

	<h1>LESSONS FOR LIVING FROM THE PROVERBS</h1>	
	Session One	

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Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Book of Proverbs were authored by King Solomon, with some contributions from others who were influenced by Solomon.</li> <li>• Solomon, the wisest man who has ever lived, has much to tell us in this power-packed book.</li> <li>• With 31 chapters, Proverbs can easily fit into a daily reading plan of reading one chapter a day using the day of the month as your guide for which chapter to read.</li> <li>• In this study we will be looking at highlights from Proverbs, using them as “springboards” into various topics.</li> </ul>	
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Overview (cont.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Proverbs use a technique called “parallelism” – placing truths next to one another so that the second statement expands, completes, defines, and emphasizes the first.</li> <li>• Sometimes a logical conclusion is reached; at other times a logical contrast is demonstrated.</li> <li>• These “parallelism pairings” often occur within a single verse, and sometimes are spread over several verses.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prov. 16:5</b></p> <p><i>Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though they join forces, none will go unpunished.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 21:2</b></p> <p><i>Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts.</i></p>
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Tool to Interpret	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the central concepts or persons being compared or contrasted?</li> <li>2. Identify figures of speech and rephrase without the figure (ex. “put a knife to your throat” from Prov. 23:1-3)</li> <li>3. Summarize the lesson or principle of the proverb in a few words.</li> <li>4. Describe the behavior that is being taught or encouraged.</li> <li>5. Can you identify examples elsewhere in Scripture that illustrates the truth of that proverb?</li> <li>6. How can you apply this lesson or principle to your own life?</li> </ol>
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	<p>A PROVERB IS WISE IN CONTENT, CONCISE IN FORM.</p> <p>THE BOOK OF PROVERBS IS A BOOK OF WISDOM.</p> <p>THE PROVERBS ARE A CALL TO WISDOM ...</p>	<p><b>Prov. 1:1-3</b></p> <p><i>The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:</i></p> <p><i>To know wisdom and instruction,</i></p> <p><i>To perceive the words of understanding,</i></p> <p><i>To receive the instruction of wisdom,</i></p> <p><i>Justice, judgment, and equity;</i></p>
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<p>Are the Proverbs the same thing as promises of God?</p>	<p><b>Prov. 22:6</b> <i>Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.</i></p> <p><b>John 3:16</b> <i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.</i></p> <p><b>Matthew 28:20b</b> <i>“... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age .”</i></p>	
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<b>Some commentary ...</b>	<p>The proverbs are divine guidelines and wise observations, teaching underlying principles which are not always inflexible laws or absolute promises. These expressions of general truth generally do have “exceptions,” due to the uncertainty of life and unpredictable behavior of fallen men. God does not guarantee uniform outcome or application for each proverb, but in studying them and applying them, one comes to contemplate the mind of God, His character, His attributes, His works, and His blessings. All of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge expressed in Proverbs are hidden in Christ.</p>
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	<b>WISDOM</b>	
	Topic 1	8

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**Prov. 16:16**

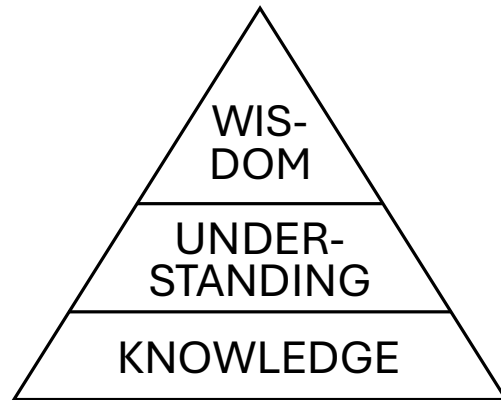
*How much better to get  
wisdom than gold!  
And to get understanding is to  
be chosen rather than silver.*

**Prov. 15:24**

*The way of life winds upward  
for the wise,  
That he may turn away from  
hell below.*

**Prov. 24:3-4**

*Through wisdom a house is built,  
And by understanding it is  
established;  
By knowledge the rooms are  
filled  
With all precious and pleasant  
riches.*



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## **Job 28:20-28**

*“From where then does wisdom come?  
And where is the place of understanding?  
It is hidden from the eyes of all living,  
And concealed from the birds of the air.  
Destruction and Death say,  
‘We have heard a report about it with our ears.’  
God understands its way,  
And He knows its place.  
For He looks to the ends of the earth,  
And sees under the whole heavens,  
To establish a weight for the wind,  
And apportion the waters by measure.  
When He made a law for the rain,  
And a path for the thunderbolt,  
Then He saw wisdom and declared it;  
He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.  
And to man He said,  
‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,  
And to depart from evil is understanding.’”*

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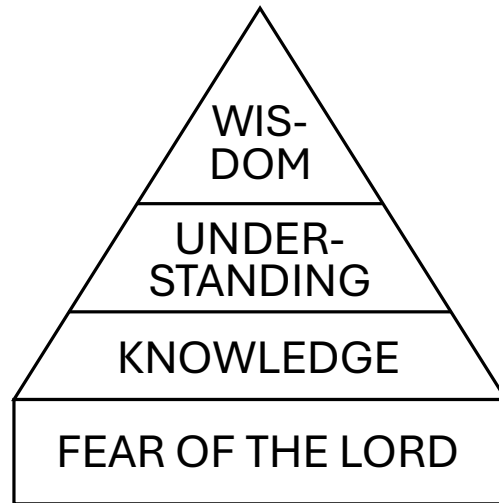
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**Prov. 1:7**

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

**Prov. 9:10**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*



11

11

## **Isaiah 11:1-5**

*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.  
His delight is in the fear of the Lord,  
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,  
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;  
But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,  
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,  
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,  
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.*

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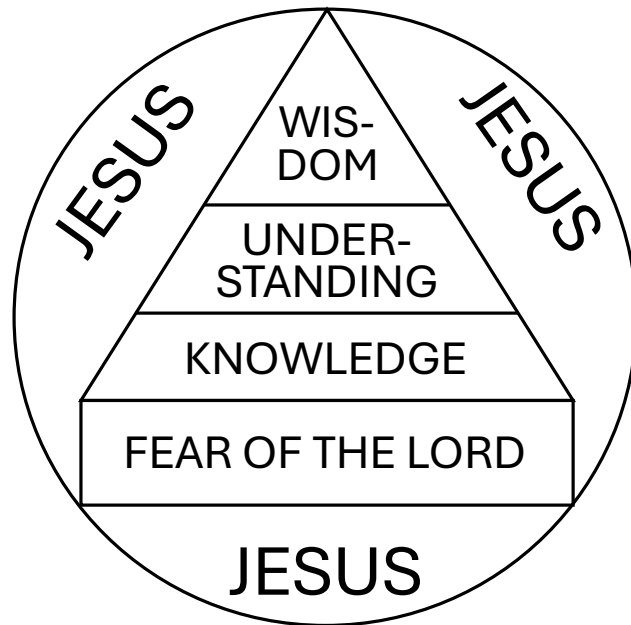
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**1 Corin. 1:30**

***And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.***

**Colossians 2:2b-3**

***... which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***



13

13

## The call of Wisdom ...

Prov. 1:20-33

*Wisdom cries aloud in the street,  
in the markets she raises her voice;  
at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:  
"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?  
If you turn at my reproof,  
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;  
I will make my words known to you.  
Because I have called and you refused to listen,  
have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,  
because you have ignored all my counsel  
and would have none of my reproof,  
I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when terror strikes you,*

*when terror strikes you like a storm  
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,  
when distress and anguish come upon you.  
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently but 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 all my reproof,  
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,  
and have their fill of their own devices.  
For the simple are killed by their turning away,  
and the complacency of fools destroys them;  
but whoever listens to me will dwell secure  
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."*

14

14

## Some commentary ...

In this passage, wisdom is personified and speaks in the first person, emphasizing the serious consequences that come to those who reject it. Similar personifications of wisdom occur in chapters 8 and 9.

This passage is directed to youth (note vs. 8-19) but is also applicable to anyone. As we all confront life in its social context, two voices lure us, appealing for our allegiance, and seeking to shape our life: (1) the voice of wisdom as exemplified in the instructions of the teachers of wisdom and (2) the voice of folly as exemplified by sinners and the adulteress. Thus, throughout our life we must all learn to exercise discretion. Here and in chaps. 8-9 wisdom makes her appeal. She speaks neither out of heaven (as in direct revelation from God or through the prophets), nor out of the earth (through voices from the dead – necromancy), but out of the center of the life of the city, where man's communal experience of the creation order as established by God is concentrated. It is there that the godly, the truly wise, test human experience in the crucible of faith and afterward give divine wisdom a human voice in their wise instructions – as in the Proverbs.

15

15

## The value of Wisdom ... Prov. 2:1-16

*My son, if you receive my words,  
And treasure my commands within you,  
So that you incline your ear to wisdom,  
And apply your heart to understanding;  
Yes, if you cry out for discernment,  
And lift up your voice for understanding,  
If you seek her as silver,  
And search for her as for hidden treasures;  
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,  
And find the knowledge of God.  
For the Lord gives wisdom;  
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;  
He guards the paths of justice,  
And preserves the way of His saints.*

*Then you will understand righteousness and justice,  
Equity and every good path.  
When wisdom enters your heart,  
And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,  
Discretion will preserve you;  
Understanding will keep you,  
To deliver you from the way of evil,  
From the man who speaks perverse things,  
From those who leave the paths of uprightness  
To walk in the ways of darkness;  
Who rejoice in doing evil,  
And delight in the perversity of the wicked;  
Whose ways are crooked,  
And who are devious in their paths;  
To deliver you from the immoral woman,  
From the seductress who flatters with her words.*

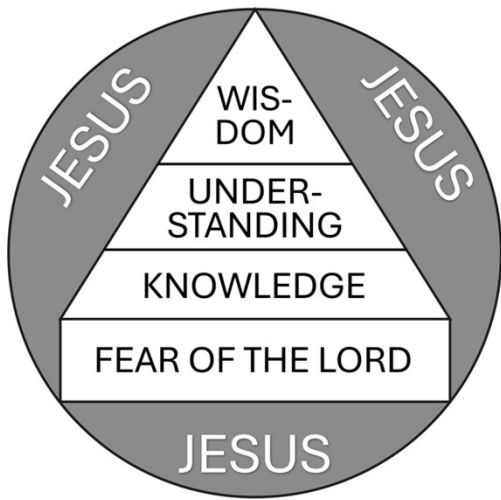
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	Additional perspectives ...
<p><b>1 Corin. 1:18-21</b>  <i>For it is written:</i>  <i>"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  And bring to nothing the understanding  of the prudent."</i>  <i>Where is the wise? Where is the  scribe? Where is the disputer of this  age? Has not God made foolish the  wisdom of this world? For since, in the  wisdom of God, the world through  wisdom did not know God, it pleased  God through the foolishness of the  message preached to save those who  believe.</i></p>	<p><b>James 1:5</b>  <i>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him  ask of God, who gives to all  liberally and without reproach, and  it will be given to him.</i></p> <p><b>Matthew 12:42</b>  <i>"The queen of the South will rise up  in the judgment with this generation  and condemn it, for she came from  the ends of the earth to hear the  wisdom of Solomon; and indeed  one greater than Solomon is here."</i></p> <p>17</p>

17

	Additional perspectives (cont.) ...
<p><b>Colossians 3:16</b>  <i>Let the word of Christ dwell  in you richly in all wisdom,  teaching and admonishing  one another in psalms and  hymns and spiritual songs,  singing with grace in your  hearts to the Lord.</i></p>	 <p>18</p>

18

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<b>Prov. 23:17-18</b> <i>Do not let your heart envy sinners,          But be zealous for the fear of the          Lord all the day;          For surely there is a hereafter,          And your hope will not be cut off.</i>	<b>Acts 9:31</b> <i>Then the churches throughout          all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria          had peace and were edified.          And walking in the fear of the          Lord and in the comfort of the          Holy Spirit, they were          multiplied.</i>
	21

21

	<p>How would you define          “Fear of the Lord”?</p>
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22

	<h2>WRAP-UP</h2> <p>Wisdom as personified in Proverbs, along with Fear of the Lord, is essentially all about abiding in Christ, living in His grace and experiencing all the blessings and promises that He brings to us His children.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>John 1:16</b>  <b><i>And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.</i></b></p>	
		23

23

Class Assignment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a goal to read through the Book of Proverbs at least once throughout this class semester.</li> <li>• Bring your questions for proverbs you have trouble understanding, or a favorite proverb that you would like to share with the class.</li> </ul>	
	24

24

	Possible Future Topics			
	Teaching sons and daughters	Choice of Companions	Trusting God	Righteousness vs. Wickedness
	Integrity	Guard Your Mind	Discipline	Shine the Light of Christ
	Sexual Purity	Deceitful Tongue	Diligent Worker	Leave a Legacy
	Money Management	Love Your Neighbor	God's Protection	Virtuous Woman
	Avoid the World's Distractions	Truth	Types of Fools	Seeking Counsel
	God Hides Himself	Sin of Pride	Discernment	Anger / Temper
	Honor Your Parents	Revenge	Conscience	Repentance
	25			

25

	QUESTIONS?	
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26