

# The Beginning of Wisdom

## Appetizer

*Proverbs 4:7: The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

1. How would you define wisdom?
2. Who in your life might you consider to be wise?

## Entrée

*Proverbs 3:1-10*

1. Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What do these verses tell us about the purpose and audience of this book? How would you define wisdom based on these verses?
2. The word *wisdom* in Proverbs is translated from the Hebrew word *hokmah*. In some contexts it could be translated as *skill* or *ability*. In the book of Proverbs it is used in the sense of being skilled at life, of knowing how to live a good life. It is both a gift from God, and something to be pursued. (Pemberton, Proverbs, p10-11)  
How do you think that people in Vancouver might describe a life well lived? What elements make up a good life, and why these things?
3. Read Proverbs 3:1-10. According to this passage, what are some elements needed in a pursuit of wisdom? Why do you think that each of these elements might be important?
4. One of the themes that emerges in Proverbs chapter 1-9 is the pursuit of wisdom as a decision; a person must decide to listen to the voice of wisdom amidst other voices they might pay attention to. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? What might it look like in practice to decide to do this?
5. What is an area of your life in which you would like to grow in wisdom?