

# Intermediate Bible Teacher ✕

For Teachers of Teens  
Ages 12 Through 14

“My  
fortress;  
my  
high tower,  
my  
deliverer”  
Psalm 144:2.

September | FALL  
October |  
November | 2026

# Intermediate Bible Teacher<sup>+</sup>

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2026

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**GOD'S WISDOM VERSUS MAN'S WISDOM**

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## Dear Intermediate Teacher,

Welcome to *Intermediate Bible Teacher*! As witnesses for Christ in a changing world, we have to think creatively about how we minister, while still holding firmly to the Word of Truth.

Our Plus Series contains robust Bible lessons and background information that have been clearly crafted to help you excite your students to learn God's Word.

### **Intermediate Bible Teacher** features:

- **Introductory pages** for each unit will connect the units to one another and point toward the quarter's major themes.
- The **Big Idea** is the main point of the lesson. This helps you focus your lesson on the one thing you want your students to take away about God and His Word.
- **Prepare Your Mind** and **Prepare Your Heart** will ready you to teach with background information and a short devotional.
- **Supplies** and **Prepare the Room** give you all the practical information you need to prepare for class time.
- The **Conversation Starter** is an interesting question or object lesson that helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson. It will always tie in with the first part of the Bible lesson.
- **Teacher Tips** in the lesson will give you quick tips to involve your students or deal with difficult subject matter.
- **Just Curious** prepares you to respond to questions students might ask about the lesson.
- **Prop Prompt** symbols notify you when to use a prop listed in the supply list at the beginning of the lesson. All props and supplies are in **bold** the first time they appear.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in the lesson.
- **Discussion Questions** help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally throughout the lesson. These questions appear in both the class and teacher books.
- **What If?** helps intermediates imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in their everyday lives.
- **Explaining the Memory Verse** explains the Scripture in language familiar to intermediates.
- The **Activity** helps intermediates get their energy out while thinking about the lesson.
- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears intermediate students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.
- **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives.
- **Prayer Points** give teachers some prompts for ways to pray for the students.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.
- **Bonus pages** for you and your students will be included each quarter as supplements in the back of this book.

#### KEY:

Teacher Tips



Just Curious



Prop Prompts



Actions



Discussion Questions



# Here's a peek at the features of *Intermediate Bible Class*®:

Lesson 1  
September 6, 2026

## WISDOM CALLS THE FOOLISH

Lesson Text: Proverbs 1:20-33

"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets" (Proverbs 1:20).

**BIG IDEA:** Misfortune comes to those who ignore God's wisdom.

**PROV. 1:20** Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:  
21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,  
22 How long ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scornings, and fools hate knowledge?  
23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you,  
24 Because I have called, and ye refused: I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded:  
25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:  
26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh:  
27 When your fear cometh as desolation,

and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.  
28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:  
29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:  
30 They would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof:  
31 Therefore shall they eat of their own devices, and be filled with their own thoughts.  
32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.  
33 But whose hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

**BIBLE LESSON**

There's a difference between having knowledge and being wise. There's a book in the Bible that talks a lot about wisdom—Proverbs. Most people have heard of proverbs. They are usually short sayings or catchy phrases based on truth, like what you might find in fortune cookies. Sometimes they give tips to live your best life, and sometimes they're like riddles. But Proverbs in the Old Testament is different. It is a guide for pursuing godly wisdom and truth in our daily lives.

Let's take a quick look at who wrote the book of Proverbs long ago. Almost all of the book of Proverbs was written by a wise king named Solomon. You may have heard of him. He was actually the son of King David—as in, David and Goliath!

After Solomon became king, God appeared to him and said He would give him anything he asked for. Wouldn't that be great? Can you imagine?

If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask for?

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What do you think people would do if they saw a woman doing that today?

Most likely, many would rush past and avoid eye contact with her. Some might step and listen and even draw closer to her so that they can hear what she has to say, seeking true wisdom. Which type of person would you be?

You will get a lot of advice from very many places today. Some of the things you will hear are folly (foolish) (see Prov. 9:23-28). There are many opinions and views that people will give you, yet you can always find the truth in God's Word. King Solomon wrote Proverbs with God's guidance so that even after thousands of years later, we could receive God's truth, follow His wisdom, and learn how to make the right choices.

Proverbs 1 is full of serious warnings to the foolish, but the very last verse is a beautiful promise. It offers comfort for those who choose to listen to the wisdom found in the Bible. Those who seek and find God's wisdom will live in safety and have absolutely no need to fear, because they are in God's hands.

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**WHAT IF?** You want to make wise choices, but your friends think being foolish is fun. They want to go into an old, deserted house that's been roped off for destruction because they think it will be fun. You know it's dangerous and against the law to trespass on the property, but you don't want them to think you are a joy killer! As a Christian, however, you will have to remind your friends that wise rules exist for a reason. What should you do when you are outnumbered by friends wanting to do the wrong thing?

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**HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM MAKING A WISE CHOICE?** Sometimes when you have to make a decision, the wise choice isn't always clear. You know it's foolish to steal a pair of sneakers rather than pay for them! That's easy. But when there are several options—like which classes to take or whether to attend college or trade school one day (and where), how do you know what is wise? No one wants to be foolish! You can ask a parent or trusted member of your church family to pray for you and seek their godly advice. But James 1:5 says if we lack wisdom, we should ask God, and He will give it to us generously. He delights in our questions. We can go before God and ask for wisdom in prayer, no matter how big or small the situation.

**NEXT STEPS** Plan to read the whole book of Proverbs! Maybe ask a friend to join you. There are thirty-one chapters, so if you read just one chapter each day, it will only take you about a month. You will learn so much wisdom!

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**PRAYER POINT**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**CHRIST FOCUS**  
Jesus has perfect wisdom, greater than even Solomon's (see Matt. 7:24)!

**TALK ABOUT IT**  
Ask a trusted Christian adult about the most important thing for you to do to become wise.

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- The **Big Idea** helps the student focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Discussion Questions** are interjected within the Bible lesson to help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally.
- **What If?** helps intermediates imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in their everyday lives.
- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears intermediate students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.
- **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives with room to make notes for an action plan.
- The **Prayer Point** encourages committing to pray for something in the coming week.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.
- **Talk About It** prompts students to engage trusted Christian adults in their life in conversation about God's Word.

## UNIT 1:

# The Way of the Fool

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### Lesson 1: Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom Calls the Foolish

### Lesson 2: Psalm 49:1-20

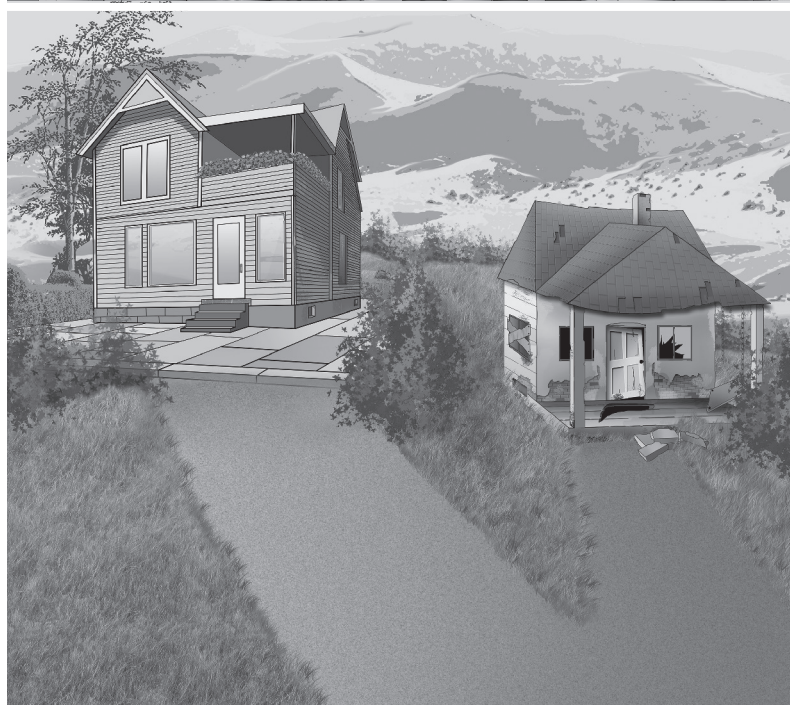
The Folly of Trusting in Riches

### Lesson 3: Proverbs 30:1-14

Humble Wisdom Instructs Proud Folly

### Lesson 4: Proverbs 14:1-19

There Is a Way that Seems Right



Both wisdom and folly call out to people. Before we examine the way of wisdom, we will consider the way of the fool and the disastrous consequences that way brings. If we refuse the fear of the Lord, we will face ruin. It is foolish to live just for this life and for riches, for everyone eventually dies and faces the eternal consequences of his or her actions. Trusting God's Word and living for Him is far better than going our way arrogantly. God's way naturally leads to blessings, while sin leads to ruin.

# Wisdom Calls the Foolish

Lesson Text: Proverbs 1:20-33

Lesson 1

September 6, 2026



Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice  
in the streets (Proverbs 1:20).



**Big Idea:** Misfortune comes to those who ignore God's wisdom.

**PROV. 1:20** Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

## Prepare Your Mind

In this unit on “God’s Wisdom Versus Man’s Wisdom,” we will first be considering “The Way of the Fool,” mostly from the book of Proverbs. The principal author of Proverbs is Solomon. After Solomon was named king, God appeared to him and said He would grant anything for which he asked. In humility, Solomon requested wisdom so that he might reign over God’s people well—and as a result, God gave him a promise and a blessing (2 Chr. 1:10–12). No person has been as wise as Solomon (except Jesus), and even though he later pursued worldly desires, he found nothing that compared with the love of God. He left us a book full of practical, godly wisdom relevant to our lives today.



### Supplies

- pens
- paper

## Prepare Your Heart

We need wisdom daily, the ability to discern what is right, and good sense and judgment. Then we should act on it. Sometimes it’s exhausting, and we are at a complete loss to know what is best as we stress and strain to figure things out on our own. Then we come to God in desperation as a “last resort”! Our loving Heavenly Father longs for us to come to Him first, to value His wisdom over our own. Relationships, jobs, church, health, kids—we can bring the major and the minutiae to God for His wisdom and guidance. Proverbs 1:33 tells us that when we listen to His wisdom, we live in safety and can be at ease, knowing we are in the very best hands.



## Conversation Starter

Wisdom can be serious, but here are some jokes:  
Why is the tooth fairy smart? Because she has wisdom teeth!  
What do you get when you cross an owl with an oyster? Pearls of wisdom!

## Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min





What is wisdom? There's a difference between having knowledge and being wise. Perhaps you can think of someone really smart who doesn't make the best choices in life. We all can make bad choices sometimes. When that happens, we lack wisdom.

There's a book in the Bible that talks a lot about wisdom—Proverbs. Most people have heard of proverbs. They are usually short sayings or catchy phrases based on truth, like what you might find in fortune cookies. Sometimes they give tips to live your best life, and sometimes they're like riddles.

But Proverbs in the Old Testament is different. It is a guide for pursuing godly wisdom and truth in our daily lives.

Let's take a quick look at who wrote the book long ago. Almost all of the book of Proverbs was written by a wise king named Solomon. You may have heard of him. He was the son of King David—as in, David and Goliath! After Solomon became king, God appeared to him and said He would give him anything he asked for. Wouldn't that be great? Can you imagine?

 If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask for?

Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge to be a good king.  God granted his request, and as a result, there has never been anyone on earth as wise as Solomon.  Later, he made some poor decisions in his life, yet he did leave us with a lot of practical and godly wisdom that we can use in our lives today, no matter what our age, location, or circumstances are.

 If you could ask Solomon, the smartest king ever, anything, what would you ask him?

Foolishness, or folly, as it's sometimes called, is when we choose to ignore wisdom, and it doesn't turn out well for us. In the first chapter of Proverbs, we read that fools despise wisdom—they choose not to listen to what is true, right, and wise. Of course, nobody wakes up one day and decides, "I want to be a fool today!" But if we neglect or disregard wisdom, then foolishness happens!

Today's lesson text teaches about wisdom as if it were a good woman in the middle of a market shouting a warning. She calls out to people, telling them to find wisdom. The foolish people will not listen to her. However, some people do listen to her. Those people will be safe because they have chosen to listen to her and will look for wisdom.

Imagine that happening today. A good woman stands in the middle of a huge shopping mall. People are rushing around, shopping and living their busy lives. She holds a microphone and proclaims the truth of God's Word! She warns the fools that their lives will be a disaster and that they will be overcome with trouble because they ignore wisdom. Rejecting wisdom also means they reject God and His great love for them.

 What do you think people would do if they saw a woman doing that today?

Most likely, many would rush past and avoid eye contact with her. Some might stop and listen and even draw closer to her so that they can hear what she has to say, seeking true wisdom. Which type of person would you be?

You will get a lot of advice from very many places today. Some of the things you will hear are pure folly or foolishness (see Prov. 9:13-18). There are many opinions and views that people will give you, but you can always find the truth in God's Word. King Solomon wrote Proverbs with God's guidance so that even after thousands of years have passed, we could receive God's truth, follow His wisdom, and learn how to make the right choices.

Proverbs 1 is full of serious warnings to the foolish, but the very last verse is a beautiful promise. It offers comfort for those who choose to listen to the wisdom found in the Bible. Those who seek and find God's wisdom will live in safety and have absolutely no need to fear.



God was so pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom and knowledge rather than riches and long life that He also granted him with those things (see 2 Chr. 1:11-12)!



Of course, Jesus is the wisest (see Matthew 7:24)!

## What If?

You want to make wise choices, but your friends think being foolish is fun. They want to go into an old, deserted house that's been roped off for destruction because they think it will be fun. You know it's dangerous and against the law to trespass on the property, but you don't want them to think you are a joy killer! As a Christ-follower, you will have to remind your friends that wise rules exist for a reason. What should you do when you are outnumbered by friends wanting to do the wrong thing?

## Explaining the Memory Verse

In this verse, Solomon gives us the image of wisdom being a woman who is shouting in the streets. People can see and hear her. She would be hard to ignore! The meaning of the verse is that God makes His wisdom available to everyone. He wants the best for us and knows that we desperately need His wisdom daily!



### Activity: Testing Smarts ⌚ 5–10 min

As we consider wisdom and knowledge, this game can test our smarts! Divide the students into two equal teams, and have each team line up at opposite ends of the table, with a **pen** and **paper**. Call out a category (for example, famous people, types of food). The first person in each team should write an answer in TWO words (for example, fried rice). The next person should then use the first letter of the second word to begin an answer: (e.g., fried rice, raspberry jam, jelly doughnut). The team who finishes first wins! Repeat with different categories as time allows.

#### SUPPLIES:

- pens
- paper

## Big Question: How do I know whether I am making a wise choice?

Sometimes when you have to make a decision, the wise choice isn't always clear. You know it's foolish to steal a pair of sneakers rather than pay for them! That's easy. But when there are several options—like which classes to take or whether to attend college or trade school one day (and

where), how do you know what is wise? No one wants to be foolish! James 1:5 says if we lack wisdom, we should ask God, and He will give it to us generously. He delights in our questions. We can go before God and ask for wisdom in prayer, no matter how big or small the situation.

### Next Steps

Plan to read the whole the book of Proverbs! Maybe ask a friend to join you. There are thirty-one chapters, so if you read just one chapter each day, it will only take you about a month. You will learn so much wisdom!

## Prayer Points

- Praise God for the wisdom found in Proverbs to learn from and that encourages us. •
- Ask God to help your students make wise choices and decisions this week. •
- Pray for wisdom for the leaders in your church, school, and country. •

## Christ Focus

Jesus has perfect wisdom, greater than even Solomon's (see Matt. 7:24)!