



“The Wise and Foolish” - Proverbs

Lesson Summary:

Solomon was the wisest of all people, and yet he died a fool because he ignored his own advice (Proverbs). It is not enough to know the truth; you have to do it. Wisdom begins with knowing that God knows best.

[<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/creation-and-us/major-stories-bible>]

Learners will:

Learning Outcomes:

Student will gain information on the background of the writer of Proverbs...Solomon

Student will be able to articulate the purpose and foundational principles contained in the book of Proverbs:

- “Blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding” – Proverbs 3:13

Students will gain a knowledge of the content and location of message of Proverbs:

- Counsel for young men – Proverbs 1-10
- Counsel for all men – Proverbs 11-20
- Counsel for kings and rulers – Proverbs 21-31

Students will be able to articulate their duty to God, to their neighbor, their duty to parents and children, and their obligation as kingdom citizens.

Student will learn strategies for everyday living

Notes on Solomon

Solomon...who was he?

Son of David....after David's death the reign of Solomon begin

- Let's begin with Solomon's Prayer to God
 - Solomon was offering a sacrifice to the Lord and the Lord appeared to Solomon in a vision and said "What do you want Solomon"(I Kings 3:9) –**read!**
 - God answered Solomon's prayer and made him the wisest person that had ever lived!
 - God gave Solomon more that he asked for...I will give wealth and a long life...he reigned for 40 years 970 B.C. to 930 B.C.
 - Solomon rose to be the greatest of the Israelite kings...'in some ways"
- Solomon was the writer of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Songs of Solomon. He was particularly qualified. (I Kings 4:29 -31) –**read!**
- Solomon spoke 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs (I Kings 4: 31-32).
- Solomon was a philosopher, he was a scientist, he expanded the borders of Israel, and he was an architect of a Temple that was one of the wonders of the world, became enormously wealthy.
- Solomon like many of the people in the Old Testament Solomon started strong and ended weak. (I King 3:3)
- He started strong than he went downhill
 - First he married Pharaoh's daughter a political marriage.
 - He did one of the very specific things God told him not to do...he used forced labor...slaves and heavy taxation...Solomon began a downward spiral.
 - When you get to the end of his life you see that the wisest man in the world has become a fool...by his own admission
 - Solomon loved many foreign women(I Kings 11:1-4)
 - 700 Wives & Princes

- 300 concubines
- His wives turned his heart from God and he worshipped other gods
- Solomon built many shrines to these pagan gods
- The wisest man in the world ends a fool!!!
- The interesting thing is that the final stamp that bible places on Solomon
- At the end of the day the only thing that really matters is our faithfulness...at the end of the day it's not our wisdom, power, it's not our wealth...it whether you and I, King Solomon, King David have been faithful to God to His covenant!!!
- As a result Solomon was told by God the nation of Israel be two tear the northern 10 tribes away from his control and give them to another king; and because of David's faithfulness the southern two tribes and keep them loyal Solomon and Solomon's decedents!!!

The Book of Proverbs:

- The book of Proverbs is divided into three sections:
 - Counsel for young Men – Proverbs 1-10
 - Counsel for all men – Proverbs 11-20
 - Counsel for kings and rulers – Proverbs 21-31
- Proverbs closes with one of the most beautiful chapters in the Word (Proverbs 31). This is a chapter on women's rights. "Give her the fruit of her hand; and let her own works praise her in the gates"
- Book of Proverbs has something to say about anything and everything – it is deceptive book...is not superficial it goes much deeper than the surface of life it goes much, much deeper!!!
- Speakers favorite proverbs:{How would you interpret it}
 - "Laziness" –Proverbs 20: 4> doesn't plow but wants to harvest!

- “Tranquility” –Proverbs 14:15; Proverbs 15: 1
- “Wealth” – Proverbs 17:1 >practical wisdom; Proverbs 19:17 > stewardship
- “Good Wife” – Proverbs 5:18 -19 > Intoxicated with your wife’s love
- “Troublesome Wife/Husband” (Good for Husband too > Proverbs 21:9
- The context of Proverbs is “Father Teaching His Son”
There is lots in the bible about adultery and sexual fidelity’
 - “Infidelity”: – Proverbs 5:3-8 **read!!!**> (Forbidden Woman is not just that prostitute on the corner, the forbidden woman is the picture of pornographic images in magazines or on the website; the sexually active high school and college student or the junior high school person who is constantly flirting pushing the limits of what is appropriate)
 - Central Concept: Underneath this Proverb is the central concept in all of the book of Proverbs ...The wise person is to look long term not short term...if I take this journey where is it going to take me...where is the man or woman going to take/lead me.

Notes: Proverbs is full of practical wisdom-underneath are deep abiding truths that cut to the heart of who I am and who you are!!!

The Beginning of Wisdom:

- Proverb 1 :7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, fools despise wisdom and instruction; the fear of the Lord is where wisdom starts
- 1. **If you want to be really-really smart you want to begin with the fear of the Lord!**

2. Fear does not mean I'm frightened; it means "reverential awe", worship and respect!
3. Fear of the Lord is the proper response you would have if you were there with the Israelites and seeing firsthand all that God did to deliver them. Exodus 14:31` (fear the Lord & believe) –Read
4. Fear of the Lord is understanding who God is, , Him in His power, and His grace, and in His sovereignty, understanding, reverently, its worshipful, it's respectful, it's, it's approachable—that is the beginning point ; having that mindset understanding who god is that's the mindset where wisdom starts

Just imagine being there ...walking through the mountains of water on each side of you walking through the Red Sea!

- If you search for wisdom you will find God...true wisdom starts with knowing who God is!!!
- Proverbs 2:1-6 –Read!
 - At the end of the pursuit of wisdom is knowledge of God
 - Repeat vs 6 – True wisdom starts with knowing who God is!
 - The underlying most basic belief of Proverbs is that God knows best ...this underlies everything in Proverbs

Two Kinds of People:

1. "Wise" – Believe God's ways are always are always the right way and the best way...(they believe this despite what the in-crowd, latest trend or posse have to say about the matter)!
 The wise person is teachable (Prov. 3: 11-12 –Read) Do not despise the Lords discipline---the wise learns in the midst of the consequences!
 - a. The wise person learns in the midst of the consequences!
 - b. The wise person understands the long term and the consequences!
 - c. The wise person is teachable/wisdom- Prov. 2: 4-5 –Read!

2. "Fool" – Does not listen to God...the fool's proverb's is the person who thinks his/her friends know more than God!
 - a. The fool is the person who thinks he/she knows better than God – let's envision a celestial boxing match...God in one Corner ; {a "pre-adolescent", or a weakling, or a know it all in the other corner} who are you going to bet on?
 - b. We have advice from God but we listen to friends!-Proverbs 5:22 – Read! –When we do not listen to God our sins wrap is up and drown us!
 - c. The fool gets ensnared by sin; sin is an unforgiving master
 - d. A fool looks at the short term
 - e. A fool denies there will be any consequences
 - f. A fool does not care what will happen down the line
 - g. The fool is in for instant gratification
3. "Philippians test" one of the most important passages in the bible – Philippians 4:8 –Read!
This is how the fool you should live your life ...make better choices!

Sex:

Dr. Mounce told of his first encounter with an R rated movie (he was not allowed to go see a movies until he was 16 year old) and he said it made a lasting impression upon his life...the sex and the violence are forever burned in his memory...he asked God to take them away...but God told him he made bad choices and you will have to live with this...he took the fools path and he did not think about consequences

Dr. Mounce say that sex is all the way through the Proverbs...he felt compelled to speak about it here!

1. The big guy says that physical and emotional intimacy is for your spouse> end of discussion!!!

2. The fool is saying there are no consequences (forget sexually transmitted disease, forget murdering your first born due to abortion)
3. That is what a fool says ---there are consequences...this is beginning in grade school.
4. When you meet the man or woman of your dreams you can't give them your whole heart...the best you can do is give them used body parts & the parts of your left over heart!

Forgiveness:

1. Aren't you glad for forgiveness that we can be washed as white as snow?
2. Remove our sin from us as far as the east is from the west we can go through life as forgiven sinner.
3. Our children and our grandchildren must understand there is an issue of authority – who will you believe...this is the message of Proverbs are you going to believe God or your friends.
4. Our children must understand they need to look to the future:

Summary:

1. The wise person knows that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And that God our Heavenly Father Always knows what is best for us and the wise person is teachable and able to look long term; and say yes God you are right I can see it and I will follow it!!!
2. The foolish person says God does not know what He is talking about or what is good for me... the fool looks short term and is ensnared by evil and dragged down to the pit of hades!!!

3. With the book of Proverbs the challenge is the question..."Do you believe God knows best?" –that is the question to ask ourselves, our children and our grandchildren!
4. Proverbs 3: 5-6 –**Read!...This passage gets right to the heart of it...the wise man must trust and does not lean on his own understanding and in all his ways acknowledges God!!!**
5. **In all the stories we have gone over they keep coming down to "faith".**
6. **The wise man/woman or boy/girl I am sure that God is please when you say to the world "Talk to the hand"!**
7. **The good news of the gospel is you have the Holy Spirit fighting for you**
8. **The world will ridicule yo; but God will delight in you**
9. **Sometimes the world will not accept you or your decision...but God will!**
10. **At the end of the journey He will say well done my good and faithful servant...enter in!!!**

Wisdom is as wisdom does; isn't it. Solomon the wisest man in the world died a fool –because He knew what was true but he did not act upon it!

My prayer for you can be summed up in an old adage...modified a bit listen, trust and obey before you leap

[Small Group Activity]

Stories of the Bible CAYA Series

Statement or question 1

Do you believe God knows what he is talking about?

Review the list of “46 Ways of a Fool”---Discuss

Statement or question 2

Share an incident where you felt you knew more than God and followed you on path!

*****Proverbs 21:9 Living Bible (TLB)**

°It is better to live in the corner of an attic than with a crabby woman in a lovely home.

“The Wise and Foolish”
46 Ways of a Fool:

1. Is Jealous and Envious – 1 Sam. 26:21
2. Insensible to Danger – 2 Sam. 3:33
3. Denies God –Ps.14;1; 53:1
4. Is Ignorant of the Future –Ps. 49:10
5. Is Ignorant of God – Ps. 92: 6
6. Is a Whoremonger – Pr. 7:22
7. Rejects God’s Commandments - Pr. 10:8
8. Chatter Empty Talk – Pr. 10:8,10
9. Utter Slander - Pr. 10:18Is a Mischief Maker – Pr. 10:23
- 10.Is Self-conceited – Pr. 12:15
11. Proclaims Foolishness – Pr.12; 23
- 12.13. Parades His Own Folly – Pr. 13; 16
- 13.Quick Tempered – Pr. 14:17
- 14.Rages and Lives in Sin – Pr. 14:16
- 15.Pours Out Foolishness – Pr. 15:2
- 16.Despises Parents – Pr. 15:5
- 17.Is Incapable of Decent Speech – Pr. 17:7
- 18.Does Not Profit By Reproof – Pr. 17:10
- 19.Is Insensible – Pr. 17:12
- 20.Is Not Interested in Wisdom – Pr. 17:16
- 21.Is a Shame to Parents – Pr.17:21
- 22.Is Always Dissatisfied – Pr. 17:24
- 23.Is Contentious – Pr. 18:6
- 24.Has no Delight in Knowledge – Pr. 18:2
- 25.Is Perverse in Speech – Pr. 19:1
- 26.Cannot Appreciate Luxury and Honor – Pr. 19:10; 26:1,8
- 27.Is a Meddler – Pr. 20:3
- 28.Despises Wisdom – Pr. 23:9
- 29.Is Incapable of Wisdom –Pr. 24:7
- 30.Gives Foolish Answers – Pr.26:4-5
- 31.Is Not Dependable – Pr. 26:6
- 32.Is Hopeless – Pr. 26:12
- 33.Is Inseparable From Folly – Pr. 26:11; 27:22

- 34.Trusts In Himself – Pr. 28:26
- 35.Utter All He Knows – Pr. 29;11
- 36.In Unbearable – Pr. 30: 21-22
- 37.Walks in Darkness – Pr. Eccl.2:14
- 38.Destroyes Self – Eccl. 4:5; 10:12
- 39.Is Light and Frivolous – Eccl. 7:6
- 40.Acknowledges He Is a Fool – Eccl. 10:3
- 41.Is Full of Empty Words – Eccl. 10:14
- 42.Has no Foresight – Mt. 7:26; 25: 2-8
- 43.Is Covetous – Lk. 12: 20-21
- 44.Constantly Debates Non-Essentials - @Tim. 2:23
- 45.Is Ignorant – I Pet. 2:15