

# **Proverbs**

## Wisdom for Life

Marilyn Kunz & Catherine Schell

Published by Q Place

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# 1

## Proverbs 1

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### Know Wisdom

**T**he book of Proverbs begins with a clear statement of the book's purpose and of its benefit to all those who follow its teaching. Read it as though it were written directly to you. Take note when a topic resonates with something in your life. Consider how you would apply its teaching.

1. What proverb or short bit of wisdom do you remember from childhood?

#### **Read Proverbs 1:1-7**

*Note: Most scholars view verse 1 as the general title of the book, identifying Solomon as the major contributor rather than the only one.*

2. For background on Solomon, read 1 Kings 3:5-14, 28 and 4:29-34. What was the source and extent of Solomon's wisdom?

Why had Solomon requested it?

- 3. What can you learn about God from his response to Solomon's request?
  
- 4. What are the benefits of investing time in the book of Proverbs? Use a dictionary to help you understand the meaning of each of the qualities listed in verses 2-7.

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Meaning</b>

*Note: In Hebrew, the words **wisdom** and **instruction** go together: **wisdom** comes from a word that means “skill,” and **instruction** comes from a word that means “discipline.” No skill is perfected without discipline. For example, in playing the piano, a person develops skill (wisdom) through discipline (instruction). With skill comes the freedom to create a beautiful piece of music that many can enjoy.*

5. What four types of people will benefit from these proverbs, and how?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is the starting point of all true knowledge according to Proverbs?

*Note: Rather than spending a lot of time discussing what it means to **fear the LORD** at this point, look for clues as to its meaning as you go through Proverbs.*

7. What real-life examples have you seen that reflect both parts of verse 7?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Verse 7 has been identified as the foundation and theme of the whole book of Proverbs. What do Proverbs 9:10 and Psalm 34:8-11, 15-16 add to your understanding of what it means to **fear the LORD**?

From your perspective, why would the fear of the LORD be the foundation of wisdom in a person's life?

**Read Proverbs 1:8-19**

9. This section becomes personal. Why do you think the speaker changes his approach?

What aspects of this approach are an effective way to counsel and warn?

10. What kinds of evil are described? Give any current examples that come to mind.
11. What reasons does the speaker give for heeding this warning?





How do you feel about Wisdom's response to those who ignore her and to those who listen?

## SUMMARY

1. What speaks personally to you from Proverbs 1 as a warning to apply to your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What speaks as a promise to count on?

## PRAYER

*Dear Lord, we pray that you will guide us as we go through this study together. Help us to learn what it means to “fear you.” In our daily lives, fill us with awe and reverence of you. Help us to apply the insights of wisdom; to grow in living disciplined lives; to do what is right, just, and fair; to be discerning. Through this study of Proverbs, bring to our attention the things that you want us to recognize, not just mentally, but at the core of who we are. We pray this for your glory and for our good, amen.*