



## INTRODUCTION

## Part 1 - Wisdom's Foundation

The series, Wise Guy, explores wisdom from the biblical book of Proverbs. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule God's nation, and He granted the request. We could all use a little more wisdom, insight, knowledge and understanding, too.

Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, penned the Old Testament book of Proverbs to address our need to know and understand life. His insights can help us navigate relationships, work, pleasure, and a host of other challenging situations.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define "wisdom?" What do you think the difference is between wisdom and knowledge? Why are both important?
2. Do you think most people live wisely? Explain your answer.
3. Can you think of a time when you did not act wisely? Why do you think we sometimes do foolish things?
4. Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What do we learn from these verses about why Solomon "compiled" the book of Proverbs? How do you think this book could help us live our lives?
5. Read Proverbs 1:7 again. How would you define "the fear of the Lord?" Read Proverbs 9:10; 14:26-27; 16:6; 19:23; and Acts 9:31. What additional insights do we get about the meaning of the phrase, "the fear of the Lord" from these verses?
6. Did you grow up being afraid of God? Do you think God wants us to be afraid of him? Explain your answer.
7. Dr. Buzzell defines "fear of the Lord" as "recognizing God's character and responding by revering, trusting, worshiping, obeying, and serving Him. What do you like about this definition? How does this definition line up with Tim's: "the fear of the Lord is walking in step with him?"
8. What could help us include God in every aspect of our lives?
9. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

## APPLICATION

Through God, Solomon wrote the Old Testament book of Proverbs so we could grow in understanding and wisdom, and so we would know what to do and how to respond to various situations in life. The starting point of wisdom is what Solomon calls, "the fear of the Lord."

The "fear of the Lord" is not meant to be a cowering or running away kind of fear. In Proverbs, the "fear of the Lord" is associated with trusting God, taking refuge in Him, walking in His life-giving ways, turning away from sin, and being mindful of God's presence. "Fear of the Lord" is walking in step with God as we acknowledge, revere, trust, worship, obey, serve, and allow the reality of His existence and presence to inform how we live our lives with Him moment-by-moment and day-by-day.

Practically, what does this look like? Your first steps could be to:

- Spend time getting to know God
- Include God in every aspect of your life
- Consider what God may want when you are making decisions
- Avoid those things you know don't please God

## KEY VERSES

Proverbs 1:1-7  
Proverbs 9:10  
Proverbs 14:26-27

Proverbs 19:23  
Proverbs 16:6  
Acts 9:31

Gensis 1:1  
Proverbs 3:5-6  
Proverbs 8:13