

# How to Be a Wise Guy

*Studies in Proverbs*

## How YOU Doin...?

Introduction to Proverbs 1-4, 8-9

In the sitcom, "Friends", Joey is fond of saying, "How YOU doin...?" It's his way of saying that he really cares about the other person and wants to know how things are really going for them. We have another way of saying that here at Celebration—we ask, "How's that working out for you?" In other words, the way we keep doing life has an end result, and we have to ask if the outcome is good or bad. That's what the book of Proverbs is all about—showing us how to "do life" successfully by using wisdom, rather than failing at it by living as a fool. Wisdom is often thought of as "book smarts", or common "horse sense", but really wisdom is a combination of those, plus a few other things. Most importantly, true wisdom comes from above, from God, and His revelation in the Bi-

ble is the foundation of that wisdom. In Proverbs 1-9 the ways of wisdom and foolishness are contrasted, and we discover three things about wisdom. First, we encounter an analysis of wisdom—what it really is. It is called understanding, instruction, prudence and knowledge; but in its deepest sense wisdom is the truth about life that God reveals—how life works the way it was really meant to work. This is what we all want to know, although we are all born with foolishness inside and thus act in self-destructive ways. This passage also clues us into some of the many advantages of wisdom. In these first chapters of Proverbs Solomon, the author, reveals that wisdom brings to the one who pursues it protection from harm, pros-



**Using God's Wisdom to Make Life Work**

perity, and progress in obtaining success. Finally, the acquisition of wisdom is pointed out. We are told very simply that the "fear of the Lord" is the beginning of wisdom—true wisdom comes from God. As James 1 will later say, if we lack wisdom we must ask God for it. Then, we must discover that wisdom from His Word, and apply it to our lives. With God's wisdom we will be doing well, and life will work out as it should.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Study Questions for Proverbs 1-4, 8-9

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

1. Read 1:1-6 and 8:12-14. List the words used for wisdom (v2-4). What is wisdom, and in what does it result (1:3, 5; 8:12-14)?

2. Look at 8:22-31. How long has wisdom been around (v22), and how does God feel about it (v30-31)? How does this show wisdom's value?

3. According to 1:7 how do we acquire wisdom, and why do you think that is true? What do fools do?

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## Proverbs 1-4, 8-9 Study Questions (cont)

4. Using 2:1-6 how do we continue to acquire wisdom (v3-4, 6)? What must our attitude be if we are to grow in wisdom (v1-2)?

5. Based on 9:1-12 what 2 situations in life lead us to acquire wisdom (v4-6 and v8-9)? What wisdom have you acquired in such situations?

6. From 2:7-22 in what ways does wisdom provide us protection (v7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 20-22)? Explain how that works.

7. In 3:1-4 what types of prosperity does God's wisdom lead to (v2, 4)? Why do you think that is true?

8. Read 3:5-8. What other blessing does wisdom give us (v8)? Why? What must we do to have this wisdom (v5-6, 7)?

9. Looking at 3:13-18 what are the benefits of wisdom (v16, 17, 18)? How does it compare with value of anything else (v14-15)?

10. From 4:11-27 how does wisdom help us make progress in life (v12, 18-19)? What 2 things must we pay attention to in order to continue our progress (23, 25-27)?

11. Summarize practically how you can acquire wisdom, and what you can expect it to do for you.

### Scripture to Remember

*"How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding."*

**Proverbs 3:13 (NAS)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—  
Restoring—Raising Up*

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### Life Group Questions—Worshiping Together

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Why does the Bible say that wisdom is greater than monetary, military, or mental power? How wise do you consider yourself?
2. Of the two abilities that wisdom gives, the power to change and the power to decide, which is most important to you? Why?
3. Is there anything you would add to this definition of wisdom, "The ability to see life from God's point of view"? How does this show the value of wisdom?
4. How would classify yourself—one who never learns, learns from your own mistakes, learns from others' mistakes, or learns from God? How can you improve?
5. What specific actions in the areas of reading, studying, memorizing, meditating, or applying God's Word will you take this week to grow in wisdom?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.