

## MONDAY: No Longer Naïve

What were you like when you were first starting school? How have you changed since then? Are you taller? More capable in some areas? Have you made new friends? Describe at least five ways you are different now.

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When you think back to what you were like as a child before starting kindergarten, you realize you've learned a lot since then. Young children are naïve. *Naïve* means "lacking experience and wisdom." Because young children are naïve, they are often easily fooled and do foolish things. What are some foolish things you have seen children do—or maybe have done yourself—because you didn't know any better?

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Even though you are older now, you still lack a lot of experience and wisdom that you will have the opportunity to gain as you live longer. Not everyone who gets older gets wiser. If you want to become skilled in a sport, you get a coach who can guide your practice and help you develop skill. If you want to become skilled in playing an instrument or learning to dance, you need a teacher who can give you regular lessons. What are some areas in which you wish you could develop more skill?

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While becoming skilled in a specific area can be helpful, what all of us need most is skill in living. It only makes sense to look to the God who made us and the world we live on to find the wisdom that can guide us. The next few months we will focus on learning wisdom from Proverbs. It just may become one of your favorite books of the Bible.

Read Proverbs 1:1. Who does this verse say wrote Proverbs? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was his dad? \_\_\_\_\_

## TUESDAY: Ready to Change

The book of Proverbs is designed to change you from being immature to becoming mature, from being foolish to becoming wise. Learning to be wise gives you skill in living life. Have you ever seen someone who was wise in one area but foolish in another? Here are some examples:

- A pro basketball player may be wise at his sport but foolish in spending money.
- An A student may be wise about studying but foolish in choosing friends.

What are some other examples you've seen?

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Someone who knows how to stay alive on the streets is street smart. Proverbs will make us life-smart or wise. Wisdom is skill in living.

Maybe you have heard some of these wise sayings:

- Two wrongs don't make a right.
- Don't judge a book by its cover.
- When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

These are examples of everyday proverbs (short sayings). The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a collection of short sayings that reveal truths from God about how life works. These sayings are actually Hebrew poetry, but unlike the poetry you find in most song lyrics, this poetry doesn't rhyme.

The Hebrew proverbs in the Bible are set up in statements that have two lines. Sometimes the two lines explain two things that are different, a contrast. An example is Proverbs 12:17. What is the contrast in this verse? Write it in your own words.

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Other times the two lines explain similar things, a comparison. A great example is Proverbs 25:25. What are the two things that are compared in this verse? Write it in your own words.

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## WEDNESDAY: Proverbs Are Not Promises

Have you ever met someone and thought that person was going to be one way but when you got to know the person you found out he or she was not at all how he or she seemed at first? Describe a time that happened to you or to someone you know.

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If you don't have the whole picture of what someone is like, you can make some big mistakes about that person.

**Each little Proverb we will look at is like a puzzle piece.** You have to fit them together in your mind with everything you read in the whole book to get the big picture of how life works. You can't take one puzzle piece and know what life is about. You need all the pieces and you need to fit them together.

One more thing to understand before we dive in—Proverbs is *not* a book of promises.

Read Proverbs 22:6. Write what it says in your own words.

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There are many promises in God's Word, but the book of Proverbs is just making observations about life. If someone is born into a home where people speak English, chances are that person will speak English all his or her life. That is a general observation. But some people grow up speaking English, learn a new language, and then speak that language.

Do you remember who wrote Proverbs? Read 2 Chronicles 1:7–10. What two things does Solomon ask for?

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Solomon knew that he needed to look to God for wisdom to be a good king. He had grown up in the palace with a royal education, yet he didn't look to his own smarts or his training. He looked to God.

## THURSDAY: Wisdom for a King

Solomon needed wisdom to be king. What do you need wisdom for?

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Read 2 Chronicles 1:11–12. Did God answer Solomon’s prayer? What else did God give him?

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If God had given Solomon wealth and honor without giving him wisdom, Solomon would have just been a rich fool. The wisdom that Solomon writes in Proverbs came from God.

You may wish that God would show up in a dream and ask you what you want. You may especially feel this way if you are facing hard things you wish you had wisdom to know how to deal with. Read James 1:5. Write this verse in your own words.

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God is not a genie in a bottle who shows up to grant you three wishes. Nor is He a heavenly vending machine into which you put a few coins of prayer and out pops the request you want. God is a Person who wants to give wisdom to those connected to Him. He wants those connected to Him to ask for wisdom. If they do, he doesn’t make them feel stupid for asking.

God gives wisdom as a direct gift in times of need. He also gives wisdom in His Word that we need to read, study, and think about. Before we dive into studying God’s Word, you may want to ask God to give you wisdom to understand all He wants to teach you from Proverbs. Write your prayer on the lines below.

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**FRIDAY: Review**

Who do you know that is wise with God’s wisdom? What have you noticed that is different about this person’s life?

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As you may recall, Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs. His father, David, was one of the most famous Kings of Israel. What do you think would be challenging about taking over as the ruler of a nation when your father was known for killing a giant, being an amazing worrier, and writing the book of Psalms?

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What stood out to you this week as we discussed how Solomon asked for wisdom and how God wants us to ask for wisdom?

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Songs and storybooks often tell us to look to our own heart to figure things out. Solomon didn’t look to his own heart. He looked to God for wisdom. Why is God the best person to look to for wisdom?

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