

- 1 Kings 3:3-14
- 1 Kings 4:29-30
- 1 Kings 9:1-11
- 1 Kings 11:1-6

- a. What principles of encouragement or warning do you see in these texts about Solomon's life?
 - b. How does this knowledge help prepare you to study Proverbs?
3. Using a dictionary, define "proverb." How might this meaning apply to biblical proverbs?

DAY 2 | The Usefulness of Proverbs

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

1. According to Proverbs 1:2–6, what purpose(s) does Proverbs serve?
2. What do you think it means to “know” wisdom and instruction? See Proverbs 2:2–4 and consult a Bible commentary for additional help.

3. Does wisdom come naturally to man? Use Scripture to support your answer.
 - a. Scripture says that wisdom is gained through instruction. How, then, does a believer receive instruction to grow in wisdom?
 - b. In what ways do you currently receive instruction? Is gaining wisdom a priority for you?
4. Verses 3 and 4 both reiterate and expand the purpose statement of verse 2, which is to know wisdom and instruction, but each from a different perspective. What are the two perspectives?
 - a. What do believers gain from a deeper understanding of the stated purpose in verse 2?

DAY 3 | The Wise Man

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

1. In verse 5, how is the wise man described? What are his attitude and pursuits?

- a. How does this description of a wise man differ from what the world says?
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2. Read Ezra 7:10. How does the example of Ezra deepen your understanding of what it means to be wise?
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3. Take a moment to consider the wise men and women God has placed in your life. Do you regularly seek their counsel? If not, why not?

DAY 4 | The Fear of the Lord, Part 1

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

Note: "Verse 7 stands in front of the rest of the collection as the quintessential expression of the basic spiritual grammar for understanding the book. The phrase "fear of the LORD" occurs most often in the wisdom literature (14 times in the book of Proverbs) and provides the foundation for knowledge and wisdom." Bruce Waltke, *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 1–15*, p 180

1. In Proverbs 1:7, what foundational truth is given?
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2. From this verse and Deuteronomy 5:29 and 6:2–5, what does it mean to fear the Lord?
 - a. Would you describe fear of the Lord as active or passive? Explain your answer.

- b. How is the fear of the Lord evident in your life?

3. Using the study notes in your Bible or other resource, define the meaning of “beginning” in verse 7.
 - a. In your own words, explain why “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.”

4. Using a dictionary, define “knowledge.”

5. How does the meaning of “fear of the LORD” expand upon the definition of “knowledge” in verse 7?

DAY 5 | The Fear of the Lord, Part 2

Read Proverbs 1, focusing in on verses 1-7

1. According to verse 7, what distinguishes those who seek knowledge against those described as fools?

2. In today’s culture, what are some ways that non-believers seek spiritual knowledge?

