

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Proverbs

Main Idea

The book of Proverbs is full of timeless wisdom for everyday life. While it was written thousands of years ago, its truths still speak directly into our choices, relationships, and character today. Proverbs reminds us that wisdom isn't just about knowledge, it's about living in alignment with God's ways. Solomon teaches that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," meaning true understanding starts when we see God for who He is: awesome, holy, and right.

Throughout Proverbs, we meet four kinds of people: The simple, the fool, the mocker, and the wise. Each one represents a path we can take, but only the way of wisdom leads to life, security, and blessing. This week's message challenged us to consider which path we've been walking and how we can grow in wisdom by honoring God. As we begin our discussion, let's lean in with open hearts, ready to receive the wisdom from above that helps us live well and walk fearlessly with Him.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and
knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

PROVERBS 9:10

Make it Practical:

Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord:

- True wisdom starts when we recognize God as awesome, holy, and right.
- Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 33:8; Hebrews 12:28-29

Proverbs reveals four kinds of people:

- The simple lack sense (Proverbs 7:7)
- The fool rejects wisdom (Proverbs 10:23; 13:20)
- The mocker resists correction (Proverbs 9:7-8)
- The wise embrace instruction and grow (Proverbs 9:9)

Wisdom leads to life.

- When we live in the fear of the Lord, it brings guidance, protection, and blessing.
- Proverbs 4:7; Proverbs 19:23

Talk About It

- Proverbs describes the simple, the fool, the mocker, and the wise. As you think about different seasons of your life, which of these do you most identify with, and what helped you move toward wisdom?
- The sermon reminded us that wisdom begins with “the fear of the Lord.” What does it practically look like for you to live with awe, reverence, and trust in God in your daily decisions?
- Proverbs says wisdom leads to life, security, and blessing. Can you share a time when choosing God’s way brought clarity, protection, or peace into a situation you were facing?

**When I understand what it means to fear God,
I can live fearlessly.**

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your wisdom. Help us to walk in the fear of the Lord, recognizing Your awesomeness, holiness, and righteousness in every area of our lives. Forgive us for the times we have been simple, foolish, or mocking, and guide us toward the path of wisdom. Give us hearts that receive instruction, minds that seek understanding, and courage to live fearlessly for You. May Your wisdom shape our decisions, protect us, and lead us into a life that honors You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Next Steps

Reflect honestly:

- Identify areas where you’ve been simple, foolish, or mocking, and ask God to help you grow in wisdom (Proverbs 7:7; 13:20).

Practice reverence:

- Begin each day by declaring who God is—awesome, holy, and right—so that your decisions are shaped by a fear of the Lord (Psalm 33:8; Hebrews 12:28-29).

Pursue wisdom daily:

- Commit to reading a chapter of Proverbs each day this week, asking God to show you how His wisdom applies to your life (Proverbs 4:7).