



“My  
fortress;  
my  
high tower,  
my  
deliverer”

Psalm 144:2.

## *SENIOR HIGH BIBLE TEACHER*

**FOR TEACHERS OF TEENS AGES 15-17**

*FALL QUARTER | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER 2026*

# Senior High Bible Teacher

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2026

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Edited and published quarterly by

LIFESTONE MINISTRIES

UNION GOSPEL PRESS

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

ISBN 979-8-89598-013-2

# The Weeks Ahead

Welcome to the fall quarter! The lessons you will be working through will mainly focus on attaining and employing godly wisdom. Be prepared that these lessons will require students to actively learn, rather than just passively listen to their teacher's presentation. Fun and fruitful activities are in store for your class!

Our first unit, comprised of lessons 1 through 4, focuses on *the way of the fool*. Lesson 1 introduces both the book of Proverbs and the concept of biblical wisdom. The main takeaway is that wisdom is available to anyone willing to listen. The consequences of not embracing wisdom's teachings are severe.

Lesson 2 is taken from Psalm 49. This somber psalm addresses the fact that we will all face death one day. But it also contains great hope, in that it alludes to the gospel.

Lesson 3 focuses on the "otherness" of God and how none of us comes close to comparing with Him in either wisdom or power. This should lead to humility that influences how we view the Scriptures and how we live.

Lesson 4 includes Solomon's proverbs on many different topics related to wisdom. Probably the most important one is about having the fear of the Lord. Whether we fear the Lord determines whether we live our lives with wisdom or foolishness.

Our second unit, comprised of lessons 5 through 9, directs us to *the way of the wise*. Lesson 5 points out the uncertainty of life. Life inevitably will be full of surprises, and wisdom is valuable in helping us deal with whatever life throws at us.

Lesson 6 examines two ways of approaching life—with wisdom or with foolishness. The life of the fool may seem more appealing, but fools will be judged in the end.

Lesson 7 looks at the power of the tongue to bring about both benefit and harm. Though small, the tongue has great power to affect people's lives.

Lesson 8 directs our attention to the book of James and how the meek show wisdom, while the next lesson explores wisdom and foolishness as viewed by both believers and unbelievers. We will learn that even God's "foolishness" is so much more powerful than the world's wisdom.

The final unit reveals the *reward of wisdom*. Lesson 10 focuses on the requirements Solomon cites as necessary to attain wisdom. Each requires effort from us.

Lesson 11 focuses on the benefits to our character of experiencing temptations and suffering. It also looks at the importance of not doubting when we ask the Lord for wisdom in decision-making.

In lesson 12 we delve into the value of gaining wisdom, how we interact with it, and what wisdom in action looks like in life.

Lesson 13 addresses a list of goals Peter provides for all Christians and defines each one. Peter says we are to give all we have to reach these goals.

Combined, these lessons provide a road map to help your students seek, attain, and apply wisdom in their lives. Following this guide will require diligent effort, but they will find that the rewards of doing so will be well worth it.

**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).

# The Pursuit and Benefits of Wisdom

Many people equate wisdom with intelligence. Biblical wisdom, however, is not the same as intelligence. Rather, it is gained by being in tune with God's mind, heart, and character, while applying His principles to life.

Some people are wise in the ways of the world. People look for counsel from longtime business leaders, teachers, and politicians. In fact, many churches look to these folks to serve as leaders because of their vast experience.

The problem with this is that these people are not always immersed in biblical wisdom. Biblical wisdom is essential for church leadership (cf. 1 Tim. 3), but it is often overlooked in favor of competency in other areas of life. Sadly, that is why so many churches operate like businesses rather than spiritual communities. Godly wisdom is lacking.

Your students have the potential to be part of the next generation of church leaders as pastors, elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, or small group leaders. If local churches are going to thrive spiritually and be beacons for Jesus, they will require leaders who are living out godly wisdom. This quarter is the opportunity for you to begin to prepare your students for that task.

## FROM PASSIVE LEARNING TO ACTIVE TRAINING

Most of us grew up with the idea that following Jesus begins with accepting Him as our Savior and Lord, being baptized, and then becoming a moral person who attends church regularly. Our church participation may involve listening to weekly sermons, being involved in a Sunday school class or small group

Bible study, and volunteering to help sustain programs and activities.

Except for the last aspect mentioned, most of that activity is passive. We sit and listen 95 percent of the time. In the Western mind, this is how we gain knowledge and become spiritually mature. However, when the Scriptures speak of knowledge, that is not what they mean. It is not the mere accumulation of facts, Bible verses, doctrinal positions, and moral judgments. Rather, according to Scripture, knowledge is putting what we know into practice. That was the traditional Jewish mindset in antiquity.

If we examine the life of Jesus, we see that He not only taught His disciples but also trained them. He preached sermons to large crowds and He taught lessons to small groups. Information is not unimportant. But notice what else Jesus did throughout His three-year ministry: He demonstrated to His disciples how to live out the teaching He gave them.

Think of someone serving as an apprentice in a trade, such as welding or plumbing. Does the apprentice spend all his time in class listening to lectures? If so, he will be a failure, because learning a trade requires more than just knowledge of facts. To truly learn, the student must practice how to weld a tight joint or properly install a drain.

How will the apprentice learn to do this? First, the skilled trainer demonstrates how to do the task; then he supervises the trainee as he replicates what he did. It involves hands-on practice. We need a similar approach to train young people in godly wisdom.

## **WISDOM MUST BE LEARNED BY PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE**

The lessons this quarter will focus heavily on activity, both in the classroom and out of it, where students live their daily lives. If you are accustomed to lecturing from the front of a classroom and occasionally asking factual questions, please recognize that these lessons are intended to move students away from passive listening to active participation in discussions, instructive games, and weekly challenges to do something connected with each lesson.

Of course, use the Scripture passages as your foundation, but do not merely lecture your students. Find ways for them to apply the Scriptures' teachings. That is what Jesus often did, and it would be wise to follow His approach.

## **LEARNING TO PRACTICE WISDOM MUST BE INTENTIONAL**

Contained in every lesson is the idea that although wisdom comes from the Lord, we must be intentional about receiving it and putting it into practice. Some people think you gain wisdom automatically as you accumulate years in your life. If you are observant of people and how they live as older adults, you quickly realize that is not always true. Many people well past the age of forty (or seventy) are fools. Many people who have been in church their entire lives still lack godly wisdom.

To learn wisdom, we must be intentional. Rarely will the Lord merely hand it to us. Note that when Jesus stands at the door and knocks (Rev. 3:20), He does not open the door Himself; He waits for the person inside to open it. He wants us to take action to become wise, not merely sit back and wait.

## **ACQUIRING WISDOM REQUIRES EFFORT**

Acquiring godly wisdom takes not only intention; it also requires effort. We

Christians often are of two minds about works. Many of us are eager to perform works to try to earn approval from God, yet we are loath to give our works any credit for our standing with the Lord. Such a split mind can hamper our attainment of wisdom because it can paralyze us. We may refuse to make any effort, lest we see it as trying to "earn our way."

But the Scriptures we will examine this quarter make it clear that it takes effort to attain wisdom and live wisely. Attaining godly wisdom is not the same as gaining salvation. It is possible to be saved but have limited wisdom. It is not an ideal state to be in, and we should continually strive to grow in wisdom.

Students are likely to think that wisdom is naturally accumulated over many years. They may think attaining wisdom at this stage in their lives is out of reach, or they may act as if they know everything. Godly wisdom is attained by both asking for it and diligently seeking to gain it. It is better for students to start seeking it earlier in life rather than later.

## **THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM**

The benefits of having wisdom and putting it into practice are emphasized over and over in the passages discussed in these lessons. It is better for students to get an early start in attaining wisdom because the benefits are so great.

Training on your part—along with intentionality, initiative, and effort by your students—are the keys to having a successful quarter. This will require you to seek the leading of the Holy Spirit and perhaps be willing to step out of your comfort zone in your approach to teaching these lessons. If you can model godly living, maintain students' attention, and get them involved in the learning process of each lesson, you can be confident that you have done your part to train the next generation of church leaders.

# 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

# 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

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

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## *Studying the Text*

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.

In Proverbs 1:20-33, personified Wisdom pleads with her audience to listen and embrace her teachings, but they refuse and suffer the consequences. They make choices they would later come to regret.

The context of our passage is Proverbs 1:8-9. Solomon, addressing his son, told him to listen to his instruction and to follow the rules laid out by his mother. These guides would be something to be admired and appreciated, like jewelry that bestows style upon the person wearing it. The son

would appreciate these rules in time, and so would others.

Solomon was hoping to direct his son onto the right path of life while he was young, before bad habits were entrenched in his life. Solomon believed that getting his son to start following wisdom as early as possible was the best way to accomplish this. He pleaded with him to listen to his counsel.

### **WISDOM PERSONIFIED AS A WOMAN IN THE MARKETPLACE— Prov. 1:20-21**

This is the first of several passages in Proverbs in which wisdom is personified as a woman. Others include chapters 8 and 9, where wisdom calls out to the simple, inviting them to follow her. Personification is a common literary device in the Bible.

The first thing to notice is that wisdom is not hidden. She is where she can be easily seen and heard. All they need to do is turn in her direction.

In the time of Solomon, 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. Though life was very different back then, the noise of daily life was loud in those days too, with the same effect it has today—distracting from the voice of wisdom.

Because of where she was, Wisdom's audience was made up of "regular" people who were going about their business in the streets. Men and women, young people, business-people, and laborers were all within hearing range. Wisdom 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. In other words, wisdom was accessible to anyone and attainable by anyone. This remains true today. You do not have to be well educated, wealthy, of a certain social status, or of a certain age to gain wisdom.

Sometimes we meet people who have an air of wisdom about them—perhaps pastors, elders, or neighbors. People may go to them for counsel. We may think they have always been like this, but that is unlikely. People are not born wise! Wisdom calls to everyone, and it is more likely that these ordinary people responded to the call when they were younger and more foolish, and we are merely seeing the results of the discipline of seeking wisdom over many years.

While our culture is all about short-cuts and formulas to produce quick results, attaining wisdom is a lifelong pursuit, with the results emerging slowly over time but having a lasting, transformative effect on our lives.

## **WISDOM'S LOVING REBUKE— Prov. 1:22-23**

Wisdom called out to the "simple ones." The Hebrew word here evokes naiveté. It 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 heard 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. This picture may bring to mind people you know.

Other people are easily fooled by charisma, charm, and excitement. They can be taken in by frauds and people with strong personalities who promise them success or enjoyment if they follow them. As we see later in Proverbs 7:6-23, the simple can be seduced into adultery by the wiles of attractive women (or men). They do not realize the consequences of the decisions they make, much to the delight of those who want to take advantage of them.

Wisdom asked how long the simple would continue loving their approach to life. Change is difficult. Wisdom was calling them to change and promised she would pour out her spirit of wisdom upon them and give them her words to benefit their lives.

However, we often hate change; we are comfortable with who we are, what we do, and where we live. Sometimes we are just afraid of what change may require of us. Maybe we are afraid of the unknown. Thus, we are reluctant to change when we are

given the chance or warned about the consequences of not changing. Often, this causes us to miss wonderful opportunities for growth and blessings. Change can be very hard, but it is often necessary.

### **WISDOM'S RESPONSE TO BEING REFUSED—Prov. 1:24-27**

Despite much pleading from Lady Wisdom, who stretched out her hand to rescue the simple from their foolishness with words of counsel and warning, they refused to listen and repent. They continued with their lives, not heeding her warnings. At last, Wisdom finally reached her limit. Enough was enough!

Wisdom would laugh at the simple. The consequence of their choice to ignore her would be destruction. This was not meant to be cruel but to convey the absurdity of their choice. It is a ridiculous decision to ignore wisdom. 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!

### **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. They would seek her, but it would be in vain, for they would not find her. They had their chance to embrace her, but that opportunity had run out.

For a long time, the simple hated what Wisdom had to offer. They would not consider her counsel, de-

spised 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 and thus suffers the consequences, they would face the results of their bad choices.

### **THE BENEFITS OF ATTAINING WISDOM—Prov. 1:33**

In this verse, Wisdom summarizes what she has to offer to those who embrace her. Those who accept wisdom 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 those of us who accept wisdom. We will experience bad things and suffer loss in our lives, just like everyone else. It is rather a promise of internal peace while living in a chaotic and evil world.

Wise people will not be driven by the chaos of life or tossed about by every crisis because of doubt (cf. Jas. 1:6). Instead, they will remain secure and at peace regardless of what happens in their personal lives or in the world around them.

As an example, Christians can look to Betsie ten Boom, who is described in her sister Corrie's book *The Hiding Place* as at peace even in the misery and evil of a Nazi concentration camp. Or, the second-century bishop Polycarp, a disciple of John the apostle, who, when Roman soldiers came to his house to arrest him and hand him over for execution, insisted that they join him for a meal. These individuals demonstrated the wisdom described in this passage.

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- 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.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

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?

## REAL-LIFE APPLICATIONS

This passage is full of applications for your students’ lives. The overall takeaway is that wisdom is ready to be found, and your students should seek it. But here are some specific applications.

First, wisdom has little to do with intelligence. The world tends to conflate the two, but just because someone is smart does not mean that he or she is wise. This can work both ways with students. Either they feel so smart that they think they are wise, or they think they lack the intelligence to be wise. For instance, intelligence can lead to arrogance, so young peo-

ple who are recognized as smart might ignore wise counsel because they think they do not need it. On the other hand, students who have low self-esteem might assume they are incapable of wisdom. But wisdom is depicted as crying loudly in the street. This passage teaches that wisdom is available to everyone because it comes from the Lord, not man.

Second, the natural tendency of young people is not to listen to those who are older and wiser. Instead, they tend to listen to the counsel of their peers, just as Rehoboam did (1 Kgs. 12:1-15). Bad advice leads to bad results and consequences. Young people need to understand the benefits of listening to those who have a reputation for wisdom.

Third, students should seek wisdom through reading and meditating on the Word of God, asking the Lord to give them wisdom for their lives. Our passage reveals that wisdom is easily available to us if we seek it. Students should be encouraged to pursue it by establishing a habit of reading the Word daily.

Fourth, many young people develop habits of spending countless hours on insignificant things that add little to their lives. Investment in the trivial is certain to cause regret in their later years, when they recognize how they have wasted their lives. It is better that they learn now the value of investing their time in things that will help them grow spiritually and intellectually.

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

# TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

## Purpose

This lesson provides the opportunity to introduce students to the idea of wisdom and the importance of pursuing it now and over the course of their lives. You will also use this lesson to help them understand how to seek wisdom.

## Planning Your Presentation

Do an inductive study of this lesson's Scripture passage. Ask yourself what the passage says, what it meant to the original audience, and how we can apply it today. Ask, "What does this passage teach me about God?" Reflect on what you have read and how to apply it to your life.

Pray for your students individually by name that the Lord will speak to their hearts and open their minds to what He wants to teach them, and that He would make His guidance clear in their lives. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit in your preparation and teaching. Pray that your students will apply what they learn to their lives. This is a good way to begin your preparation for each class of the quarter.

A brief review of the context of this passage may be helpful, as it can lead to this question: How many of your parents have, like Solomon, sought or tried to give you advice on how to live your lives? You can follow up with another question: What wise advice have they given you? You can also share some good advice your parents gave you.

Then, based on the insights you gained from this passage, proceed with the lesson in a manner you think will work best with your students. It could be role play. You could create scenarios in which wise counsel is

obviously needed and have them discuss where to find it. You could also play a game in which you provide a scenario and advice, and then ask them to label the advice WISE or FOOLISH.

Remember that lecturing or just reading the lesson is a sure-fire way to bore your students. It is always best to engage them through open-ended questions, discussions, and activities such as role-playing or purposeful games. Make the lesson fun but at the same time thoughtful and substantial.

Also, give your students a challenge to complete during the week ahead. One possibility is for them to contact someone forty years old or older to ask what advice they would give them on a particular subject of interest or about life in general. Another would be to find a Bible reading plan and start following it. Having them take an audit of how they spend their time in a typical day is another option.

## Visual Aid

The visual aid is meant to convey the best sources for wisdom—the Word of God and people who read and follow the teachings of the Word.

