



# LIFE Group Discussion Guide

## May 3, 2026

### *Proverbs 1:7*

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#### **CONVERSATION STARTERS**

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

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#### **OPENING**

Who is someone you would consider wise? What makes them stand out to you?

In a world full of opinions, advice, and information, it can be hard to know what real wisdom actually is. Proverbs begins by giving us a foundational truth—where wisdom starts and why some people never truly find it.

Today we'll explore that true wisdom begins with the right view of God.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Proverbs 1:7** aloud together.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Ask the group to listen for:

- What is the starting point of wisdom?
- What contrast is being made?

## PASSAGE SUMMARY

This verse serves as the foundation for the entire book of Proverbs.

- “Fear of the Lord” means reverence, awe, and a right relationship with God.
- It’s not about being afraid of God, but recognizing His authority and responding with humility.
- Wisdom doesn’t start with intelligence—it starts with surrender.
- The verse also contrasts two types of people:
  - Those who pursue wisdom
  - Those who reject it (“fools”)

This sets the tone: our response to God determines our path in life.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**When you hear the phrase “fear of the Lord,” what comes to mind?**

Some may think of fear as being scared, but biblically it points to reverence, respect, and submission to God’s authority.

**Why do you think wisdom begins with a right view of God instead of just knowledge or experience?**

Because without recognizing God as the ultimate authority, our understanding is limited and self-centered. True wisdom aligns with God’s truth.

**How would you describe the difference between knowledge and wisdom?**

Knowledge is information; wisdom is knowing how to live rightly based on that truth. Wisdom applies knowledge in a God-honoring way.

**The verse says “fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Why do people resist correction or instruction?**

Pride, desire for control, fear of being wrong, or not wanting accountability.

**In what ways can pride keep someone from growing in wisdom?**

Pride resists learning, avoids correction, and assumes “I already know.” It closes the door to growth.

**What are some practical ways we can grow in the “fear of the Lord” in daily life?**  
Spending time in God’s Word, prayer, obedience, humility, and recognizing God’s presence in everyday decisions.

**How can we tell if we are truly pursuing wisdom or just accumulating information?**

Look at life change—are we applying truth? Are our attitudes, decisions, and relationships being shaped by God’s Word?

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## **APPLICATION**

**Where in your life right now do you need to move from simply knowing truth to actually living it out?**

Encourage specific areas: relationships, habits, priorities, attitudes.

**What is one area where pride might be keeping you from receiving correction or growing?**

Help participants reflect honestly on resistance to change.

**What is one practical step you can take this week to grow in your reverence and obedience to God?**

Examples: intentional prayer time, applying a specific Scripture, seeking godly counsel.

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## **DIG DEEPER**

**Why is it significant that Proverbs begins with this verse? How does this shape everything that follows?**

**Consider how culture often defines wisdom (success, intelligence, independence). How does this differ from biblical wisdom?**

**What are some warning signs that someone is drifting away from the “fear of the Lord”?**

(Ignoring Scripture, resisting correction, living independently of God’s authority.)

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## **CLOSING THOUGHT**

Encourage reflection:

Wisdom doesn’t begin with what we know—it begins with who we trust and submit to.

Ask:

**Am I building my life on my own understanding, or on reverence for God?**

Challenge the group:

This week, don’t just seek more knowledge—seek to walk in obedience.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

Next week is Mother's Day. In honor of moms and as a part of our sermon series, **"Uncommon Sense: God's Wisdom in a Foolish World"**, we will study Proverbs 31:16-31 on May 10.

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## PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God that He is the source of all true wisdom.
- Ask Him to grow a deeper reverence and awe in our hearts.
- Pray for humility to receive correction and instruction.
- Pray specifically for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

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## COMMENTARY

### Proverbs 1:7

The primary purpose of Proverbs is the instruction of young people and those who have yet to learn wisdom, but it is not only for children. Those who are already mature and learned also have a great deal to learn from this book, and they should not shun it as unworthy of their time.

Verse 7 ties the fundamental principle of biblical wisdom ("The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge") to recognition that many will reject wisdom and God ("fools despise wisdom"). A principle that believers must teach their children is that in their pursuit of wisdom they will be surrounded by others going the opposite direction who will be encouraging them to do likewise. In this fashion the polarity of the entire Book of Proverbs—the way of the wise and the way of the fool—is introduced. The reader faces the alternatives and is challenged to attain wisdom through the fear of God.