

Walk Wisely

Proverbs 8 — Study Guide

1. The Availability of Wisdom (vv. 1–11)

Wisdom stands in the open — at the crossroads, the gates, the heights — and cries out to everyone, even "the simple" and "the fool" (vv. 4–5). She offers a rival voice to temptation, calling out from the same hopeless places sin leads us into (compare Prov. 7).

- Q. Where does wisdom choose to call out, and why does that location matter?
- Q. Wisdom cries out to "simple ones" and "fools," not just the wise. What does that tell you about who wisdom is for?
- Q. What is one place in your life right now where you can hear two voices competing — temptation and wisdom? Which have you been listening to?

2. The Trustworthiness of Wisdom (vv. 12–31)

"My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver." (v. 19)

Solomon points to a track record — kings, rulers, and nobles who govern justly walk in this wisdom (vv. 15–16). More than that, wisdom was present with God at creation itself (vv. 22–31); it isn't merely good advice, it's the character of God.

- Q. Solomon points to history and results as proof wisdom can be trusted. Where have you seen this play out — for better or worse — in your own life or someone else's?
- Q. Verses 22–31 say wisdom existed with God before creation. How does that change the way you think about "wisdom" versus just "good tips"?
- Q. What makes it hard for you to trust that God's way is actually the wise way, even when it doesn't make sense?

3. Listen to the Call of Wisdom (vv. 32–36)

"For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord." (v. 35)

Solomon's charge to his son becomes the Spirit's charge to us: listen, and be blessed. This wisdom finds its full expression in Jesus, who came not for the healthy but for the sick, the ashamed, and the desperate — and calls out to us still.

- Q. Solomon says "blessed is the one who listens to me." What does it look like, practically, for you to listen this week?
- Q. Jesus came for "the sinner, the desperate, the hopeless, the fool." Does that describe how you see yourself before God — why or why not?
- Q. What is one specific area where you've been "putting your fingers in your ears" instead of listening to wisdom's call?

Closing Reflection

Wisdom calls even from our most hopeless places, can be fully trusted because it flows from God's own nature, and is fulfilled in Christ. This week, where is God calling you to trust Him even when His instruction seems crazy — and will you listen?