## **APPLICATION**

Seek to spend time with someone wise, such as the person you listed under question 1 in the General Questions section. Make a plan to have at least one conversation a month with that wise person. Ask questions about life, relationships, God, etc. Listen and be teachable.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Book: [\*The Goldsworthy Trilogy: Gospel and Kingdom, Gospel and Wisdom, The Gospel in Revelation\*](#)

Book: [\*Hear, My Son: Teaching and Learning in Proverbs 1-9\*](#)

Blog: [\*"Wisdom and Love"\*](#)

Article: [\*"Wisdom for Parents of Teenagers"\*](#)

Podcast: [\*"How to Have a Healthy Fear of God"\*](#)



## WEEK TWO

### FOOLISHNESS IS COSTLY

Proverbs 3-4

#### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?
3. Which one of the "costs of foolishness" (health, time, money, relationships, your life) has most impacted your life? Which have you seen to be the most dangerous in those you know or in our culture at large?

#### BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Proverbs 4:20-27. According to this passage, what are some key lessons you can apply in your Christian walk?
2. Where does foolishness come from according to Proverbs 22:15?
3. How can we walk in wisdom rather than foolishness? Look for verses similar to Proverbs 14:16-17.
4. Last week, we saw that a wise person is teachable. According to Proverbs 18:2-3, what is the fool's response to instruction?

#### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What are a few differences between the fool, the scoffer, and the simple?
2. How does Proverbs help us as we wait for God's perfect order to be restored?
3. Why does the world view the gospel as foolish? How is Jesus the wisdom of God?

#### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Talk with your children about the cost of being foolish. Consider using a [Decision Helper Mobile](#) craft to help your children understand how to make wise decisions.

*Wise people listen and learn when someone is teaching them. What do you think foolish people do?*

*Wise people learn what's good and bad from people who love them, but foolish people don't want to learn. When foolish people make decisions, do they make good decisions? Why or why not? How can we get better at making wise decisions?*

## **APPLICATION**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Take time to pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to areas in which you don't fear him or trust him. Think through the things that consume your time and pray through Proverbs 3:5-7. Ask God and yourself if you are leaning on your own understanding or if you are acknowledging him in all your ways.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Book: [\*Wisdom Christology: How Jesus Becomes God's Wisdom for Us\*](#)

Book: [\*The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place\*](#)

Interview: [\*"Wisdom Christology: An Interview with Dan Ebert"\*](#)

Article: [\*"When Knowledge Becomes Wisdom"\*](#)

Article: [\*"God, Help Me Guard My Tongue"\*](#)

Podcast: [\*"How to Have a Healthy Fear of God"\*](#)



## WEEK THREE

### IMMORALITY IS STUPID

Proverbs 5-7

#### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

#### BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Proverbs 5:3-6 and 7:10-21. How is the "forbidden woman" described in these passages? What do these descriptions mean? How might we describe the "forbidden woman" in the twenty-first century?
2. Now read Proverbs 5:7-14 and 7:22-27. What cautions and counsel do these verses provide in regard to adulterous seduction?
3. What three issues does King Solomon provide instruction on, in Proverbs 6? What is the primary message in each of these sections: (1) verses 1-5, (2) verses 6-11, and (3) verses 12-15?
4. According to Proverbs 6:16-19, there are six things the Lord hates, and the seventh thing he especially hates. What are these seven things? Why do you think the seventh thing is singled out as especially hated, or "abominable"?
5. In the CSB, Proverbs 6:23 reads, "For a command is a lamp, teaching is a light, and corrective discipline is the way to life." Why are both formative discipline and corrective discipline important? How are they different from one another?
6. Based on the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, who is your neighbor? How does this parable inform your understanding of Proverbs 6:29?

#### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Talk with your children about the importance of following your instructions. Consider playing this [Map Game](#) to demonstrate the importance of following directions.

Read Proverbs 5:7 together. If you played the Map Game together, talk about what would have happened if your child didn't listen to the instructions. If you didn't play the game, share an analogy from daily life (Ex. a policeman directing traffic or a doctor prescribing medicine).

Share: *Jesus followed the teachings of God the Father. God sent Jesus to the earth to live a life free from sin, to die so we could be forgiven, and then to rise again to new life! This was not an easy task, but Jesus followed his Father's plan anyway. We should look to Jesus's example for obeying the instructions of our parents!*

## APPLICATION

- In Proverbs 6:20-24, we read a few of the benefits of meditating on God's Word. Write out a list of these reasons and others you think of. Consider posting it where you'll see it frequently and be reminded (Ex. the bathroom mirror or your refrigerator). Let the visual reminder help you meditate on Scripture throughout the day.
- If you are struggling with sexual sin, please do not attempt to fight this on your own. We desire to come alongside and help you in your battle.
  - Men, we offer virtual Purity Groups called the Conquers Series Group, designed to provide accountability and help in the fight against sexual sin. [Learn More](#)
  - Women, we encourage you to find another woman to walk alongside you in your fight for sexual purity or to request counseling through our Soul Care team. [Request Counseling](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book (Women): [\*Beggar's Daughter: From the Rags of Pornography to the Riches of Grace\*](#)

Book (Women): [\*Sexual Sanity for Women: Healing from Sexual and Relational Brokenness\*](#)

Book (Men): [\*Sexual Sanity for Men: Re-creating Your Mind in a Crazy Culture\*](#)

Book (Men): [\*Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken\*](#)

Book (Either): [\*Sex in a Broken World: How Christ Redeems What Sin Distorts\*](#)

Article: "[How to Start an Accountability Group](#)"

Podcast: "[Six Practical Ways Husbands Can Love Their Wives](#)"



## WEEK FOUR

## MONEY IS POWERFUL

Various Proverbs

### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

### BIBLE STUDY

1. How do the following proverbs encourage us in regard to earthly possessions and wealth? Consider Proverbs 11:24-26, 18:16, 19:17, 22:9, 28:8, and 28:27.
2. Read the following proverbs: 10:2, 15:27, 17:23, 20:17, 21:6, 22:16. What do these passages teach us on the contemporary view that "the ends justify the means"?
3. What wisdom does Proverbs provide in regard to our finances? Consider Proverbs 12:11, 19:1, 22:22-23, 28:6, and 28:11.
4. According to some ideologies, the accumulation of wealth is inherently immoral. How does Proverbs show that wealth can be an indicator of godly wisdom? Consider Proverbs 14:24, 15:6, 18:11, 21:20, and 22:2.

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Read the first page of "[The Four Hs of Financial Wisdom](#)." Reflect on the importance you place on your possessions. Who owns everything in your possession? Why is this an important first truth to understand?
2. Why is character more important than riches? Which people or situations in the Bible can you point to as evidence of that truth?

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Partner with your children to develop a culture of generosity. Don't simply teach your children to give generously, do it together! The organization [I Like Giving](#) provides excellent resources for younger children and teens. Consider using these resources to help you start a conversation on generosity this week (perhaps around the dinner table or on a family walk). Continue this open dialogue and work to cultivate a lifestyle of generosity as a family.

## APPLICATION

- This week, reflect on your view of money in light of Jesus's return. Read what Proverbs 11:4 says about the effect money has at the last judgment. As you meditate on that passage, pray that God would show you how your heart values money in comparison to how it values Jesus's righteousness.
- Take tangible steps to place Jesus's righteousness in a place of priority in your heart. Consider sharing these with a spouse, trusted friend, or accountability partner.
- Would you like help applying financial wisdom or biblical stewardship? We offer free financial coaching. [Request Financial Coaching](#).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [\*Never Enough: 3 Keys to Financial Contentment\*](#)

Book: [\*The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Living\*](#)

Article: "[Faithful Stewardship Amidst Economic Uncertainty](#)"

Article: "[Saving Money: What Does Proverbs Say?](#)"

Podcast: "[Financial Stewardship, Forever Rewards](#)"

Tools: [Ron Blue Institute](#)





## WEEK FIVE

## FRIENDS ARE INFLUENTIAL

Various Proverbs

### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

### BIBLE STUDY

1. Read the following proverbs: 13:20, 22:24-25, 23:19-21, 27:17. Explain the influence that friends can have. Think of friends you've had who demonstrated these influences.
2. The book of Proverbs encourages friendship. How does it specifically guide us in regard to the type of friend we ought to be? Consider Proverbs 16:28, 17:17, 18:24, 20:6, and 27:5-6.
3. What do these same proverbs tell us about the importance of biblical friendship and the danger of not having close friends?

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How do the emotions of your friends impact you? What personality types are you drawn to? Why? Consider what Proverbs 15:13 and 17:22 tell us to look for in a friend.
2. In life, friendships come and go. Proverbs 19:6-7 exposes the fickleness of fake friends, but Proverbs 27:9-10 shows the sweetness of true friends. What are some ways you've seen these proverbs demonstrated in your life?
3. How have friends supported you in times of trial in your life? What have those experience revealed to you about God, yourself, or friendship?

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Talk with your children about the importance of having good friends. Consider using this ["Object Lesson on Friendship"](#) to explain how people's differences can complement each other.

Share: *People can have many differences, and, despite those differences, they can find common ground to share good times and bad. Salt and pepper can take a bland, boring meal, and turn it into something delicious. True friends can take a bad situation and turn it into something wonderful. You rarely see salt without pepper. What are some of the unique things about your friends that you like?*

## APPLICATION

- Thank Jesus for demonstrating what true friendship looks like and ask him to help you follow his example to become a better friend to those around you.
- If you have close friendships, take a moment to thank God for them. Text or call a few of your close friends to tell them how their friendship enriches your life.
- If you don't feel like you have many close friends, bring that need to the Lord. Ask him to help you find a few true friends. Then roll up your sleeves and work to [cultivate friendships](#) with those around you. It will be difficult at first but will produce lasting benefits.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [Made For Friendship](#)

Book: [True Friendship](#)

Article: "[How Friendship with Jesus Impacts Friendship with Others](#)"

Article: "[5 Myths about Friendship](#)"

Article: "[6 Ingredients of True Friendship](#)"

Talk: "[Is Friendship an Option?](#)"

Podcast: [Navigating Loneliness](#)



## WEEK SIX

### LAZINESS IS TEMPTING

Various Proverbs

#### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

#### BIBLE STUDY

1. According to Genesis 2:15 and Proverbs 6:6-11, how is work a good part of God's creation?
2. According to Proverbs 10:4-5, 21:25-26, and 24:30-34, what are some of the consequences of laziness?
3. According to the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, what does inherent laziness reveal about our attitude toward Christ?

#### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Think about someone you consider lazy and someone you consider hard-working. What characteristics cause you to view them this way?
2. What does laziness reveal about your view of God?
3. How has laziness infiltrated your life?

#### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Talk with your children about the difference between laziness and hard work. As a visual, go on a nature hunt to find an ant hill and observe the ants at work (alternatively, you can digitally watch ants at work in a [BBC Earth video](#)). Ask your children what they observe and how they would describe the ants' work habits. Read Proverbs 6:6-11 together.

Discuss why the text tells those who are lazy to consider the ways of the ant. Talk about areas in which your family is tempted to be lazy and how you can create better habits.

## APPLICATION

- Write down the areas in which you struggle with laziness. Describe how these areas may have brought “poverty” into your life. Ask God to change your heart and show you how to create better habits.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [\*Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation\*](#)

Book: [\*Every Waking Hour\*](#)

Book: [\*Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work\*](#)

Article: “[How to Root out Apathy with the Power of Habit](#)”

Article: “[5 Myths About Leisure](#)”

Blog: “[Should We Seek to Burnout for Jesus?](#)”



## WEEK SEVEN

## WORDS ARE LOADED

Proverbs 4:23-27

### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

### BIBLE STUDY

1. Read Proverbs 10:13-14, 31-32, and 14:3. These passages mention that fools have reason to be disciplined. Why does foolishness lead to discipline?
2. Read Proverbs 11:9; 12:17-19, 12:25, and 18:6-8. What consequences of foolishness are revealed in these proverbs? What rewards from wisdom are revealed?
3. What does Proverbs 18:21 mean when it says that "death and life are in the power of the tongue"? How can we wield that power in a helpful way?

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Think back on some of the things you've said to others. When have your words produced life? When have they produced death?
2. What has helped you grow in a desire to speak the truth?
3. Proverbs 26:17-19 describes a cultural trend that's stood the test of time: explaining away a lie with "just kidding" or "j/k." How do you know when it is a harmless joke versus a lie? Is such a statement ever harmless?

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

To demonstrate the importance of speaking wisdom, share the basic definitions of "truth" and "lie" with your kids. Then share a variety of statements with them that are true or false. Give them a chance to guess if each statement is true or not. You can then reverse roles and you're your children share true and false statements while you guess (*cont'd*).

After the activity, ask your children how can they tell if something is true or not. Explain that if you are unsure about truth, it is wise to look for wisdom in others who you trust, who have told the truth before.

## **APPLICATION**

- Spend time reflecting on the truth in your life. Where does your concept of truth come from, and does it line up with the truth that comes from your mouth? This week be aware of how your words impact those around you.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Book: [\*War of Words: Getting to the Heart of Your Communication Struggles\*](#)

Book: [\*With These Words: Five Communication Tools for Marriage and Life\*](#)

Book: [\*A Gentle Answer: A 'Secret' Weapon in an Age of Us Against Them\*](#)

Article: "[Lying and Speaking Truth](#)"

Blog: "[Words](#)"

Podcast: [How Do You Keep a Rein on Your Tongue?](#)

Podcast: [Ask Paul Tripp about Words](#)



## WEEK EIGHT

### PRIDE IS DANGEROUS

Various Proverbs

#### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

#### BIBLE STUDY

1. In Proverbs 8:12-13, wisdom is personified. She is speaking a blunt message. What two things does she contrast?
2. According to Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, and 22:4, humility is most fundamentally displayed as the fear of the Lord. How does fearing the Lord demonstrate humility?
3. According to Proverbs 15:33, 18:12, 28:14, and 29:23, why does humility matter?

#### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Where have you seen the destructive effects of pride in your life?
2. How did Jesus display humility? How can you follow his example of humility?
3. Do you take yourself too seriously? Do you have unrealistic standards for yourself that you can never seem to meet? If you answered yes to either of these questions, how will you seek to view yourself in light of God and your identity in Christ?

#### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Talk with your children about the destructiveness of pride and the blessings of humility. The "[Pride and Humility Trees](#)" craft is a helpful resource. Use it this week to teach your children the difference between the fruit of humility versus the fruit of pride. Make the trees over the course of the week or have a nightly discussion about the ways each person was proud or humble that day and develop the trees as the week goes on.

## APPLICATION

- How is God calling you to grow in humility this week by following the example of Jesus? Make a list of the ways pride shows up in your life. Ask God to help you in these areas. Also, find a friend or mentor who can help hold you accountable.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [\*Humility: True Greatness\*](#)

Book: [\*The Blessing of Humility\*](#)

Book for Women: [\*Enough About Me: Find Lasting Joy in the Age of Self\*](#)

Article: "[Envy, Pride's Ugly Baby](#)"

Article: "[How Pride Undermines the Joy of Confession](#)"

Article: "[Humility is Not Hating Yourself: The Joy of Self-Forgetfulness](#)"

Article: "[How Pride Poisons the Soul](#)"

Podcast: [Wretched Man That I Am](#)





## WEEK NINE

### SELF-CONTROL IS VITAL

Various Proverbs

#### SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about wisdom that you can apply to your life this week?

#### BIBLE STUDY

1. God gives us many reasons, both in Proverbs and throughout the Bible, to have self-control. List the reasons for self-control found in the following verses: 1 Cor. 7:3-5; 1 Thess. 4:3-6, 5:1-11; and 1 Pet. 4:7, 5:8.
2. How does James 4:6-10 encourage us in our fight for self-control?

#### GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you find it easy to have self-control or difficult? Why?
2. Is there a particular area in which you struggle with self-control or have struggled with self-control in the past?
3. When you know you will face a situation that requires self-control, how do you prepare? Have you ever avoided these situations instead of preparing for them?
4. Self-control is an essential part of overcoming bad habits. Think of a bad habit that you've tried to break and reflect on your experience. Were you successful? If so, why? If not, why not?

#### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Consider using one of these [object lessons](#) as a starting point to talk about self-control. The giggle game looks especially fun!

Memorizing Scripture takes discipline and self-control. As a family, memorize Galatians 5:22-23 or choose a verse from Proverbs about self-control.

## APPLICATION

- We can't have self-control apart from God's grace; in his grace, God often uses those around us to help us fight our weaknesses. In which area are you currently lacking self-control? Share this with a trusted friend, your spouse, your Bible study leader, or your Small Group leader. Ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable as you seek the Lord's help to have self-control in this area.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [\*Habits of Grace\*](#)

Book: [\*Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life\*](#)

Audio: "[Don Whitney – Spiritual Disciplines](#)"

Article: "[The Fruit of Spirit is Self-Control: Kids Activities](#)"

Blog: "[The Fierce Fruit of Self-Control](#)"

Podcast: [God's Kind of Person](#)

Podcast: [A Self-Controlled Life](#)