

How to Be a Wise Guy

Studies in Proverbs

What's the Skinny?

Introduction to Proverbs 5-7

In World War II there was a saying known as the "skinny naked truth", which referred to the plain and unvarnished version of a story. As Solomon wrote and compiled the book of Proverbs, his goal was to present to his son the "skinny naked truth" of life as it really was, whether good or bad.

Three of the subjects which he addressed were those of sexual enticement, unwise entanglements, and energetic work. These are all areas of struggle for the immature, whether young or old, and they often learn how to successfully deal with these things only through failure. However, such painful consequences can be avoided if the wisdom of God is understood and applied. Regarding the issue of sexual enticement Proverbs has a lot to say both about the enticer, and the one enticed.

The enticer is presented as an adulterer, and a prostitute, but the approach is the same. They seek to lure the naïve into an immoral relationship through seductive speech, physical beauty, and the "romance" of enjoying "stolen" treasures. Sadly, when this pathway is followed it leads to destruction, not only for the ones involved, but also for the family that the immorality affects. God's wisdom is to remain faithful to one's spouse by learning to find satisfaction with them in every way. In the area of unwise entanglements, the first section of advice is to extract oneself as quickly as possible from the financial debts of another, and to never enter these types of situations in the future. Furthermore, it is ex-



Using God's Wisdom to Make Life Work

tremely unwise to get involved with people who pursue evil, whether through speech or action. God hates such behavior, and those who engage in it will come to a sudden end. Finally, the immature are instructed to embrace energetic work. It is our nature to be lazy, but this will lead to poverty and want. We must follow the ant's industrious pattern of work, and then we will have provision when we need it. That's the "skinny" on these 3 areas.

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 5-7

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Read 5:1-6. What is one avenue of sexual enticement (v3) and what is its result (v4-5)? Why does the "enticer" do this (v6)?

2. Looking at 5:7-14 how should we deal with sexual enticement (v8)? What will happen if we give in to it (v9-11)? Explain.

3. Using 5:15-23 what positive actions must we take to avoid marital disaster (v15, 18-19)? Why should we do this (v16-17, 21-23)?

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Proverbs 5-7 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 6:20-28 what is another sexual enticement (v25)? What are some results of not abstaining from this (v26, 27-28)

5. Based on 6:29-35 what will happen to an adulterer (v29, 32, 33, 34-35)? What, then, is the wisest approach to sexual enticement?

6. Recap the story of 7:6-23 from both the one seduced and the seducer's viewpoint. What will result (v22-23), and what should have been done differently (v25)?

7. Read 6:1-5. Out of what dilemma must we extract ourselves (v1)? How do we get into this (v2), and how do we get out of it (v3-4)? Why is this important (v5)?

8. Looking at 6:12-15 what type of people must we not become entangled with (v12), and how do they act (v12-14)? What will their outcome be (v15)?

9. Using 6:16-19 describe the behavior of worthless people from God's viewpoint (v17-19). How does He feel about it (v16), and why do you think He does?

10. From 6:6-11 in what ways is the ant a good example for our daily work (v7-8), and what is the opposite of that (v9-10)? Why must we avoid that (v11)?

11. Summarize how we should deal with sexual enticement, entanglements, and everyday work. Are the any changes you need to make?

Scripture to Remember

"The commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life."

Proverbs 6:23 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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www.celebrationnet.com

Life Group Questions—Wisdom—Go For It!

(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.