

Walk Wisely — Proverbs 5

July 26, 2026 — Study Guide — Summer Series: Proverbs 1–9

Big Idea: Sin is like a beautiful, deadly creature — attractive on the surface but fatal underneath. Solomon calls us to recognize foolishness, run from it, and rejoice in what God has already given us.

1. Recognizing Foolishness (vv. 1–6)

- Solomon warns his son about the "forbidden woman" — someone who looks and sounds good but leads to death. In what ways does sin present itself as sweet or attractive before it costs you?
- Read Genesis 3:6. How does Eve's experience mirror the pattern of temptation described here (good, delightful, desirable)?
- Why do you think regret and remorse alone often fail to turn us away from sin?

2. Running from Foolishness (vv. 7–14)

- Solomon says, "Keep your way far from her... don't even go near the door" (v. 8). Where in your life are you "toeing the line" instead of fleeing altogether?
- Compare this with Paul's instructions in 2 Timothy 2:22 and 1 Corinthians 6:18. What is the difference between fleeing and flirting with temptation?
- Verses 9–14 list the costs of flirting with sin (honor, strength, regret, ruin). Which of these consequences feels most real to you right now?

3. Rejoicing in Wisdom (vv. 15–23)

- Instead of looking outward, Solomon tells his son to rejoice in what God has already given him. What good gifts from God do you tend to overlook or take for granted?
- The Hebrew word for "intoxicated" (v. 19) is normally used negatively, yet Solomon uses it positively here. What does it look like to be joyfully "captivated" by God's wisdom rather than by sin?
- Why might viewing God's law as a protective friend (rather than a restrictive rulebook) change how you relate to it?

Bringing It to Jesus

- Solomon himself failed to heed his own wisdom (1 Kings 11). What does his failure teach us about the limits of "trying harder"?
- How does Proverbs 5 point beyond self-improvement to our need for Jesus, who died for our failures and rose to give us life?

Key Verse: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." — Proverbs 14:12