



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: January 22, 2023

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) How would you define wisdom? What would you say is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
- 3) Read Proverbs 1:1-7 together.
- 4) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 5) "To know . . . to understand . . . to receive . . . to give." Proverbs 1:2–5 provides the purpose and benefits of the book. Those who take its instruction to heart will develop an increasing sensitivity to that which is practically, intellectually, and morally wise. What heart posture is indicated in these verses as necessary to know, receive, and understand?
- 6) Speaking personally, how do you need to grow in wisdom?
- 7) "To give prudence to the simple" (Prov. 1:4a). The benefits of wisdom are held out to the simple. The simple in Proverbs are those not firmly committed either to wisdom or to folly, and because of that, they do not apply themselves to the discipline needed to gain and grow in wisdom. Why do you think such a person is vulnerable to danger?
- 8) We're told in Proverbs 1:6 that the wise are able to understand riddles. We find riddles elsewhere in Scripture. Ezekiel, for example, issues an oracle using a riddle in chapter 17 of his prophecy, and a riddle is put forth in Psalm 49:4–6. Why do you think Scripture uses riddles as a teaching device?
- 9) "The fear of the LORD" (Prov. 1:7a). This phrase occurs frequently in Proverbs and is sprinkled throughout the Old Testament and found twice in the New Testament. Read Job 28:28; Psalm 19:9; Isaiah 11:2–3; Acts 9:31; and 2 Corinthians 5:11, as well as the surrounding context of these verses, and then describe what it means to "fear the Lord."

- 10) “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov. 1:7a). This verse summarizes the message of the entire book. The quest for wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (see 9:10 and Ps. 111:10). Knowledge and wisdom are closely tied together in Proverbs. Knowledge has to do with developing a correct understanding of the world, while wisdom is the acquired skill of applying that knowledge rightly. Why do you think the fear of the Lord is a prerequisite for obtaining knowledge and wisdom?
- 11) “Fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov. 1:7b). The contrast is between the way of wisdom and the way of folly. This contrast dominates the entire book. The way of wisdom, the fear of the Lord, is set against the way of folly, which in Proverbs is equated with evil. What heart attitude revealed here classifies someone as a fool?
- 12) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you’ve discussed and learned during this time of study.¹

¹ Some of these questions taken or adapted from Brownback, Lydia. Proverbs (Knowing the Bible) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.