

Women of Grace

Lesson 10 | Proverbs 1:8-33

Yet while all go to God's school, few learn wisdom there, for the knowledge which He aims to instill is the knowledge of Himself; and this, too, is the ultimate prize. In submission to His authority and majesty (that is, in the fear of the Lord) we alone start and continue our education; and by the diligent search for wisdom 'as for hid treasures' we shall find our prize in a growing intimacy with the same Lord. He is the beginning; he is also the end; for the goal is 'Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God' (2:5).

— Derek Kidner, *Proverbs*, p. 33

Memorization Verse
James 1:13

Let no one say when he is tempted,
'I am being tempted by God';
for God cannot be tempted by evil,
and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

Outline
Proverbs 1:1-7

I. The Call to Hear and Obey (Proverbs 1:8–9)
II. The Call of the Wild (Proverbs 1:10–19)
III. The Call of Wisdom (Proverbs 1:20–23, 33)
IV. The Unanswered Call (Proverbs 1:24–32)

DAY 1 | A Father's Exhortation

Read Proverbs 1:1-33, focusing on verses 8-9.

1. What stood out to you from last week's lecture or lesson? What practical steps have you taken to apply God's Word to your own life?
2. In verse 8, whose instruction and teaching is the son to hear and keep?

- a. What does this teach about the responsibility of parents to teach God's Law within the home? Cite Scripture to support your answer.
3. Why do you think Solomon begins his address to his son this way?
4. In verse 9, what two objects are used to describe teaching and instruction? What do you think is the significance or meaning of these objects? (See also Proverbs 3:21–22, 4:7–9; Genesis 41:39–42; and Daniel 5:29.)
5. Share with your group one helpful thing you have done in the past or are doing now to know and follow God's instruction more fully.

DAY 2 | Resisting Enticements to Wickedness

Read Proverbs 1:10-19

1. In verse 10, what does the language indicate about the son's relationship to sinners?
 - a. Why do you think that peer pressure is such a strong force? Do you think it can be a positive influence?

2. From verses 11–14, the words of the wicked are fictitious but serve to expose the evil of their deeds. What extreme declarations are made in these verses? Why do you think the writer would choose to use this exaggerated speech?
3. In verse 15, what instruction does the father give the son? How does this communicate the urgency with which believers are to reject enticements to evil?
 - a. Consider a time when you were enticed towards evil or sin by those around you. How did you respond, or how should you have responded?
4. According to verses 17–19, what is the outcome for the wicked plotters?
 - a. How does this affect your thinking about the injustices and evil of the world around you?

DAY 3 | Wisdom Personified

Read Proverbs 1:20-23; 8:1-9:6

1. In verses 20–23, what does Wisdom do, and where?
2. In Proverbs 8:6–31, identify other descriptions or characteristics of Wisdom.

- a. Which of these elements stand out to you most and why?
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- 3. In Proverbs 1:22a, who is Wisdom addressing and what rebuke is given?
 - a. Consider verse 22 in its entirety. What progression do you note, and what is its significance?
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- 4. In Proverbs 1:23, 8:17, and 9:4–6, what hope does Wisdom offer?
 - a. How does this encourage your personal study of God’s Word?

DAY 4 | Folly Personified

Read Proverbs 1:20-33; 9:13-18

- 1. From Proverbs 9:13–17, how is Folly described?

2. From verses 17–18, how does Folly attempt to entice the naïve to join her? What is the end result of that choice?
 - a. What might this look like in our culture today?
3. Consider the description of Folly in Proverbs 9:13–18. How could wisdom and understanding help protect the believer?
 - a. Find one or two other references that would be helpful in the battle against Folly.
4. From the descriptions of Wisdom in Proverbs 8:1–6 and Folly in 9:14–17, identify some similarities in the setting and actions of these two opposites.
 - a. What principle regarding discernment and decision-making can be inferred from this comparison?

- b. What are some practical spiritual implications of understanding that both wisdom and folly are actively vying for your attention?

DAY 5 | Contrasts and Outcomes

Read Proverbs 1:24-33; 8:1-9:18

1. From the following verses, contrast the outcomes of following wisdom with rejecting wisdom to seek folly.

Verse	Blessings of Pursuing Wisdom	Verse	Consequences of Rejecting Wisdom
1:23, 33		1:24-32	
8:12-21		8:36	
8:32-35		9:13-18	

2. Why do you think that wisdom is not more prized and sought after than it is?
3. Spend some time examining your own heart and write down areas where you need to seek wisdom instead of folly. What practical steps can you take this week to pursue this growth in godliness?