

## MONDAY: The Beginning of Wisdom

Proverbs has lots to tell us about how to be wise in our work, money, friendships, family, security, and more. These are things God designed to be a part of our lives. However, wisdom in all these areas begins with God. Before we dive into those topics, we need to fully understand what it means that the beginning of wisdom has everything to do with how we relate to God.

Finish the following sentences:

I feel most secure when . . .

---

---

All I want to have is . . .

---

---

All I want to be or do is . . .

---

---

The thing I worry about most is . . .

---

---

These questions give us some idea about what we are looking to in order to feel safe and happy.

If we feel secure when we have money, we might be looking to money instead of looking at God. If all we want to have is a boyfriend or girlfriend, we might be looking to a human relationship instead of looking to God. If the thing we worry about most is what other people think about us, we might want the approval of others more than we care about what God thinks.

Look back at the things you wrote about at the top. Are the things you want taking the place of God? Or are they things you want if they are what God wants for you? Please explain.

---

---

## TUESDAY: The Voice of Wisdom

Read Proverbs 1:20–23. Who is talking in these verses?

---

---

Where is this person talking?

---

---

What is she saying?

---

---

These verses speak of wisdom as if she is a woman. There was not a woman named Wisdom, this is just a poetic way to talk about the idea that God wants to get His wisdom out to us. God gives us His Word as well as people who know God and His ways so that we can become wise.

Where do you hear voices of God’s wisdom in your life?

---

---

Read Proverbs 1:23 again. If we pay attention to the things we will be warned about as we study God’s wisdom, what will happen?

---

---

Are you willing to pay attention to what God has to say in His Word about what it means to be a wise person? Why or why not?

---

---

---

## WEDNESDAY: Search for Wisdom

Yesterday we read from Proverbs 1 about how wisdom is like a woman crying out in the street—giving warnings so that we can become wise.

Take a look at Proverbs 2. The first words are “My son.” Proverbs often talks like this, but its words apply to both women as well as men, girls as well as boys.

What action are we called to do in each of these verses?

Proverbs 2:2

---

Proverbs 2:3

---

Proverbs 2:4

---

Yesterday we saw Wisdom crying out to us. Now we are to cry out to get wisdom. Now we are also to hunt or dig for it as if wisdom is buried treasure.

What does Proverbs 2:5 say will be the result of all that work?

---

---

Proverbs 9:10 tells us that wisdom begins with God. So, searching for wisdom will take us to God. Look at Proverbs 2:6. What does God give?

---

Wait a minute! Verses 1–4 give us a bunch of words that mean we have to work to get wisdom. Then verse 6 tells us God will give wisdom. Is wisdom something we work for or something we get as a gift?

All the work we will have to do to think about what God’s Word tells us and apply it to our lives so we can live it—all of that is part of the gift of wisdom. It is like someone giving you a gift of fitness by giving you a membership to a gym. You get the gift of fitness by going into the gym and doing the work of lifting weights and doing exercises. That’s how you get the gift.

**THURSDAY: Who Do You Trust?**

Imagine a fish who longs to be independent from water. This fish sees how nice life is on land and wants to be there. One day this fish rebels against the water and jumps onto the shore. Of course, if it stays on the shore, it will die. The desire this fish has for independence from water is not in touch with reality. A fish rebelling against water is a foolish fish.

You might ask our foolish fish if it needs water to stay alive. If our fish could talk, he might say “no.” Our fish might believe completely that it does not need water, but that belief just shows how much our foolish fish does not understand about how fish life works.

Just as a fish needs water to live, we need God to live. Trying to live life apart from God means we look to (or lean on) ourselves for what we need.

Who does Proverbs 3:5 say we should trust? \_\_\_\_\_

This verse shows a contrast. If you are not trusting in God with all your heart, what are you leaning on? Please explain.

---



---

Write out Proverbs 3:6 in your own words.

---



---

We are not likely to obey God in all our ways unless we trust Him. Sometimes we know we should obey parents (Ephesians 2:6) or teachers or other leaders (Romans 13:17). You may feel like you can't obey them because you don't trust them. However, God wants us to obey leaders not because *they* are trustworthy but because *He* is. We don't obey for the sake of those in authority but for the sake of God Himself. And we can obey from the heart only if God is inside us giving us the power to obey with a right heart attitude.

Draw a line to match these three verses with the message that is based on the verse.

Proverbs 3:7

Trusting in yourself is a foolish choice.

Proverbs 12:15

Your own way seems right to you, but you need advice from others to make wise choices.

Proverbs 28:26

Don't trust what your eyes can see.  
Respect the Lord and do right not wrong.

**FRIDAY: Review**

Yesterday we talked about a foolish fish who wanted to live independent of water. If we try to live our life apart from trusting God, we are just as out of touch with reality as the foolish fish.

Our foolish fish thought that if only he could have his own way, he would be happy. Life on land for a fish does not mean happiness—it means death. When we follow our heart and long for things apart from God, we are like the foolish fish.

Remember when Satan tempted Adam and Eve? He was asking them to make their choices independent of God. Living our lives without looking to and leaning on God is really rebellion against Him. A wise fish accepts that, apart from water, it can do nothing. How does this relate to what Jesus said to His followers in John 15:5?

---

---

What stood out to you this week as we talked about how Proverbs tells us to get wisdom?

---

---

What stood out to you this week as we talked about the foolish fish who wanted a life apart from water?

---

---

---

Based on what God’s Word says (Proverbs 3:5–6) . . .

Who should you trust (look to, lean on) \_\_\_\_\_

Who does a foolish person trust (look to, lean on) \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite verse this week? Why is it a favorite?

---

---

---