

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL *Superintendent*

Fall Quarter September | October | November 2026

Sunday School Superintendent

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2026

Editorials	2
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God's Wisdom Versus Man's Wisdom

UNIT 1: The Way of the Fool

Sept. 6—Wisdom Calls the Foolish—Prov. 1:20-33.....	4
Sept. 13—The Folly of Trusting in Riches—Ps. 49:1-20	6
Sept. 20—Humble Wisdom Instructs Prideful Folly—Prov. 30:1-14.....	8
Sept. 27—There Is a Way that Seems Right—Prov. 14:1-19	10

UNIT 2: The Way of the Wise

Oct. 4—Wisdom over Strength—Eccl. 9:11-18	12
Oct. 11—Wisdom and Money—Prov. 22:1-16	14
Oct. 18—A Soft Answer over Wrath—Prov. 15:1-15	16
Oct. 25—The Wisdom of the Meek—Jas. 3:13-18.....	18
Nov. 1—The Wisdom of the Gospel—1 Cor. 1:18-31	20

UNIT 3: Wisdom's Reward

Nov. 8—Seek for Wisdom as for Silver—Prov. 2:1-9.....	22
Nov. 15—Enduring Trials in Wisdom—Jas. 1:1-11	24
Nov. 22—Wisdom Brings Blessing—Prov. 3:13-35	26
Nov. 29—Fruitfulness of Wisdom—2 Pet. 1:1-11	28
Paragraphs on Places and People	30



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Editorials

BY MATT FRIEDMAN

Seeking Wisdom

This quarter you will read through various texts about God's wisdom and our responsibility to seek it. We will examine a selection from the book of Proverbs covering the major topics concerning wisdom. The book of Proverbs reminds us to search for wisdom more than anything else. We can also draw out the beauty of God's wisdom from the book of Psalms.

The Scriptures tell us that we are to get wisdom and understanding first. Only those who walk in humility can gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. As we respect the Lord and come before Him reverently, we begin to know wisdom. It is worth more than money, power, and strength.

But what is wisdom? That question will be behind every lesson. We are all exposed to what the world calls "wisdom" every day. It can be draining to regularly see the damage that sin and Satan's deception have caused in the minds of billions around the world. But as you and your classes will see together during this quarter, God's wisdom is unshakable. He has already won the battle against deceit.

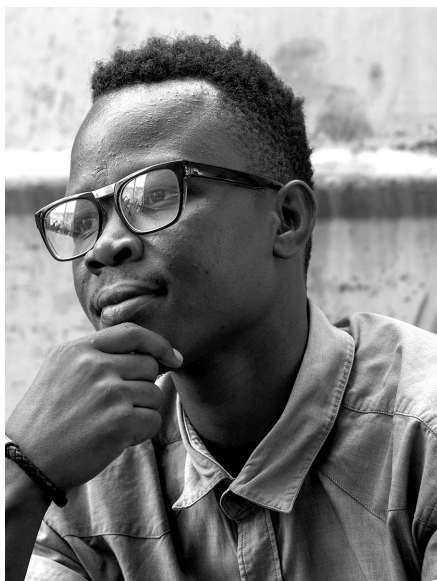
As you dig into each lesson, you will see three overarching principles about wisdom to keep in mind and to touch on during classes. First, we must remember that God's wisdom is better than foolishness. The word

"fool" will come up in every lesson this fall. Every time you look at the life and impact of the fool, you will see that living and thinking in this manner does not work!

It has been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results. One cannot live foolishly and expect to become wise. The danger is that those who are living as fools will become bigger fools. Those who are wise, however, will be blessed. The wise man builds his house on the rock and survives life's storms (Matt. 7:24-27). When we seek the Lord's wisdom, two things will happen: We will see how foolish we are without Him, and we will become more like Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit!

Second, we can grow in wisdom. Scripture does not present wisdom as an unobtainable attribute or as something available to only a select few. Rather, God gives wisdom freely and generously to all who ask (Jas. 1:5). All Christians can practice ways to grow in wisdom. These include reading Scripture, engaging in fellowship with believers (in the church as well as informally), praying and worshipping, and so much more. In the kingdom of God, there are no ivory towers. It is an upside-down kingdom, where anyone who calls on Christ is welcome.

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).



Third, all wisdom points to Christ. Christ was there in the beginning, and by Him all things were made (John 1:1-5). Christ is the revelation of the Triune God (Heb. 1:3). He is the manifestation of the wisdom of God, in whom all wisdom and truth are found (Col. 2:3). God has fully revealed Himself to us in His Son. So as we look for wisdom, the only means by which we can truly find it and be satisfied is Jesus Himself.

Don't be afraid to use Jesus as an example for your lessons. He is the example of holiness for everyone! He is the source of wisdom, as seen in His earthly ministry and His heavenly reign. The many accounts in the Gospels of Christ's teaching and interactions with people provide not only wisdom, but also examples of how to use wisdom in life and ministry to others. For example, Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well in John 4:1-29 shows how to use life's common actions to create compelling discussions to address a person's spiritual needs.

Several issues will likely come up during your classes. Some students

will tend to treat the wisdom books of the Bible legalistically. But we must recognize that, in Christ, we learn to *grow* in the wisdom we find in the wisdom books. We will never be able to perfectly follow every single principle, because we live in a fallen world. Take care to avoid teaching these lessons in the tone of "try harder, do better!" Of course, we should seek to allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to walk in obedience to Jesus, for if we try to do this relying on our own strength, we will be left exhausted and discouraged.

Another issue you will run into is making the concepts of Hebrew poetry understandable for modern listeners (see articles on pages 31 and 32 for tips on how to do this). Some of the phrases and word pictures in Scripture do not translate well to our modern everyday lives. Take time to put things into context and draw out their meaning for your teachers and classes.

A third area to consider is how to teach through the Proverbs coherently. The Proverbs contain both flowing, long passages about wisdom and single-verse-length pithy thoughts. It is easy when faced with twenty-five proverbs to spend only a few moments on each one. Take a step back, follow the guides, and try to group the verses thematically instead of individually. This will save you from a twenty-five-point Sunday school lesson!

Finally, remember that God is both the means to wisdom and its end. God wants His people to grow in knowledge and wisdom. He will give wisdom to His people so that they can know Him more deeply. You have a great opportunity to bring knowledge and wisdom to your teachers and students in Sunday school. Remember, as the superintendent, you set the tone for the lessons for children and adults. It is an awesome responsibility.

As you work through the lessons this quarter, may God grant you wisdom!

Wisdom Calls the Foolish

Lesson Text: Proverbs 1:20-33

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

OPENING MOMENTS

Suggested Song (Adults)

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”
(Watts)

Suggested Song (Children)

“Wisdom Song” (Jones)

Icebreaker

Think about a time when you ignored a call and later regretted having done so.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Wisdom's call (Prov. 1:20-27)**
2. **The consequence of rejection (Prov. 1:28-33)**

KEY ISSUES

I remember as a kid being out in the neighborhood and hearing my mom call me home when it got dark. Once those streetlights came on, I could expect to hear my name echoing down the street. It was frustrating because I wanted to keep playing with my friends. I had no other concerns in the world.

What would have happened had I not listened? As the saying goes, nothing good happens after midnight. Now that I am older, I understand why my mother called me home. It was not a call to keep me from joy but a call to safety and security so that I could have joy!

In Proverbs 1:20, there is a similar call: “Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets.” Wisdom is

personified here as a woman walking the streets of Jerusalem. She goes through the main roads and back alleys calling all the foolish to listen.

In verse 22 she asks, “How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?” Notice the three different categories of people that she is calling. First, she calls the simple. These are the uninformed ones who are merely ignorant of wisdom. This might be understood, at least in part, as those who seek to find purpose in the simple pleasures of life while missing out on the blessings of following the Lord. They hear the call of Wisdom and do not know how to respond to her.

The second group she calls to is the scorners: those who mock the Lord, His wisdom, and His ways. They hear the call of Wisdom and laugh at her. They think they are above her and know better for themselves. Because of this, they try to find their own wisdom, as pointed out in Proverbs 14:6: “A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.”

Finally, Wisdom calls on fools to change their ways. The group of fools is the most dangerous of the three. Proverbs 1:7 states, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Psalm 14:1 paints a picture of that in practice: “The fool hath said in

his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Fools deny everything about the Lord and actively rebel against Him.

THE TERM "FOOL"

An understanding of the term "fool" explains why Jesus was so serious about it in Matthew 5:22: "Whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca [a derogatory term], shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." To declare someone a fool was to say that he was not only cut off from God but also an active enemy of God. This was not something to be said lightly in an honor-based culture. It was a serious charge.

Picture a woman walking through the most corrupt and depraved street in Las Vegas, sharing the gospel and calling people to repentance. What do you think would happen? There would be many different responses. Some people would roll their eyes; some would laugh and taunt. Others might desire (or even try) to harm or kill the woman. That is the picture in this passage as Wisdom calls out to these three groups.

Woe to those who do not heed her call. She stretches her hand against them (Prov. 1:24). She will laugh at their calamity as they deny her counsel (vss. 25-26). They will be afraid and face pain and destruction quickly and fiercely (vs. 27). Worst of all, they will be left to flounder in their own "wisdom" (vs. 31).

The ignorant will have to give an account for their sin (2 Cor. 5:10). Ignorance is no excuse for violating God's commands and pursuing a life of sin.

God made provisions for those under the Old Testament Law to have forgiveness for sins committed in ignorance (Num. 15:24-29). But that is a different case than the issue of the simple in Proverbs. The simple do not seek the Lord. They do not seek wisdom and the guidance that wisdom provides.

The sacrifice for sins committed in ignorance is not a substitute for learning God's Word and seeking after Him with all one's heart. The sacrifice for sins committed in ignorance is God's merciful provision for those who want to obey Him but fall short due to the weakness of a heart and mind affected by sin. This temporary measure was in place until the final remedy for sin, the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for sin, provided sufficient payment for all sins, whether committed in ignorance or willfully.

While the simple failed to pursue God and all His wisdom, the scoffer and the fool do not have the excuse of innocence. They willfully rejected God and His ways. They refused His authority and guidance in their lives. The scoffer will have to stand before the Lord and bow down to judgment (Phil. 2:11-12). And finally, the fool will feel the wrath of the Holy One whom he rebelled against and despised (Prov. 19:29).

BRINGING IT HOME

With all this in mind, we must humble ourselves before God. We fool ourselves if we think that we did not fall into one of those categories before the call of the gospel penetrated our foolish, mocking, ignorant hearts. Those who heed the call will not face the consequences of foolishness and sin. All those who respond will experience the peace described in Proverbs 1:33 of dwelling safely and no longer fearing evil. We are not to live in fear, because we are called children of light!