

Lesson 1 – The Beginning of Wisdom (Student Handouts)
(Instruction: This handout is for personal study and class' focus)
Proverbs 1:1–7

1. Introduction

Many people think wisdom means being smart, getting good grades, or knowing a lot of information. But the Bible defines wisdom very differently. According to Proverbs, true wisdom does not begin with intelligence or experience—it begins with **the fear of the LORD**.

The opening verses of Proverbs explain why the book was written: to teach people, especially the young, how to live wisely, make good choices, and walk in a way that honors God. This lesson helps students understand that real wisdom is impossible without a relationship with God that includes reverence, trust, and obedience.

2. Main Idea

The fear of the LORD is the foundation and starting point of all true wisdom and knowledge.

3. Explanation of the Passage

- **“Wisdom and instruction” (v.2):**
The book of Proverbs was written to teach wisdom (skill for living well) and instruction (discipline, correction, and guidance). Wisdom is not just knowing what is right, but learning how to live it out in everyday life—at school, with friends, and at home.
- **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (v.7):**
To fear the LORD does not mean being scared of God. It means having deep respect, awe, and reverence for Him—recognizing who He is and choosing to submit to His authority. This verse teaches that wisdom begins when we take God seriously and allow Him to guide our lives.
- **“Fools despise wisdom and instruction” (v.7):**
In Proverbs, a “fool” is not someone who lacks intelligence. A fool is someone who rejects God’s truth, ignores correction, and chooses their own way instead. This verse highlights the difference between wise people, who are teachable, and foolish people, who resist guidance.

4. Understanding God’s Word (Discussion Questions)

1. According to verse 7, what does it mean to fear the LORD in practical terms?
2. Why do you think the book of Proverbs focuses so much on teaching young people?
3. What attitudes or behaviors show that someone is acting foolishly according to this passage?

5. Personal Application

1. Do I truly respect God enough to listen to His Word and obey it?
2. Where do I usually turn for advice—God, friends, social media, or myself?
3. What attitudes (pride, stubbornness, ignoring correction) do I need to change in order to grow in wisdom?

Encourage students to think about real-life decisions they face, such as friendships, relationships, honesty, and future goals, and how God’s wisdom should shape those choices.

6. Prayer: Lord, teach me to fear You with reverence and humility. Help me to build my life on Your wisdom instead of my own understanding. Give me a teachable heart that listens to Your Word and follows Your ways each day. Amen.