

# **Bible Study Guide: An Overview of Proverbs — The Fear of God**

## **Main Scripture**

Book of Proverbs

## **Foundational Verse**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” — Proverbs 1:7

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## **Title**

**The Fear of the Lord: The Foundation of Wisdom**

## **Big Idea**

The book of Proverbs teaches that true wisdom begins with fearing God — honoring Him, trusting Him, obeying Him, and living with reverence for His authority.

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## **Historical Overview of Proverbs**

The Book of Proverbs is part of the Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament.

## **Primary Writer**

Most of Proverbs was written by King Solomon, the son of David.

### **About Solomon**

- Known for extraordinary wisdom
- Asked God for wisdom instead of riches
- Ruled Israel during a time of peace and prosperity

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 Kings 3:5–14
- 1 Kings 4:29–34

### **Purpose of Proverbs**

Proverbs was written to:

- Teach wisdom
- Develop godly character
- Help people make wise choices
- Train young people in righteousness
- Show the difference between wisdom and foolishness

### **Key Passage**

Proverbs 1:2–4

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**What Does “Fear of the Lord” Mean?**

The fear of God does not mean terror alone. It means:

- Reverence
- Awe
- Respect
- Honor
- Submission
- Trust
- Obedience

It means recognizing God as holy, sovereign, and worthy of complete devotion.

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## **Five Major Truths About the Fear of God in Proverbs**

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### **1. The Fear of God Is the Beginning of Wisdom**

#### **Proverbs 1:7**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...”

#### **Spiritual Truth**

You cannot have true wisdom without God.

The world may offer information, but God gives wisdom.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 9:10
- Psalm 111:10
- James 1:5

## **Application**

- Wisdom starts with surrender to God.
- Pride blocks spiritual understanding.
- A teachable spirit leads to growth.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?
  2. Why is humility important for wisdom?
  3. How does fearing God shape decision-making?
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## **2. The Fear of God Leads to Obedience**

### **Proverbs 3:5–7**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart...”

### **Spiritual Truth**

People who fear God trust Him enough to obey Him.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Deuteronomy 10:12

- John 14:15
- Ecclesiastes 12:13

## **Spiritual Lesson**

Obedience is evidence of reverence for God.

## **Application**

- Trust God beyond your feelings.
- Submit your plans and direction to Him.
- Honor God in daily choices.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why is trusting God difficult sometimes?
  2. How does obedience reveal spiritual maturity?
  3. What areas of life are hardest to surrender?
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## **3. The Fear of God Protects Us From Evil**

### **Proverbs 8:13**

“To fear the Lord is to hate evil...”

### **Spiritual Truth**

A healthy fear of God changes what we desire.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 16:6
- Psalm 34:11–14
- Romans 12:9

## **Spiritual Lesson**

The closer we walk with God, the more we hate sin.

## **Application**

- Wisdom helps avoid destructive choices.
- Reverence for God creates moral boundaries.
- God calls believers to holy living.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why does wisdom help protect us from sin?
  2. What temptations most challenge people today?
  3. How can believers grow in holiness?
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## **4. The Fear of God Brings Life and Security**

### **Proverbs 14:26–27**

“Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress...”

## **Spiritual Truth**

God becomes a refuge for those who trust Him.

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 91
- Proverbs 19:23

## **Spiritual Lesson**

Reverence for God brings peace, stability, and confidence.

## **Application**

- Fear of God removes fear of the world.
- God gives security even in uncertain times.
- Peace comes through trusting God's authority.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. How does trusting God bring peace?
2. What fears do people struggle with most?
3. How can faith overcome anxiety?

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## **5. The Fear of God Produces Humility and Blessing**

### **Proverbs 22:4**

“Humility is the fear of the Lord...”

## **Spiritual Truth**

Humility and reverence for God go together.

## **Supporting Scriptures**

- Micah 6:8
- James 4:6
- Philippians 2:3–11

## **Spiritual Lesson**

God honors humble hearts.

## **Application**

- Pride destroys wisdom.
- Humility opens the door to spiritual growth.
- God blesses those who depend on Him.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why is pride dangerous spiritually?
  2. How does humility strengthen relationships?
  3. What does biblical humility look like?
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## **Major Themes in Proverbs**

### **1. Wisdom vs. Foolishness**

Wise people listen to God; fools reject instruction.

### **Proverbs 12:15**

“The way of fools seems right to them...”

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## **2. The Power of Words**

Words can heal or destroy.

### **Proverbs 18:21**

“The tongue has the power of life and death...”

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## **3. Integrity and Character**

God values honesty and righteousness.

### **Proverbs 10:9**

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely...”

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## **4. Relationships and Friendships**

Wise relationships influence our lives.

### **Proverbs 13:20**

“Walk with the wise and become wise...”

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## **5. Work and Discipline**

Hard work and discipline honor God.

### **Proverbs 6:6–8**

“Go to the ant, you sluggard...”

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### **Key Verses to Remember**

#### **Proverbs 1:7**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...”

#### **Proverbs 3:5–6**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart...”

#### **Proverbs 9:10**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”

#### **Proverbs 14:27**

“The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life...”

#### **Proverbs 22:4**

“Humility is the fear of the Lord...”

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### **Practical Life Application**

## **Ask Yourself**

- Do I truly honor God in my decisions?
  - Am I teachable and humble?
  - Is there sin I have become comfortable with?
  - Am I seeking wisdom from God daily?
  - Does my life reflect reverence for God?
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## **Closing Challenge**

The Book of Proverbs teaches that wisdom is not simply intelligence — it is living in reverence and obedience to God. The fear of the Lord is the foundation for every wise decision, healthy relationship, and godly life.

In a world filled with confusion and competing voices, Proverbs calls believers to build their lives on the wisdom that comes from fearing and honoring God above all else.