

# NEW LIFE ONE STUDIES



## *Ways of the Wise Week 2 Study Guide*

*Message:*

***“Relationship Goals, God’s Way.”***

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### **SCRIPTURE**

<b><i>Main Text:</i></b>	<b><i>Other Text:</i></b>
<b><i>Proverbs 1:1-7</i></b>	<b><i>Proverbs 2:1-12, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 17:9, Proverbs 19:11, Proverbs 27:17, John 8:1-11, Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:32, John 6:35</i></b>

### **UNDERSTANDING THE STORY**

*(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —  
before jumping to what it means for us.)*

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***Read Proverbs 18:10 & Proverbs 19:23***

**Main Idea:**

Our relationship with God is the foundation for every other relationship.

**Commentary:**

Before Proverbs teaches us how to relate wisely to others, it reminds us where wisdom begins—with God Himself.

Solomon describes the Lord as a "fortified tower," a place of safety where His people can run in times of need. He also says that those who fear the Lord find life, peace, and contentment.

Healthy relationships are not built by expecting other people to meet our deepest needs. They are built when our identity, security, and satisfaction are first found in God.

Jesus demonstrated this throughout His ministry. He welcomed sinners, forgave the broken, and offered grace instead of condemnation. Our relationship with Him becomes the source of wisdom that shapes every other relationship in our lives.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What images do Proverbs 18:10 and 19:23 use to describe our relationship with God?
2. Why is it important that our security comes from God instead of other people?
3. What happens when we expect people to provide what only God can provide?

**Takeaway:**

*The healthiest relationships begin with a growing relationship with God.*

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**Read Proverbs 2:1-12**

**Main Idea:**

God's wisdom guides and protects us in our relationships.

**Commentary:**

Solomon tells us to treasure God's commands and listen carefully to His instruction.

As we seek God's wisdom, He shapes our hearts and gives us discernment. Wisdom doesn't simply help us make better decisions—it protects us from relationships and influences that lead us away from God.

Rather than relying only on feelings or appearances, God's wisdom teaches us to evaluate relationships through the lens of His truth.

The closer we walk with God, the better equipped we become to navigate the joys and challenges of life with others.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What actions does Solomon tell us to take toward God's wisdom?
2. According to verses 10-12, what are the benefits of living wisely?
3. Why do we often rely on our own feelings instead of seeking God's guidance?

**Takeaway:**

*God's wisdom protects us as we navigate relationships in a broken world.*

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***Read Proverbs 13:20 & Proverbs 27:17***

**Main Idea:**

The people around us shape the people we become.

**Commentary:**

Solomon reminds us that relationships are incredibly influential.

Walking with wise people helps us grow in wisdom, while continually surrounding ourselves with foolish influences leads to trouble.

God never intended for us to follow Jesus alone. Christian community encourages, challenges, and sharpens us as we grow together.

Healthy friendships point us toward Christ rather than away from Him.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. According to Proverbs 13:20, how do our relationships influence us?
2. What does it mean for "iron to sharpen iron"?
3. Who has helped strengthen your faith? How have they impacted your walk with Jesus?

**Takeaway:**

*Choose relationships that help you grow closer to Jesus.*

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***Read Proverbs 17:9, Proverbs 19:11 & Colossians 3:13***

**Main Idea:**

Healthy relationships require forgiveness, wisdom, and grace.

**Commentary:**

Because we live in a broken world, every relationship will eventually require forgiveness.

Solomon teaches that love flourishes when faults are forgiven. Patience allows us to overlook many offenses instead of keeping score.

The forgiveness we extend to others flows from the forgiveness we have received through Jesus.

At the same time, biblical forgiveness is not pretending sin never happened or allowing harmful behavior to continue. Wisdom helps us pursue forgiveness while also exercising healthy discernment and boundaries when necessary.

Forgiveness seeks freedom and reconciliation whenever possible, but reconciliation requires the willing participation of both people.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why is forgiveness essential for healthy relationships?
2. What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
3. How does remembering God's forgiveness help us forgive others?

### **Takeaway:**

*God's wisdom teaches us both to forgive freely and to love wisely.*

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## **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

Every relationship reveals where we're looking for security, identity, and satisfaction.

It's easy to expect a spouse, friend, family member, or even success to fill the deepest longings of our hearts. But those needs were never meant to be carried by another person.

Only Jesus can satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts.

As we learn to rest in Him, we become healthier people who are able to love others with wisdom, grace, and humility.

**Reflect:**

1. Where do you tend to look for satisfaction or security besides God?
2. Are your closest relationships helping you move toward Jesus or away from Him?
3. Is there someone you need to forgive—or someone from whom you need healthy boundaries?
4. How can you intentionally deepen your relationship with Jesus this week?

**Key Truth:**

*The healthiest relationships grow out of a heart that is fully satisfied in Christ.*

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## LIVING IT OUT

Let this passage move you from reflection to action this week:

**Run to God First**

When life becomes difficult, make God's presence your first refuge instead of your last option.

**Guard Your Relationships**

Choose friendships and influences that encourage you to follow Jesus faithfully.

**Practice Forgiveness**

Ask God to help you release offenses quickly while seeking wisdom in difficult situations.

**Invest in Community**

Invite someone to encourage, challenge, or mentor you—or ask God who you can encourage this week.

### **Find Your Satisfaction in Jesus**

Instead of expecting people to complete you, allow Christ to become your deepest source of peace, joy, and contentment.

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*For LifeGroups:*

## **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER**

Talk through these together:

1. What relationship has most influenced your walk with Christ?
  2. Why is it dangerous to expect another person to meet needs that only God can satisfy?
  3. How can we become "iron sharpening iron" for one another?
  4. What makes forgiveness difficult, and how does God's grace help us forgive?
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### **PRAY TOGETHER**

1. Thank God for pursuing a relationship with us through Jesus.
  2. Ask God to become your greatest source of security and satisfaction.
  3. Pray for wisdom in your current relationships and decisions.
  4. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you forgive as Christ has forgiven you.
  5. Pray that your group would encourage one another to grow deeper in relationship with Jesus.
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## **Final Thoughts**

Relationships are one of God's greatest gifts, but they were never meant to replace Him.

When we build our lives on a growing relationship with Jesus, every other relationship begins to find its proper place. He becomes our refuge, our satisfaction, our guide, and our example.

As Proverbs reminds us, wisdom isn't simply about choosing the right people—it's about becoming the kind of person who reflects the heart of Christ.

### **Remember:**

**Healthy relationships begin with a healthy relationship with Jesus.**

**Run to Him. Trust Him. Let His wisdom shape the way you love others.**