



# THE WISDOM WAY OF LIFE

LESSONS FROM PROVERBS 1-9

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**NEXT  
LEVEL**  **ONLINE**  
OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 1: Introduction - Orienting to Wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-7)**

***Session Notes:***

How do Proverbs prepare us for life's complexities?

What types of instruction are provided in the book of Proverbs?

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① What are some common proverbs from your culture? Can you think of older proverbs that are not used much anymore? Can you think of any newer proverbs that have emerged in the last ten years?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 1:1-7 in your own words?
- ③ William Brown has said, "Success is not necessarily a sign of moral integrity." Have you seen this at play? How have you faced challenges with this in your own life?
- ④ What kind of posture would you need to adopt to hear the words from Proverbs well?
- ⑤ The father is going to provide ten individual lessons for the son. What kinds of topics do you think the father will cover in these ten lessons?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 2: Lesson 1 - The Allure of Profit (Proverbs 1:8-19)**

***Session Notes:***

1:8-9: Introduction

1:10-18: Teaching

1:19: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① Who could be “the crowd” in your world today? In what ways are people enticed to go along with everyone else?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 1:8-19 in your own words?
- ③ The temptation to “ensure a devious profit” is common to all cultures and societies. Why is this harmful?
- ④ What could the allure of profit look like if it presented itself to you? How can you build in some safeguards to prevent you from giving in?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 3: Lesson 2 - Keep to the Good Path (Proverbs 2:1-22)**

***Session Notes:***

2:1-11: Introduction

2:12-19: Teaching

2:20-22: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① Do you agree with the educational process/cycle as explained in the session? Why do you think some find it difficult to begin the educational journey?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 2:1-22 in your own words?
- ③ The wicked man pursues crooked ways. How have you seen men or women act like this in your culture?
- ④ The forbidden woman abandons all commitments. How have you seen men or women act like this in your culture?
- ⑤ The father in Proverbs 2 thinks staying on the path will be a challenge. What kinds of things could distract you from the good path? How could you overcome those temptations?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 4: Lesson 3 - Shaping Attitudes (Proverbs 3:1-12)**

***Session Notes:***

3:1-4: Introduction

3:5-11: Teaching

3:12: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① What are some things you've learned before that you have now forgotten? If you could go back and remember one lesson from your educational journey, what would it be? Why?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 3:1-12 in your own words?
- ③ The "characters" of the father's teaching and commands help to bring a full life to the son. How does that work? In what ways are these things actually guarding the son?
- ④ Proverbs 3:5-6 suggests we should trust God amidst life's complexities. What are some moments when you find it difficult to trust God with all of your heart?
- ⑤ The summary (Proverbs 3:12) suggests that the Lord loves us. How does that reality shape our attitudes in all of life?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 5: Lesson 4 - Grace and Kindness (Proverbs 3:21-35)**

***Session Notes:***

3:21-26: Introduction

3:27-32: Teaching

3:33-35: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① The video discussed Van Leeuwen's four principles concerning wisdom. What about those four points resonated with you? Why?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 3:21-35 in your own words?
- ③ There is always a temptation to withhold good from those around us. What are some practical ways people face this temptation in your culture?
- ④ In what ways does the father's advice coincide with the message of the Old Testament, affirmed by Jesus: "Love your neighbor as yourself"?
- ⑤ In what kinds of situations is it challenging for you to show grace and kindness to others around you? How could you make adjustments to your life today to make it easier to extend grace tomorrow?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 6: Lesson 5 - Wisdom Is Worth It (Proverbs 4:1-9)**

***Session Notes:***

4:1-3: Introduction

4:4-8: Teaching

4:9: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① In contrast to other lessons, this lesson focuses on the wisdom passed down through the ages. What are some things you remember your grandparents or even great-grandparents passing on as wisdom?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 4:1-9 in your own words?
- ③ Proverbs 4:5 suggests two activities that both require efforts at remembering: not forgetting wisdom and not turning away from wisdom. Which one of these is harder for you to do in your own life?
- ④ The father encourages the son to have strong feelings for wisdom. How will this help the son on his journey?
- ⑤ At the end of it all, the wisdom of the ages suggests that wisdom is worth it. Do you agree? Why or why not? If it is worth it, what keeps us from pursuing it?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 7: Lesson 6 - The Two Paths (Proverbs 4:10-19)**

***Session Notes:***

4:10: Introduction

4:11-17: Teaching

4:18-19: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① This lesson uses the metaphor of “life is a journey.” What sayings, language, or wording do you use in your culture that uses this metaphor (for example, “When I was 16, I started down the road of...”)?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 4:10-19 in your own words?
- ③ There is freedom of movement on the path with the righteous. How have you seen this play out in your life?
- ④ There is restriction of activity on the path with the wicked, as people become obsessed with doing evil. How have you seen this play out in your life?
- ⑤ The video talked about two spirals we can find ourselves in. How have you seen the beneficial spiral and the detrimental spiral play out in your own experience? How could you get yourself into the beneficial spiral?



***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 8: Lesson 7 - Walking Straight (Proverbs 4:20-27)**

***Session Notes:***

4:20-22: Introduction

4:23-26: Teaching

4:27: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① The father plays on the idea of your body parts as characters in this drama of choosing wisdom. Can you find seven parts of the body listed here?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 4:20-27 in your own words?
- ③ How is the Hebrew concept of “heart” different from the English concept of “heart”?
- ④ Why do you think the father encourages the son to “guard your heart”?
- ⑤ Sometimes, the temptation to veer from the path is strong. How do the father’s words help keep the son headed in the right direction? What would it look like to direct your own body to the task of keeping you walking straight?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 9: Lesson 8 - Choosing Your Delights (Proverbs 5:1-23)**

***Session Notes:***

5:1-2: Introduction

5:3-20: Teaching

5:21-23: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① In some ways, this lesson deals with the idea of “hidden fees.” What kinds of things in life have you found have the steepest hidden or concealed costs?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 5:1-23 in your own words?
- ③ The video talked about how the father provides a picture of life with a special focus on the end. How is this helpful for the son?
- ④ The father could have told his son to just “stay away” from adultery, but instead he couches it in terms of competing delights. Why do you think he frames the conversation in this way?
- ⑤ There is often a hesitance to talk about sex in church, but the father is very clear about the delights his son could experience in his own marriage bed. In what ways is this perspective on sex needed in our world today?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 10: Lesson 9 - Choose Companions Carefully (Proverbs 6:20-35)**

***Session Notes:***

6:20-23: Introduction

6:24-33: Teaching

6:34-35: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① Many a tragic story begins with the words, “It was a dark and stormy night...” What are some of life’s circumstances that could cause the son to face dark and stormy nights of his own?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 6:20-35 in your own words?
- ③ Why do you think the father gives examples about embracing fire or walking on burning coals? How is this similar to sleeping with someone else’s wife?
- ④ Why is the burned husband such a daunting and imposing figure here? What danger is he to others?
- ⑤ We may feel warnings like this one are for other people, not for us. However, the father is trying to help his son plan for these “dark and stormy” times of his own life. What kinds of rhythms, practices, or plans could you put into place in your own life to help protect you from temptation in dark and stormy seasons of your own?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 11: Lesson 10 - Steer Clear of Seduction (Proverbs 7:1-27)**

***Session Notes:***

7:1-5: Introduction

7:6-23: Teaching

7:24-27: Summary

***Discussion Questions:***

- ① Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. How does the Lord want us to use everyday objects to remember what's important?
- ② How would you put the message of Proverbs 7:1-27 in your own words?
- ③ The son is described as "naive." In the book of Proverbs, this is often someone who has yet to make a commitment. Why is it important to make a commitment about which road we will take early on in our lives?
- ④ How does the forbidden woman appeal to the youth's five senses? Why do you think the father describes this scene in such detail?
- ⑤ Our culture teaches (along with the forbidden woman) that actions are not connected to consequences. Why does the father want his son to connect the dots between what he does and what happens as a result? How would connecting the dots help us in our lives?

***The Wisdom Way of Life: Lessons from Proverbs 1-9***  
**Session 12: Summary - Two Banquets (Proverbs 9:1-18)**

***Session Notes:***

9:1-6: Wisdom's Delectable Feast

9:7-12: Advanced Instructions for Wisdom's Guests

9:13-18: Folly's Scrappy Leftovers

***Discussion Questions:***

① Why do you think the father paints the picture of two banquets here? How does this help us make sense of what is being offered to us?

② How would you put the message of Proverbs 9:1-18 in your own words?

③ What kind of benefits does Lady Wisdom offer her guests? What kind of benefits does Lady Folly offer her guests?

④ Below are the individual messages of each of the ten lessons in Proverbs. Which ones resonated with you the most? Why?

- Lesson 1 - The Allure of Profit (Proverbs 1:8-19)
- Lesson 2 - Keep to the Good Path (Proverbs 2:1-22)
- Lesson 3 - Shaping Attitudes (Proverbs 3:1-12)
- Lesson 4 - Grace and Kindness (Proverbs 3:21-35)
- Lesson 5 - Wisdom Is Worth It (Proverbs 4:1-9)
- Lesson 6 - The Two Paths (Proverbs 4:10-19)
- Lesson 7 - Walking Straight (Proverbs 4:20-27)
- Lesson 8 - Choosing Your Delights (Proverbs 5:1-23)
- Lesson 9 - Choose Companions Carefully (Proverbs 6:20-35)
- Lesson 10 - Steer Clear of Seduction (Proverbs 7:1-27)

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