

**Rooted in Wisdom
Foolproof- Week #1
Small Group Notes
January 3, 2021**

Introduction:

What is a proverb or short saying that you remember hearing as a kid?

How has your view of proverbial phrases changed as you have matured?

“No pain, no gain.” “The early bird gets the worm.” “Actions speak louder than words.” We’ve all heard these phrases and possibly said them ourselves. We like helpful insights and encouraging axioms because they’re motivating and generally a good rule of thumb. For the most part, they provide sound direction.

The Book of Proverbs calls us to pursue godly wisdom rather than foolishness. This part of God’s Word offers practical instruction for virtually every part of our daily lives. It even includes a warning for those who ignore its truths: their path will lead to heartache and destruction. Will we choose to live wisely or foolishly?

Discuss: (ref smallgroup.com)

1. Read Proverbs 1:1

- Wisdom is royal.

Explain: King Solomon wrote chapter 1 of the Book of Proverbs. It’s important to remember 2 Chronicles 1, when God allowed Solomon a request and he famously sought wisdom: “Grant me wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead these people” (v. 10). Solomon became notorious for his wisdom, leading kings of other countries to solicit his advice (1 Kings 4:30). It’s no stretch to conclude that the wisdom collected

from Solomon in these verses comes from God—and because of this, we can be assured that these words are trustworthy.

Ask:

What is the difference in being smart and being wise? What did you learn that it means that “wisdom is royal?”

Seeing that Solomon as a king needed wisdom, what does that tell us as well about the value of pursuing wisdom? How have you pursued wisdom in recent days?

2. Read Proverbs 1:2-3

- Wisdom follows the instructions.

Explain: The person who studies the pages of the Book of Proverbs stands to gain much: wisdom, learning, discipline, understanding, and knowledge are all found here.

Ask:

Look at the four action verbs of verses 2-3; gaining, understanding, receiving, and doing; how does wisdom help us to follow Jesus?

Consider the most recent argument or conflict that you had; how could these words have helped you respond better in that moment?

3. Read Proverbs 1:4

- Wisdom is better embraced sooner rather than later.

Explain: The audience for Solomon’s proverbs is significant in that he is writing to his children. The words here of “simple” and “young” refer to a child that is still under the care of their parents. Solomon is showing how prudence and discretion are to be just as valuable to them today as it is for when they are older.

Ask:

If you could have a conversation with your younger self today, what would you say regarding wisdom? What things would you have told yourself to avoid? To gain understanding and discretion in?

If you have children, are you communicating the same message of wisdom to your children? Often our messages become confused because we say one thing and then do another.

4. Read Proverbs 1: 5-6.

- Wisdom will always be a work in process.

Explain: Wisdom helps us to know that every day brings about its own challenges and we are truly called to be lifelong learners. Therefore, the wise person will be able to understand what he or she sees and hears, then choose a proper course of action and put it into practice. Wisdom, then, bears its fruit in our actions, marking the course of our lives.

Ask:

Where do you currently see that godly wisdom is most visible? How is it manifested in our day-to-day lives?

How can you take what you have learned and help others to either come to know Christ or grow in Him?

Do:

Do the thoughts, words, and actions of your life illustrate the characteristics of a wise person or a fool? What needs to change this week to represent wisdom more than foolishness?

Share with your group, one area of life are you in need of an extra dose of wisdom?

What is one thing you can do this week to seek wisdom? Write down what you did and be ready to share it with the group next week.

Extra Note:

It's important that because of Jesus Christ, we have the Holy Spirit abiding inside of us which is God Himself to guide us. The question that we face sometimes is if we are listening to the Holy Spirit. The best way that we will hear God's wisdom for our lives is through prayer, reading His Word, and spending time with other believers!