

Proverbs 1-9

Wise Up and Live

Sample Lesson #1
and
Leader's Guide Answers

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ONE

KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

Read Introduction, Proverbs 1:1–7;
other references as given.

The key word in Proverbs is *wisdom*. The Hebrew word for wisdom (*hokmah*) means “the ability to live life skillfully.” It is the way of thinking, including decision making, and living that separates the wise man from the fool. Proverbs contains a collection of a father’s exhortations to his son and other children to gain wisdom (chapters 1–9), with sayings and instruction for wise and effective living (chapters 10–31). The book of Proverbs is God’s instruction manual on living a life that is honoring to God and honorable before other people.

In this first lesson, you will learn that wisdom is available to all (James 1:5), but not everyone is willing to receive it. You will also learn the difference between knowledge and wisdom. And as you learn about wisdom, you will naturally examine your life to see whether you are living skillfully in all areas of your life.

Before you begin this lesson and each lesson in this study, ask God to reveal Himself through His precious Word and to transform you into the image of His Son. May God bless your diligent study of God’s Word.

1. a. What is wisdom? Try to answer *without* looking at a dictionary.



Lombardi Time
Rule:

If the leader
arrives early, he
or she has time to
pray, prepare the
room, and greet
others personally.

ADD GROUP
INSIGHTS BELOW

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

b. What is your definition of knowledge?

c. What *do you think* is the difference, if any, between knowledge and wisdom?

2. People look to various sources for the truth to guide their lives. Some let their consciences be their guide, but man's conscience can become callous and ineffective because of sin (1 Timothy 4:2). Others let their feelings, intuition, and impressions direct them, but mysticism is always subjective and often misleading. Others rely on their friends, family, and people they admire, but their advice can be contradictory and faulty. Some look within to human reason and common sense to guide them through life, but the Bible warns us: **There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death** (Proverbs 14:12).

a. Take a minute to examine how you make decisions. Where do you look for answers to life?

b. What three things must a person do to demonstrate that he has acquired the wisdom of God (James 1:5–6; 3:13; 2 Timothy 3:15)?

(_____).

_____ (_____).

_____ (_____).



Zip-It Rule:

Group members should agree to disagree, but should never be disagreeable.

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

3. God's Word is like a flawless diamond. Each time its pages are turned it reveals another aspect of God's divine nature and His matchless plan for your life. If you embrace the truth, God will reveal more of Himself and His wisdom to you (John 14:21), and you will be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. You will gain wisdom, peace, and joy, which will enable you to bring glory to His name. What are some practical topics addressed in the book of Proverbs (see Introduction)?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

4. The misinterpretation of God's Word has birthed many false religions and cults and brought ruination to countless lives. To avoid being deceived by false teachers, believers should diligently study the Bible. To what does the Bible compare a proverb when it is misused by a fool (Proverbs 26:9)?

5. The Bible is God's inerrant and inspired revelation to man that equips him with everything he needs to honor and obey the Lord. The Old Testament Scriptures were originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic, and the New Testament was written in Greek. List the three major sections or divisions of

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ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

the Old Testament and circle the one in which the book of Proverbs is found (see Introduction).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6. Who is the only one who lived his entire life according to the wisdom of God?

7. Now that you have gained a better understanding of the background of the book of Proverbs, let's study the book itself. List six benefits that a Christian can gain by studying and applying the wisdom of Proverbs 1:2–6.

_____ (v. _____).

_____ (v. _____).

_____ (v. _____).

_____ (v. _____).

_____ (v. _____).

_____ (v._____).

8. The Bible says **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine** (how to live right), **for reproof** (how to know where you went wrong), **for correction** (how to get back on the right track), **for instruction in righteousness** (how to stay on the right path) (2 Timothy 3:16).

a. The Bible will help everyone who studies it humbly and thoroughly. What three groups of people will receive specific instruction from the study of Proverbs (Proverbs 1:4–5)?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What *do you think* is the difference between the **simple** and the **young man** (Proverbs 1:4)?

9. **A wise man will hear and increase learning, ... but fools despise wisdom and instruction** (Proverbs 1:5, 7). What specific things are you doing to gain wisdom and increase your learning about God and His ways so you can bring more glory to His name?



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ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

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ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

10. What is the very first step a person must take to gain the knowledge and wisdom of God (Proverbs 1:7)?

What *do you think* this means?

11. a. Hopefully you have learned from this lesson that wisdom (the ability to live life skillfully) is available to all people (James 1:5). In what areas of your life do you see yourself living wisely? Circle your answers.

Personal Life	Family	Work
Leisure	Finances	Relationship(s)
Thoughts	Forgiveness	

- b. In what areas of your life do you see yourself relying on your own reasoning rather than God's wisdom?

Personal Life	Family	Work
Leisure	Finances	Relationship(s)
Thoughts	Forgiveness	

LEADER'S GUIDE

Lesson 1: Knowledge and Wisdom

1.
 - a. Answers will vary. Answers could include the following: Wisdom is knowing what to do and when to do it.
 - b. Answers will vary. Answers could include the following: Knowledge is knowing; knowledge is understanding facts about a particular subject or topic. Knowledge is the theoretical, intuitive, or practical understanding of something. Other answers could apply.
 - c. Answers will vary, but they should include something like the following: Wisdom is God-given knowledge humbly put to work. Wisdom surpasses knowledge. Wisdom includes the ability to rightly apply knowledge in the proper situation and at the appropriate time.

2.
 - a. Answers will vary.
 - b.
 1. An individual must believe that God will give wisdom to all men and pray for its appropriation (James 1:5–6).
 2. An individual must exercise wisdom in daily life (James 3:13).
 3. An individual must allow the Holy Scriptures to define who he is (a sinner), convict him that he cannot save himself, and convince him of his need for salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15)

3.
 1. Personal conduct
 2. Interpersonal relations
 3. Work
 4. Money management
 5. Effective communications
 6. Emotional Health
 7. Business and personal ethics

4. A thorn in the hand of a drunkard.

5. The law, the prophets and the writings.

6. Jesus Christ.

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7.
 1. Proverbs gives us wisdom and understanding about God and His ways (Proverbs 1:2).
 2. Proverbs gives us discernment to help us know the difference between truth and folly (Proverbs 1:2).
 3. Proverbs provides instruction in wise behavior, righteous living, justice, and equity (Proverbs 1:3).
 4. Proverbs gives us prudence so we don't have to be naïve and we can make wise choices in life (Proverbs 1:4).
 5. Proverbs gives young people knowledge about life and discretion (Proverbs 1:4).
 6. Proverbs helps us understand the biblical proverbs and figures of speech, the sayings of the wise, and their riddles (Proverbs 1:6, perhaps this includes parables and other figures of speech).
8.
 - a. The simple (Proverbs 1:4), the young (Proverbs 1:4), and the wise man (Proverbs 1:5).
 - b. The naive or simple is open to any and every thought and danger because he is uncommitted to a biblical perspective of life. The youth has not learned to recognize the dangers of life, and his inexperience has made him vulnerable as well.
9. Answers will vary.
10. A Christian must gain a genuine fear of the Lord. This means that he must acknowledge God's authority over every aspect of his life. This begins with being born again, and it continues on in life as the individual pursues God and His wisdom. For a clear presentation of God's plan of salvation, see the Final Exam in the back of this Bible study guide manual.
11.
 - a. Answers will vary.
 - b. Answers will vary.