

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM



PROVERBS #1



Bible studies 2012

HOW TO LIVE A WISE LIFE

All of us want advice on many issues. “Which job should I apply for?” “How should I behave in this situation?” “What should I say to my friend whose father died recently?” And so on. We get our answers from parents, friends, Facebook, magazines, blogs, our church, and other places. Some of the advice is good. Some of it is not.

The best place to learn wisdom is in the Bible, because this is the wisdom of God Himself! The Bible has four books of “wisdom literature” in the Old Testament: Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs.

Each of these books are different. Proverbs gives us general wisdom about many life situations. It covers important topics like family, marriage, children, sex, friendship, joy and depression, speech, advice, money, work, justice, and leadership. Proverbs helps us understand how the world works *most of the time*. But we live in a broken world. There are exceptions to the rule. Sometimes life doesn’t make sense.

Ecclesiastes and Job talk about these situations. Together the different books give us the wisdom we need to live in the world that God has made.

ICE-BREAKER

How do you think wisdom is different from IQ? How is wisdom different to having university degrees?

How high is your “WQ”?

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Read Proverbs 1:1–7.

What advantages are there if we listen to the book of Proverbs? (v1–6)

Which of these things would you like more of?

What is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom? (v7)

Who is the LORD?

Read Psalm 34:11–16. What does “fearing the LORD” look like?

Why should we fear the LORD?

Do *you* fear the LORD?

WISDOM AND GOD'S KING

Who were these proverbs recorded by? (Prov 1:1) What do you know about him?

The connection between wisdom and King Solomon is the start of an ongoing link between wisdom and God's King. Read Isaiah 11:1–3.

These verses describe a King who is coming in the future. What connections can you see between this King and what we've read in Proverbs?

This future King turns out to be Jesus. Read Luke 11:29–32, focusing on v31.

If Jesus is even greater than Solomon, how should we respond to what Jesus says?

CONCLUSION

In what areas of your life do you feel you need God's wisdom?

Share with the group, or in pairs, and then:

- ask God to give wisdom for these areas of concern, and
- pray for one another that we will fear the LORD appropriately.