

Lesson 1 – The Beginning of Wisdom (Teacher's guide)

(Instruction: This guide is for teaching prep. Use student handout as class focus)

Text: Proverbs 1:1–7

Audience: Youth & young people

Goal: Students will understand that true wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD and will evaluate where they seek guidance for their lives.

1. Opening & Icebreaker (5 minutes)

Icebreaker Question:

- “Who do you usually go to for advice when you have a big decision—friends, parents, Google, social media, or yourself?”

Transition:

Explain that everyone seeks advice, but the Bible teaches that true wisdom comes from one primary source: God.

2. Introduction to Proverbs (5 minutes)

Teacher Teaching Points:

- Proverbs is a book of wisdom written mainly by King Solomon.
- It is especially directed toward young people who are learning how to live wisely.
- Wisdom in the Bible is not just knowledge, but skill in living God’s way.

Key Idea to Emphasize:

Wisdom is about **how we live**, not just **what we know**.

3. Reading the Scripture (5 minutes)

Activity:

- Have students read Proverbs 1:1–7 aloud (different students read different verses).

Observation Question:

- “What words or ideas stand out to you in these verses?”

4. Teaching: What Is Biblical Wisdom? (10 minutes)

A. Purpose of Proverbs (vv. 1–4)

- Wisdom and instruction help us make good decisions.
- God wants to shape our character: righteousness, justice, and integrity.
- Proverbs is meant to guide real-life choices at school, with friends, and online.

B. The Fear of the LORD (v.7)

- Explain that “fear” means reverence, respect, and surrender to God.
- Wisdom begins when we recognize God as Lord, not just a helper.
- Without God, knowledge can become prideful or misused.

Illustration:

Knowing traffic laws doesn't help if you ignore them. Wisdom is living by what you know.

5. Wise vs. Foolish Responses (10 minutes)**Teaching Point:**

- A "fool" in Proverbs is not unintelligent, but unteachable.
- Fools reject correction and trust themselves more than God.
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Small Group Discussion (3–4 students per group):

1. What does a teachable person look like?
2. Why is it hard to accept correction?
3. How do pride or peer pressure affect our choices?

Teacher Wrap-Up:

Wisdom grows in humble, teachable hearts.

6. Personal Reflection & Application (7 minutes)**Reflection Questions (silent or written):**

- Who influences my decisions the most right now?
- Am I willing to let God challenge my thinking?
- Where do I need to listen more carefully to God's Word?

Application Challenge:

Encourage students to spend time this week reading one chapter of Proverbs and asking God for wisdom.

7. Closing Summary & Prayer (3 minutes)**Summary Points:**

- Wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD.
- God's wisdom shapes character, not just behavior.
- Being wise means being teachable and obedient.

Closing Prayer:

Ask God to give students reverence for Him, teachable hearts, and wisdom for daily decisions.

Optional Take-Home Challenge

- Read Proverbs 1 this week.
- Write down one verse that stands out and why.
- Pray daily for wisdom in decisions at school and with friends.

