

# **Bible Study**



**Proverbs:**  
**Wisdom for Everyday Decisions**



Every day we are faced with decisions—some small, others life-changing. Sometimes the right path feels clear, but other times it can feel like we are navigating through a fog of uncertainty. Where do we turn when we need clarity? How do we make decisions that honor God and lead to life? The book of Proverbs gives us the answer: true wisdom begins with knowing and trusting God.

Proverbs is not a list of quick fixes or worldly advice. It is a divine invitation to build our lives on the steady foundation of God's truth. It teaches us how to walk with humility, speak with grace, act with integrity, and choose paths that lead to peace instead of regret. Wisdom isn't just for theologians or scholars—it's for the everyday believer who wants to live with purpose, courage, and discernment in a complicated world.

This study is an invitation to slow down, listen closely, and seek God's heart for your life. Over the next seven lessons, we will explore what it means to walk wisely in the big and small moments. We'll discover that wisdom is not a destination we arrive at—it's a daily journey of choosing to trust God over our own understanding. Whether you're facing big life choices or simply wanting to grow in godly living, the wisdom of Proverbs will light the way forward.



## Lesson 1: The Beginning of Wisdom—Fearing the Lord

The book of Proverbs opens with a powerful statement: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” True wisdom doesn’t start with intellect, education, or even experience—it starts with a heart that honors and reveres God. To fear the Lord is not about living in terror. It is about recognizing His holiness, His greatness, and His authority over our lives. It is a deep respect that shapes every thought, decision, and action. When we honor God first, everything else begins to fall into its proper place.

Proverbs 9:10 builds on this truth, reminding us that the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Wisdom is not just about making good choices; it’s about knowing who God is and letting that relationship guide how we live. Honoring God means we acknowledge His Word as our ultimate standard. It means we seek His approval over the world’s applause. It means we ask, “Lord, what would please You?” instead of simply doing what seems right in our own eyes.

James 1:5 offers a beautiful promise: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault.” God doesn’t expect us to figure everything out on our own. He delights when we turn to Him, asking for His guidance with a humble heart. Honoring God shapes our everyday decisions by reminding us that we are not the source of wisdom—He is. And when we seek Him first, He faithfully leads us into paths of life, peace, and purpose.

### Scripture Readings

- Proverbs 1:7
- Proverbs 9:10
- James 1:5

### Reflection Questions

What does "fearing the Lord" mean to you personally?

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How might honoring God first change the way you approach decisions, both big and small?

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## Lesson 2: Trusting God with All Your Heart

Trusting God sounds simple until life brings complicated decisions and unanswered questions. Proverbs 3:5–6 gives us a clear and powerful instruction: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Trust is not partial or conditional—it is wholehearted. It is choosing to believe that God's wisdom is better than ours, even when we do not understand the road ahead.

Isaiah 55 reminds us that God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His ways are higher than our ways. There will be times when the path He asks us to walk feels confusing or counterintuitive. In those moments, trusting God means surrendering the need for immediate answers. It means believing that His plans are good, even when they stretch beyond our vision. True wisdom is not found in figuring everything out—it is found in anchoring ourselves to the One who already sees the full picture.

Jeremiah 17 paints a beautiful picture of the one who trusts in the Lord: like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots and standing strong even in seasons of drought. Trusting God with all our hearts is what steadies us when circumstances are unstable. It is what keeps our roots deep and our souls nourished, even when the ground around us feels shaky. When we lean into God's heart rather than our own understanding, we find a path that is not just wise, but also full of peace.

### Scripture Readings

- Proverbs 3:5–6
- Isaiah 55:8–9
- Jeremiah 17:7–8

### Reflection Questions

How can remembering that God's ways are higher bring you comfort in uncertain moments?

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What would it look like for you to submit this area fully to God and trust Him with the outcome?

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### Lesson 3: The Power of Our Words

Words are powerful. Proverbs 15 reminds us that “a gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” The way we speak can either deescalate a situation or ignite it. Our words can heal or hurt, encourage or crush, lift up or tear down. Wisdom invites us to pause before we speak, to consider the weight our words carry, and to choose speech that reflects the heart of God. Wise words are not just true—they are also kind, timely, and full of grace.

Proverbs 18:21 states it plainly: “The tongue has the power of life and death.” Every conversation we enter holds an opportunity—to build up or to tear down. Our words shape relationships, influence atmospheres, and impact lives more than we often realize. In a world quick to speak and slow to listen, wisdom reminds us that thoughtful, Spirit-led words can bring light into even the darkest places. A word of encouragement can shift someone’s entire day. A prayer spoken over someone can bring hope to a weary heart.

James 3 shows us just how powerful and dangerous the tongue can be if left unchecked. It compares the tongue to a small spark that can set an entire forest ablaze. The good news is, by surrendering our speech to God’s wisdom, we can also use our words to light fires of faith, hope, and love. Speaking wisely is not about being perfect—it is about being intentional. It is about letting God’s truth shape our hearts so that it naturally shapes our words.

#### Scripture Readings

- Proverbs 15:1-4
- Proverbs 18:21
- James 3:5-10

#### Reflection Questions

Think about your recent conversations. Were your words more life-giving or draining?

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What is one practical step you can take this week to use your words to build up and bless others?

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## Lesson 4: Choosing the Right Path—Avoiding Foolishness

Proverbs 4 paints a vivid picture of two paths—the way of wisdom that leads to life and the way of wickedness that leads to ruin. Solomon urges us to guard our hearts, watch our steps, and stay focused on the right course. Choosing God’s path is not always dramatic. Often it is made up of a thousand small, daily decisions. Every choice to listen to God’s voice over our own impulses strengthens our walk. Every time we resist distraction and stay focused on His way, we grow a little stronger.

Proverbs 14:12 warns us that there is a way that seems right to a person, but in the end it leads to death. In a world filled with noise, self-promotion, and instant gratification, foolishness often disguises itself as common sense or convenience. Wisdom calls us to look deeper. It asks us to consider the long-term fruit of our choices, not just the immediate feelings they produce. Choosing the right path requires intentionality. It means tuning out the world’s opinions and tuning in to God’s heart.

Jesus echoes this in Matthew 7 when He describes the narrow road that leads to life. It is not the crowded, flashy, easy path. It is often quieter, harder, and less celebrated by the world. Yet it is the way that leads to true life and lasting peace. Wisdom is not about choosing what feels good in the moment—it is about choosing what is good for eternity. When we walk God’s path daily, even when it is hard, we find a life marked by blessing, strength, and purpose.

### Scripture Readings

- Proverbs 4:10–27
- Proverbs 14:12
- Matthew 7:13–14

### Reflection Questions

What distractions most often pull you off course, and how can you guard against them?

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How can you practically choose God’s path today, even in a small decision?

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## Lesson 5: Seeking Wise Counsel

Proverbs teaches us that one of the wisest things we can do is recognize that we do not know everything. Proverbs 11:14 tells us that “where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” God designed us to walk in community, not isolation. Seeking wise, godly counsel is not a sign of weakness—it is a sign of maturity and strength. When we invite the wisdom of others into our decisions, we guard ourselves against blind spots and rash choices.

Proverbs 15:22 reminds us that plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors, they succeed. When we surround ourselves with godly voices—those who love the Lord, know His Word, and want the best for us—we create a safety net of wisdom. Wise counsel helps us slow down, pray more thoughtfully, and view our decisions from a broader, more godly perspective. It keeps us grounded when emotions run high and anchored when doubt clouds our thinking.

Proverbs 19:20 encourages us to listen to advice and accept instruction, so that we may gain wisdom in the future. Seeking wise counsel is not just about getting advice for today—it is about cultivating a teachable heart for life. Humility opens the door for growth, protection, and greater discernment. God often speaks through His people, and when we seek their wisdom prayerfully, we position ourselves to walk more securely in His will.

### Scripture Readings

- Proverbs 11:14
- Proverbs 15:22
- Proverbs 19:20

### Reflection Questions

Who are the trusted, godly voices in your life that you can turn to for wise counsel?

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How can you cultivate a heart that is open and teachable when receiving advice?

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## Lesson 6: Living with Integrity

Integrity is one of the clearest marks of a wise life. Proverbs 10:9 teaches us that “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.” Living with integrity means choosing honesty when no one is watching, keeping your word when it would be easier to back out, and remaining consistent in character even when it costs you something. It brings a deep, lasting security because there is nothing to hide and no masks to maintain.

Proverbs 28:6 echoes this truth by saying, “Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse.” In a world that often prioritizes success, image, and quick results, God values the steady, unseen walk of integrity. Wisdom teaches us that who we are matters far more than what we achieve. When we choose integrity over shortcuts, honesty over convenience, and faithfulness over fleeting applause, we honor God and reflect His heart to a watching world.

Titus 2:7-8 encourages us to set an example by doing what is good, showing integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech. Our daily choices to live with integrity become a testimony of God's work within us. They point others not to our perfection, but to His transforming grace. Wisdom is not just something we know—it is something we live out in our decisions, our relationships, and our everyday lives. Integrity anchors us in a world that desperately needs truth and hope.

### Scripture Readings

- Proverbs 10:9
- Proverbs 28:6
- Titus 2:7-8

### Reflection Questions

How might living with greater honesty and faithfulness strengthen your relationships and your witness?

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What is one decision you can make this week to choose integrity, even if it is difficult?

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## Lesson 7: Wisdom for the Journey Ahead

Pursuing wisdom is not a decision we make once and move on from—it is a lifelong journey. Proverbs 2 reminds us that wisdom must be actively sought, treasured, and pursued with intention. It is described as something valuable, like hidden treasure, worth searching for with all our hearts. God promises that when we seek His wisdom earnestly, He will grant understanding, protection, and direction. True wisdom comes not from information alone, but from a heart that longs to walk closely with Him.

Proverbs 16:3 encourages us to “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” Committing our daily lives to God means bringing every decision, dream, and direction before Him with open hands. It means asking not just for success, but for His wisdom to guide us through every season—both the exciting and the uncertain. Wisdom does not remove the need for trust. It deepens it, teaching us to rely on God’s leading even when the road ahead is unclear.

Colossians 1:9-10 is a beautiful prayer that our lives would be filled with the knowledge of God’s will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Walking in wisdom is not about knowing everything—it is about knowing the One who holds everything. As you move forward, remember that wisdom is cultivated daily through prayer, humility, reflection on God’s Word, and a heart committed to living for His glory. The journey may not always be easy, but it will always be worth it.

### Scripture Readings

- Proverbs 2:1-11
- Proverbs 16:3
- Colossians 1:9-10

### Reflection Questions

What does it look like to commit your plans to the Lord rather than relying on your own understanding?

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How can you encourage others in your life to walk in wisdom alongside you?

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## Final Thoughts: Walking in Wisdom, One Step at a Time

The pursuit of wisdom is not about perfection—it is about posture. It is the daily choice to seek God, to listen for His voice, and to align our steps with His truth. Wisdom does not always shout. Sometimes it whispers in the quiet decisions, the unseen sacrifices, and the moments when we choose integrity over convenience. Throughout this study, we have seen that God's wisdom is available, accessible, and abundantly generous for all who ask.

Living wisely is not just about making big decisions well. It is about being faithful in the small moments—guarding our words, choosing the right path, seeking counsel, and walking with integrity when no one is watching. It is about surrendering our plans, trusting His timing, and believing that His ways, though higher than ours, are always good. True wisdom transforms the way we live, love, and lead, shining the light of Christ into a world desperately in need of hope.

As you move forward from this study, remember that wisdom is a journey, not a destination. There will be days when choices are hard, when distractions feel loud, and when the right path seems narrow. Do not lose heart. Keep seeking. Keep trusting. Keep choosing the way of wisdom, one faithful step at a time. The God who generously gives wisdom is walking with you, guiding you, and shaping you into someone who reflects His heart to the world.

