

Study Guide-“Are You Taking God Seriously?”

Wednesday-June 24, 2026

Introduction to Biblical Wisdom

This study guide explores the core principles of the book of Proverbs, specifically focusing on Proverbs 1:7. Proverbs is classified as "wisdom literature." Unlike other books in the Bible that tell stories or offer specific promises, Proverbs teaches the basic principles of how life works in the world that God created. It is designed to show us how to align our lives with His design.

The central theme of this study is the "fear of the LORD." This phrase is so essential to Solomon, the author, that it appears 18 times throughout the book. To take God seriously, one must understand that this fear is not about terror or panic. Instead, it is a deep sense of reverence, awe, and respect for the majesty of God as the Creator of the universe. It is the settled realization that He is God and we are not.

In Proverbs 1:7, we see a clear contrast between two ways of living:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."
(Proverbs 1:7, NKJV)

This verse establishes that wisdom is not just about being smart or capable; it is about having the right foundation. When God is at the center, knowledge is anchored. Without Him, knowledge becomes disconnected and lacks a true ground to stand upon.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. Based on the document, how is the book of Proverbs different from other types of books in the Bible?
2. How many times does the phrase "fear of the LORD" appear in the book of Proverbs, and what does this suggest about its importance?
3. Explain the difference between "terror" and the "fear of the LORD" as described in the text.
4. The text mentions that "beginning" in Hebrew refers to more than just a first step. What does this word signify in the context of Proverbs 1:7?
5. According to the document, what is the definition of "wisdom" in the book of Proverbs?
6. What happens to a person's knowledge and life when God is removed from the center?
7. How does the book of Proverbs define a "fool," and how does this differ from the common definition of someone who lacks intelligence?
8. What does it mean to "take God seriously" regarding your own impulses and instincts?
9. The text suggests we should treat correction in a specific way. How should a wise person view being corrected?
10. What is the relationship between "trust" and "control" according to the final sections of the study?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Proverbs is described as wisdom literature. It does not tell a story or make specific promises; instead, it teaches the basic principles of how life works in the world God created.
2. The phrase appears 18 times. This frequency suggests that Solomon and God consider the "fear of the LORD" to be an essential and very important foundation for wisdom.
3. The fear of the LORD is not about being scared, panicked, or in terror. It is defined as a deep reverence, awe, and respect for the majesty of God and His role as the Creator.
4. In Hebrew, "beginning" refers to a priority, a foundation, or a controlling principle. It is the ground that wisdom stands upon rather than just an entrance ramp that one leaves behind.
5. Wisdom is the act of knowing how to live well by aligning one's life with the way God designed it. It involves making decisions based on His perspective rather than personal impulses.
6. When God is removed, knowledge becomes disconnected and ungrounded. It may still function, but it has no anchor and no central point to make sense of the world.
7. A fool is not necessarily someone who is not smart. In Proverbs, a fool is someone who chooses to reject guidance, refuses correction, and insists on being their own authority.
8. Taking God seriously means choosing to trust His perspective and His design over your own desires, impulses, and instincts. This awareness shapes how you treat others, handle money, and define success.
9. A wise person should treat correction as a gift rather than an insult. This involves being open to guidance and refusing to reject the instruction provided by God and others.
10. The study encourages individuals to choose trust over control. To live wisely, one must surrender control to God and trust in His wisdom rather than their own ability to manage every situation.

Essay Questions

1. Reflect on the statement: "The fear of the LORD is the foundation, not the entrance ramp, of wisdom." How does this change the way a person might pursue knowledge throughout their life?
2. Compare and contrast the "Wise Person" and the "Fool" as presented in the text. Focus on their attitudes toward authority and correction.
3. The text states that wisdom involves "aligning your life with the way God designed it." How might this alignment affect specific areas of a teenager's life, such as friendships, schoolwork, or social media?
4. Explain why knowledge becomes "disconnected" when God is not at the center. Use examples from the text to support why God's perspective is necessary for knowledge to have an "anchor."

5. The conclusion of the study asks three specific questions about taking God seriously. Choose one of these questions and discuss how a person might practically apply it to their daily routine.
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Glossary of Key Terms

- **Anchor:** A metaphor used to describe how God provides stability and a fixed point for knowledge and life.
 - **Beginning:** In the Hebrew context of Proverbs, this refers to the priority, foundation, or controlling principle of a matter.
 - **Correction:** Guidance or discipline intended to rectify a mistake; the text describes this as a "gift" for those seeking wisdom.
 - **Fear of the LORD:** A state of deep reverence, awe, and respect for the majesty of God; recognizing Him as the Creator.
 - **Fool:** A person who makes the choice to reject instruction and guidance, preferring to act as their own authority.
 - **Foundation:** The solid ground or base upon which wisdom and knowledge are built.
 - **Instruction:** Teaching or direction given to help someone grow in wisdom; something "fools" are said to despise.
 - **Knowledge:** Information and understanding that only truly makes sense when grounded in the reality of who God is.
 - **Reverence:** A feeling of profound respect and honor toward God.
 - **Wisdom:** The practical understanding of how to live well by aligning oneself with God's design for the world.
 - **Wisdom Literature:** A genre of biblical writing (like Proverbs) that focuses on the principles of life and the world's design rather than narrative history.
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Note: No Greek words were used in the source context or this study guide.