

# **Bible Study Guide: Proverbs 14 – Wisdom for Life’s Direction**

## **Overview**

**Author:** Solomon

**Theme:** Wisdom vs. foolishness, the fear of the Lord, and the direction of life

### **Big Idea:**

*The way you think, speak, and choose determines the direction—and outcome—of your life.*

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## **Section 1: Building vs. Destroying (Proverbs 14:1)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”

### **Main Point**

Wisdom builds; foolishness destroys.

### **Explanation**

This proverb highlights the power of daily choices. A wise person intentionally builds—relationships, character, and a stable life—while foolishness leads to self-destruction.

## **Application**

- Make decisions that build, not tear down
- Be intentional about strengthening your home and relationships
- Recognize the long-term impact of your actions

## **Discussion Questions**

- Are your current habits building or tearing down your life?
  - What is one area you need to start building intentionally?
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## **Section 2: The Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 14:2, 26–27)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress...” (v.26)

### **Main Point**

Reverence for God brings security, confidence, and life.

### **Explanation**

The “fear of the Lord” is a deep respect and reverence for God. It leads to stability and protection, guiding decisions and shaping character.

## **Application**

- Develop a deeper reverence for God
- Seek His guidance in all areas of life
- Trust Him as your source of security

## **Discussion Questions**

- What does fearing the Lord look like in your daily life?
  - How does reverence for God affect your decisions?
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## **Section 3: The Power of Words (Proverbs 14:3, 7, 23)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.” (v.23)

### **Main Point**

Words must be backed by wisdom and action.

### **Explanation**

Foolish speech leads to trouble, while wise words are thoughtful and productive. Talking without action leads nowhere.

### **Application**

- Speak wisely and intentionally
- Follow through on what you say
- Avoid empty talk

## **Discussion Questions**

- Do your words reflect wisdom?
  - Where do you need to align your words with your actions?
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## **Section 4: Wisdom vs. Foolishness (Proverbs 14:8–9, 12, 16)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” (v.12)

### **Main Point**

Not everything that seems right is right—wisdom requires discernment.

### **Explanation**

Foolishness often disguises itself as appealing or logical. Without wisdom, people follow paths that ultimately lead to destruction.

### **Application**

- Seek God’s guidance before making decisions
- Don’t rely solely on feelings or appearances
- Evaluate choices through Scripture

## **Discussion Questions**

- Have you ever followed a path that seemed right but wasn’t?
  - How can you grow in discernment?
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## **Section 5: The Heart and Inner Life (Proverbs 14:10, 13–14)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“Each heart knows its own bitterness...” (v.10)

### **Main Point**

Your inner life shapes your outer experience.

### **Explanation**

External appearances can be misleading. True joy and peace come from within, and only God fully understands the heart.

### **Application**

- Be honest with God about your inner struggles

- Seek healing and transformation from within
- Don't base life on outward appearances

## **Discussion Questions**

- What is going on in your heart right now?
  - How can you invite God into your inner life?
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## **Section 6: Compassion and Influence (Proverbs 14:21, 31, 34)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker...” (v.31)

### **Main Point**

How you treat others reflects your relationship with God.

### **Explanation**

God cares deeply about how we treat people—especially the vulnerable. Righteousness lifts up individuals and communities.

### **Application**

- Show kindness and compassion
- Be mindful of how your actions affect others

- Represent God well in your relationships

## **Discussion Questions**

- How can you show compassion this week?
  - What impact do your actions have on others?
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## **Section 7: Righteousness Leads to Life (Proverbs 14:27, 32)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life...” (v.27)

### **Main Point**

Righteous living leads to life, security, and hope.

### **Explanation**

Those who walk in righteousness experience stability and hope—even in difficult times—while the wicked lack that foundation.

### **Application**

- Choose righteousness in daily decisions
- Trust God in both good and difficult seasons
- Build your life on a strong spiritual foundation

## **Discussion Questions**

- What does it mean to build your life on righteousness?
  - Where do you need to strengthen your foundation?
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## **Key Takeaways from Proverbs 14**

- Wisdom builds your life; foolishness destroys it
  - The fear of the Lord brings security and direction
  - Words must align with actions
  - Discernment is essential in decision-making
  - Your inner life matters deeply
  - Compassion reflects God's heart
  - Righteousness leads to life and hope
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## **Life Application Challenge**

This week:

- Make one decision based on God's wisdom, not emotion
  - Speak words that align with truth and action
  - Show intentional compassion to someone in need
  - Reflect on your heart and invite God to shape it
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## **Closing Prayer**

“Lord, guide my thoughts, my words, and my decisions. Help me to walk in wisdom, live with compassion, and build my life on Your truth. Shape my heart and lead me in the path that brings life. Amen.”