



“My
fortress;
my
high tower,
my
deliverer”

Psalm 144:2

SENIOR HIGH BIBLE CLASS

FOR TEENS AGES 15-17

FALL QUARTER | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER 2026

Senior High Bible Class

FALL QUARTER

God's Wisdom Versus Man's Wisdom

UNIT 1: The Way of the Fool

Sept. 6—Wisdom Calls the Foolish.....	2
Sept. 13—The Folly of Trusting in Riches.....	6
Sept. 20—Humble Wisdom Instructs Proud Folly.....	10
Sept. 27—There Is a Way that Seems Right.....	14

UNIT 2: The Way of the Wise

Oct. 4—Wisdom over Strength.....	18
Oct. 11—Wisdom and Money.....	22
Oct. 18—A Soft Answer over Wrath.....	26
Oct. 25—The Wisdom of the Meek.....	30
Nov. 1—The Wisdom of the Gospel....	34

UNIT 3: Wisdom's Reward

Nov. 8—Seek for Wisdom as for Silver.....	37
Nov. 15—Enduring Trials in Wisdom.....	40
Nov. 22—Wisdom Brings Blessing.....	43
Nov. 29—Fruitfulness of Wisdom.....	46

LOOKING AHEAD

This quarter, we will learn what the Bible says about foolishness and wisdom. Our first unit is **The Way of the Fool**. The first lesson introduces the book of Proverbs, which tells us that wisdom is available to anyone who is willing to listen. Lessons 2-4 focus on the finality of this life, how none of us compares with God, and how we can avoid the mistakes that foolish people make.

Our second unit focuses on **The Way of the Wise**. Lessons 5-9 focus on the uncertainty of life and the two ways that one can approach it—wisely or foolishly. They also discuss the power of the tongue to bring about both benefit and harm.

The final unit is titled **Wisdom's Reward**. Lessons 10-13 examine benefiting even from temptations and suffering. They also help us to see what it looks like when we put wisdom into practice.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

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.

NOTES

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and willingness to submit to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Wisdom Calls the Foolish

Lesson Text: Proverbs 1:20-33

Related Scriptures: Proverbs 5:7-14; 8:1-36; 9:1-12;
Isaiah 3:9-15; Jeremiah 6:16-21

TIME: between 971 and 931 B.C.

PLACE: Jerusalem

GOLDEN TEXT—“Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets” (Proverbs 1:20).

ANALYZING

Have you ever had a habit that you later realized was not very helpful to your health or growth? Do you remember the regret you felt, wishing you had done things differently? If so, you can understand where this passage is headed.

Proverbs is one of the “wisdom” books of the Bible; its focus is on practical ways to live godly lives in a fallen world. Proverbs highlights the usual outcomes of godly living, while Ecclesiastes and Job deal with some exceptions. The book of Proverbs was written by at least three authors—King Solomon, Agur, and King Lemuel—but King Solomon was the principal one.

Proverbs contains words of counsel from Solomon to his son. He was hoping to direct his son onto the right path of life while he was young, before bad habits became entrenched in his life.

1. Wisdom personified as a woman in the marketplace (Prov. 1:20-21). The first thing to notice is that wisdom is not hidden. She can be easily seen. In ancient times, business was often conducted in the streets. Markets hosted all kinds of

vendors. Business deals (Ruth 4:1-12) and politicking (2 Sam. 15:1-6) were often done at the city’s gates, where there were sure to be witnesses. Wisdom’s address to her audience was right in the middle of everyday life.

She was not speaking softly but shouting above the noise of life. Her words could be ignored, but they pierced the noise so that everyone could listen to them if they chose to do so.

Because of where she was, Wisdom’s audience was made up of “regular” people who were going about their business in the streets. She was not off in an elite part of town calling out to only the “movers and shakers” of the city. Yes, they were there, but so was everyone else. Sometimes we may meet people who have an air of wisdom about them. People may go to them for counsel. We may think that they have always been like this, but that is unlikely. People are not born wise!

2. Wisdom’s loving rebuke (Prov. 1:22-23). Wisdom called out to the “simple ones,” which evokes naïveté. The term indicates people who are unaware of the true nature of what they are involved in. “Gullible” might also be an applicable term here.

A good example would be people with poor eating habits (routinely eating junk food and drinking soda) who engage in little or no exercise. They have listened to countless commercials and been exposed to bad examples regarding health. As they get older, they will likely be diagnosed with heart disease or diabetes, and they may ignore medical advice to change their diet and get more exercise. They may think nothing bad is going to happen to them.

Other people are easily fooled by charisma and excitement. They can be taken in by influencers and people with strong personalities who promise them success or enjoyment if they follow them. They do not pause to consider the consequences of the decisions they make.

Wisdom asked how long the simple would continue loving their approach to life. She was calling them to change, but change is difficult.

We often hate change. Maybe you are afraid of the unknown and what will happen in the future. Or perhaps you are afraid of what change will require. Thus, you may be reluctant to change even when given the chance or warned about the consequences of not changing. Often, this will cause you to miss wonderful opportunities for growth and blessings.

3. Wisdom's response to being refused (Prov. 1:24-27). After much pleading from Wisdom, the simple refused to listen and repent. They continued with their lives without heeding her warnings. Wisdom finally reached her limit. Enough!

Wisdom would laugh at and mock the simple. This was not meant to be cruel but to convey the absurdity of their choice. It is a ridiculous and stupid decision to ignore her. Who

would not choose wisdom over foolishness? Who would not choose life over destruction? Wisdom was not cackling over their doom but laughing at the absurdity of their decision. We might have the same reaction to people who reject the gospel in favor of maintaining their lost lives and ignoring the joy that could await them both on earth and in heaven. It is pure folly!

4. The consequences of ignoring wisdom (Prov. 1:28-32). As destruction appeared on the horizon, the simple would cry out in regret that they had not listened, but Wisdom would not answer.

For a long time, the simple hated what Wisdom had to offer. They would not consider her counsel, despised her rebukes, and lived in their own world. They were out of touch with reality, but one day reality would hit them with full force. They would suffer the consequences of their choices. Similar to a person with bad eating habits who will not listen to medical advice, they would face the consequences of their bad choices.

5. The benefits of attaining wisdom (Prov. 1:33). Wisdom summarizes what she has to offer to those who embrace her. Those who accept her will dwell in safety and security and will have no fear of evil. This is not a promise of physical safety and security. It does not mean that nothing in this fallen world will touch us. We will experience bad things and suffer loss in our lives. It is rather a promise of internal peace while living in a chaotic and evil world.

Here is one example from ancient history that characterizes wisdom's effect on those people who pursue it. Polycarp was a second-century

bishop and a disciple of John the apostle. When Roman soldiers came to his house to arrest him and hand him over for execution, he insisted that they join him for a meal.

DAILY BIBLE READING

M — Wisdom Calls. Prov. 8:1-11.
T — The Blessings of Wisdom. Prov. 8:32-36.
W — The Offer of Wisdom. Prov. 9:1-12.
T — Flee Sin. Prov. 5:7-14.
F — Blessings or Woe. Isa. 3:9-15.
S — The Crossroads. Jer. 6:16-21.
S — Turn to Wisdom. Prov. 1:20-33.

APPLYING

This passage is full of applications for your life. Here are a few:

First, wisdom has little to do with intelligence. Just because someone is very smart does not mean that he or she is wise. Similarly, people who have lower grades or IQs are not therefore unable to attain wisdom. It is available to anyone who is willing to seek it, because it comes from God rather than man.

Second, at your age, it is tempting to think that older people do not know much and have little good advice to offer you. That attitude can also bleed over into your view of the Bible, making you think that it does not have much to offer you. However, this passage is a warning against that kind of thinking.

You may think that you know more than the adults in your life, that you know enough to make your own decisions, and that the Bible is not very applicable to your life, but that kind of thinking leads to choices that could

negatively affect the rest of your life. There are wise people available to you. You just have to find them and listen to their counsel.

Third, you can seek wisdom through reading and meditating on the Word of God, asking the Lord to help you understand its wisdom. It is wise to establish a habit of reading the Word daily.

Fourth, many people your age develop habits of spending countless hours on insignificant things that add little to their lives, such as scrolling through social media or playing video games. How do you spend your time? Learn to spend time on things that will help you to grow spiritually and to mature in wisdom.

Finally, the benefits of gaining wisdom are worth pursuing. In a world full of evil, fear, and anxiety, wisdom is the way to have security and peace no matter what life throws at you. Like the sacrifices that athletes make to excel in their sport, the short-term sacrifices to gain wisdom will be worth it.

ASKING

1. What is the context of this passage?
2. What does the position of Wisdom in the marketplace indicate?
3. What does the volume of her voice reveal?
4. What are the characteristics of “the simple”?
5. Why did Wisdom say she would laugh at the simple?
6. What are the benefits of pursuing and acquiring wisdom?