



LIFE Group Discussion Guide

May 3, 2026

Proverbs 1:7

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?

OPENING

Who is someone you think is really wise? What makes them wise—what they know or how they live?

We hear advice all the time—friends, social media, school, family. Everyone has an opinion about how to live. But Proverbs starts by telling us where *real* wisdom actually begins.

Today we'll learn that real wisdom starts with a right relationship with God.

SCRIPTURE

Read **Proverbs 1:7** together.

Ask students to listen for:

- What is the starting point of wisdom?
- What kind of person rejects it?

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 “fear of the Lord,” what do you think that means?

Help students move from “being scared” to “respect, awe, and taking God seriously.”

Why do you think real wisdom starts with God instead of just learning more information?

Because without God, we decide truth for ourselves. Wisdom comes from knowing and following what God says is right.

What’s the difference between being smart and being wise?

- Smart = knowing things
 - Wise = living the right way
- Someone can be smart but still make bad decisions.

Why do people (especially teens) sometimes ignore advice or correction?

- Pride (“I know better”)
- Not wanting to change
- Peer pressure
- Wanting independence

The verse says fools “despise” instruction. What does that look like in real life?

Ignoring advice, rejecting truth, making the same mistakes repeatedly, not listening to parents/leaders.

What are some ways you can grow in your relationship with God so you can grow in wisdom?

- Reading the Bible
- Praying
- Listening to godly advice

- Actually doing what God says

How can you tell if you're actually growing in wisdom—not just hearing truth?

Your choices change. Your attitude changes. You begin to live differently, not just know more.

APPLICATION

Where in your life do you know the right thing to do—but aren't doing it yet?

Encourage honesty (attitude, habits, relationships, etc.).

What is one area where you need to listen to advice or correction instead of ignoring it?

Help students think about parents, coaches, teachers, or leaders.

What is one step you can take this week to take God more seriously in your daily life?

Examples:

- Spend time with God daily
- Obey something specific from Scripture
- Pause and pray before making decisions

DIG DEEPER

Why do you think people sometimes act like they know better than God?

How does culture define “wisdom,” and how is that different from what this verse says?

What could change in your life if you really lived like God knows best?

CLOSING THOUGHT

You don't become wise just by getting older—you become wise by choosing to follow God.

Real wisdom starts when you stop saying: “I know what's best” and start saying: “God knows what's best—and I'm going to follow Him.”

Give a moment of quiet reflection:

“God, where do I need to trust You more?”

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.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray together:

- Thank God for being the source of true wisdom.
- Ask Him to help students take Him seriously in their everyday lives.
- Pray for humility to listen and grow.
- 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.

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.