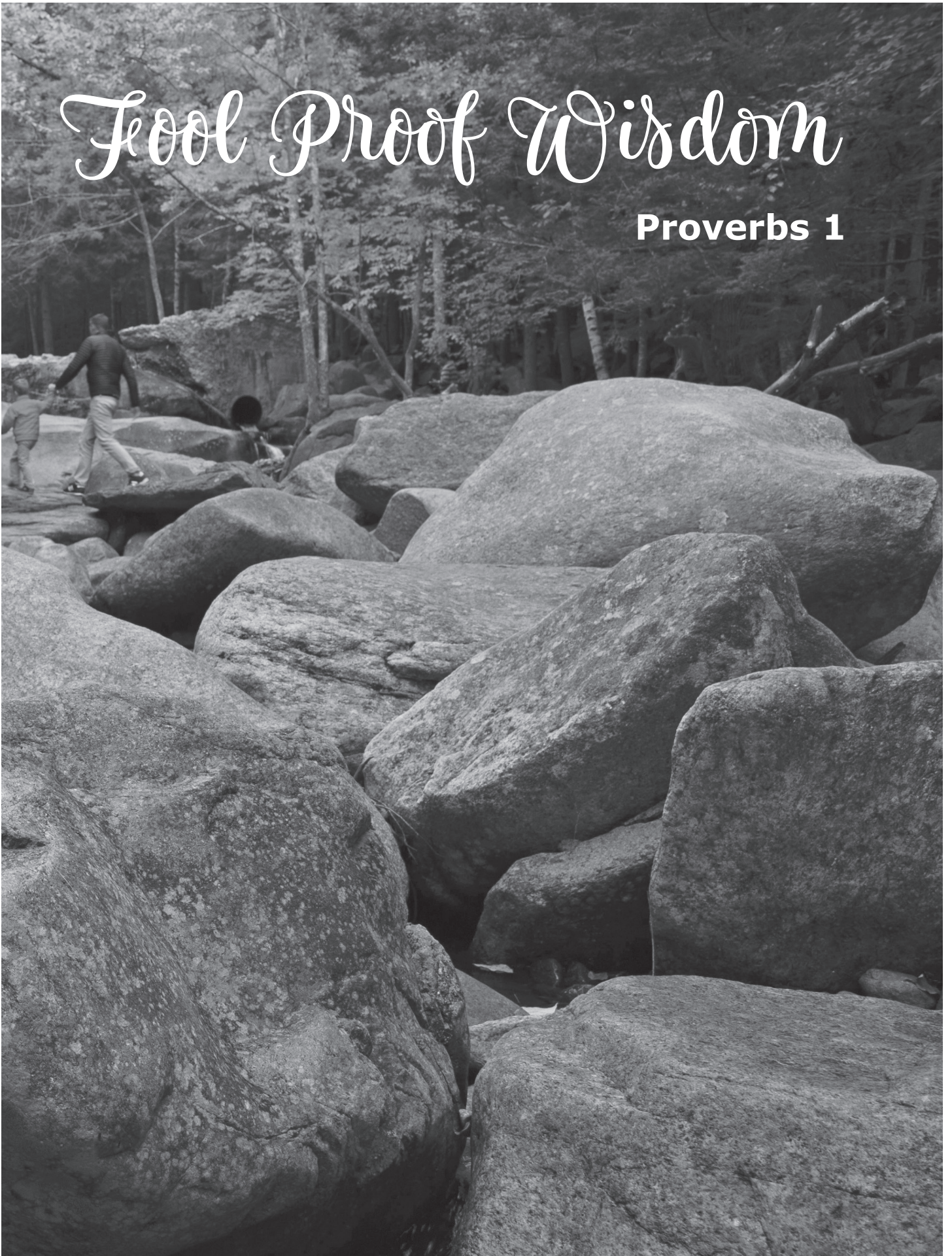


# *Fool Proof Wisdom*

**Proverbs 1**





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# Introduction to Proverbs

The Bible communicates the mind of God, through His Spirit which inspires, strengthens, and changes us to conform to His image. God's Word speaks to our heart, as the most central part of our being, beginning with our mind where our thoughts originate. If we believe biblical truth our thinking changes direction from wrong to right, and our behavior follows.

*Fool-Proof Wisdom* is the first workbook in a study of the Book of Proverbs, chapter-by-chapter. The Book of Proverbs teaches wisdom—something we all need. In addition to wisdom, we need instruction, understanding, justice, judgment, equity, strategy, knowledge, discretion, and wise counsel. All these things sum up why reading and studying Proverbs will change your life.

As you work through this book, you'll learn what is wise and what is not. You'll recognize the wise, the fools, and yourself.

Turn the page to begin. Your heart and mind will be renewed as you journey through Proverbs to “fool-proof” your life.

The Book of Proverbs contains the experience, observation, and wisdom mostly of Solomon, the third king of Israel, son of David and Bathsheba. Read below how the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at the beginning of His reign:

**5** *In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give you.*

**6** *And Solomon said, You have showed to your servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before you in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with you; and you have kept for him this great kindness, that you have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

**7** *And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.*

**8** *And your servant is in the midst of your people which you have chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.*

**9** *Give therefore your servant an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this your so great a people?*

**10** *And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.*

**11** *And God said to him, Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself long life; neither have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies; but have asked for yourself understanding to discern judgment;*

**12** *Behold, I have done according to your words: lo, I have given you a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like you before you, neither after you shall any arise like unto you.*

**13** *And I have also given you that which you have not asked, both riches, and honor: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto you all your days.*

**14** *And if you will walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as your father David did walk, then I will lengthen your days. **1 Kings 3:5-14***

If God asked "what shall I give you," what would you request?



# King James Today™

What makes this contemporary King James Version easier-to-read?

- Unnecessary word endings “est, eth, st, th, and ith” are dropped, e.g., buildest (build), buildeth (builds), dost (do), lieth (lie), saith (says).
- Old English is replaced e.g., art (are), hither (here), nigh (near), oft (often), thee (you), thine (your), thou (you), thy (you) thyself (yourself), unto (to), wast (were), ye (you).
- Old English spelling is updated e.g., labour (labor), licence (license), musick (music), publick (public), shew (show), wilt (will).
- Ye, you, you-ward, your, yours, and yourselves, referring to more than one person, is noted by a superscript P (for plural) like this: you<sup>P</sup>.
- Spelling consistency for proper nouns e.g., Balac (Balak), Elias (Elijah), Esaias (Isaiah), Jonas (Jonah), Noe (Noah), Osee (Hosea), Sion (Zion).

Comparison of scripture in the King James Version and King James Today:

My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: Proverbs 1:15 **KJV**

My son, walk not you in the way with them; refrain your foot from their path: Proverbs 1:15 **KJT**

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: Proverbs 1:20 **KJV**

Wisdom cries outside; she utters her voice in the streets: Proverbs 1:20 **KJT**

How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Proverbs 1:22 **KJV**

How long, you<sup>P</sup> simple ones, will you<sup>P</sup> love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Proverbs 1:22 **KJT**

# Hebrew Poetry

Unlike popular English poetry that tends to rhyme, Proverbs is written in the poetic form in which one line corresponds to the other in some way. That style is known as parallelism. Hebrew parallelism uses restatement or repetition of a same or similar idea, meaning, phrase, thought, or word, as well as comparisons (*considers the relation between persons or things*) and contrasts (*identifies differences or opposites*).

Examples of the four main types of poetic parallelism used in Proverbs:

☐ **Synonymous Parallelism** uses repetition without adding or subtracting clarification or anything significant:

*Wisdom cries outside;  
she utters her voice in the streets: **Proverbs 1:20***

☐ **Antithetic Parallelism** contrasts the first portion from the second through restatement of the same idea:

*He that keeps the commandment keeps his own soul;  
but he that despises his ways shall die. **Proverbs 19:16***

☐ **Emblematic Parallelism** uses comparisons where one part is figurative and the other literal to form a simile usually with the word "like" or "as."

*As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold,  
so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear. **Proverbs 25:12***

☐ **Synthetic Parallelism** occurs when the second portion or idea completes, advances, or develops what was stated in the first by adding clarification.

Examples are found throughout **Proverbs 31**

Mark a box above for the type that is easiest for you to understand.

As you work through this study, try to create a proverb according to the Hebrew poetic style. Once you have it perfected, write it here:

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Was it hard to create your own "proverb"?

☐ Yes ☐ No



# PROVERBS 1

**1**<sup>1</sup>:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

**2** To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

**3** To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

**4** To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

**5** A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain to wise counsels:

**6** To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

**7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**8** My son, hear the instruction of your father, and forsake not the law of your mother:

**9** For they shall be an ornament

1) Concise sayings of the wise—generally true

# PROVERBS 1

of grace to your head, and  
chains about your neck.

**10** My son, if sinners entice  
you, consent you not.

**11** If they say, Come with us, let us  
lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily  
for the innocent without cause:

**12** Let us swallow them up alive  
as the grave; and whole, as those  
that go down into the pit:

**13** We shall find all precious  
substance, we shall fill our  
houses with spoil:

**14** Cast in your lot among us;  
let us all have one purse:

**15** My son, walk not you in  
the way with them; refrain  
your foot from their path:

**16** For their feet run to evil, and  
make haste to shed blood.

**17** Surely in vain the net is  
spread in the sight of any bird.

**18** And they lay wait for  
their own blood; they lurk  
privily for their own lives.



## Goal

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Realize the value of wisdom
- Define many of the words used in context
- Have a better understanding of its teaching and message
- Describe the difference between a proverb and promise

## Proverbs 1

**1** Before you begin, remember to pray for insight, then turn to the beginning of this lesson to read **Proverbs Chapter 1** (pg 19) slowly.

Once you've read through the entire chapter, put a check mark in box 1 located after the last verse of the chapter (pg 25).

**2** After reading, re-write one verse from the chapter. You might choose one you: ☐ want to memorize; ☐ found interesting, ☐ special, or ☐ valuable; one that helps you ☐ fight unbelief, ☐ discouragement, ☐ grief or ☐ sorrow; or ☐ advice you want to put into practice.

**Proverbs 1:** \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3** Don't worry if you struggle with understanding the definition, purpose, application or interpretation of a proverb — Bible scholars do too!

v1 **PROVERBS** H4912 לִשְׂמָרָה marshal noun-m 39x

*Biblical proverbs are concise sayings of the wise which may not be easily understood by others. Proverbs illustrate general truths and principles but are not promises from God meant to be taken literally. Through Proverbs divine wisdom is taught in short sentences that are not necessarily connected with another. They offer educational advice relating to the practice, manners, and conduct of mankind with reference to right and wrong as well as the consequences for ignoring wise advice.*

# Bible Study

**Matthew Henry:** “...though they be simple, they will hereby be made subtle and graciously crafty to know the sin they should avoid and the duty they should do, and to escape the tempter’s wiles, tricks, deceptions. He that is harmless as the dove by observing Solomon’s rules may become wise as the serpent; and he that has been sinfully foolish when he begins to govern himself by the word of God becomes graciously wise.”

After reading the commentary above, write about something you found ☐ helpful, ☐ interesting, ☐ convicting, or ☐ enlightening:

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**44** Write a brief definition of *what you think* each word below means:

Contrast \_\_\_\_\_

v5 Wise \_\_\_\_\_

v5 Hear \_\_\_\_\_

**45** What is it God wants to **GIVE** (to communicate, pass or transfer something to another person)?

v4 **KNOWLEDGE** H1847 דַּעַת da`ath noun-m/f 93x

*A clear and certain perception of that which exists, or of truth and fact.*

*Note: We can have no knowledge of that which does not exist. God has a perfect knowledge of all his works. Human knowledge is very limited, and is mostly gained by observation and experience.*

After reading the definition, how would you explain knowledge?

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God wants to give knowledge to the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



**66** v7 **FOOLS** H191 לִיּוֹא 'eviyl adjective-m 26x

*To be silly, weak in intellect, obstinate in the wrong, distorted from the right; stubborn; one who is destitute of reason or the common powers of understanding; an idiot; one who acts absurdly; one who pursues a course contrary to the dictates of wisdom; one who follows his own inclinations and prefers trifling and temporary pleasures to the service of God and eternal happiness.*

After reading the definition, how would you describe fools?

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**67** v7 **DESPISE** H936 בּוּזַ buwz verb 12x

*To condemn (to hold in contempt, treat as despicable, worthless, or deserving to be despised); to neglect as unworthy of regard, to reject with disdain (to think unworthy, deem worthless, or consider someone or something unworthy of notice, care, regard, or esteem); to scorn (extreme contempt which springs from a person's opinion of the lack of dignity or rank of another and a consciousness or belief of their own superiority or worth); to have the lowest opinion of.*

**68** Why do you think fools despise wisdom?

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**69** Why do you think fools despise instruction?

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**70** Read Proverbs 1 for the fourth time. Mark box 4 (pg 25).

**71** Create a title for Proverbs 1:5-7. □ Write your title on the line that introduces the paragraph (pg 43).

Proverbs 1:8-9

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# Bible Study

**89** v13 **SPOIL** H7998 שָׁלַל *shalal* noun-m 73x

*That which is taken from others without license, by violence, or by open force; particularly in war, the pillage or goods taken from an enemy; booty (goods taken by violence or robbery).*

**90** In greed, these sinners from verse 13 count on, or boast of what?

**1)** We shall: \_\_\_\_\_

**2)** ... we shall: \_\_\_\_\_

**91** What is a **THIEF**?

*One who secretly, unlawfully and feloniously (deliberate intention to commit a crime) takes the goods or personal property of another; one who takes the property of another wrongfully, either secretly or by violence; one who makes it his business to cheat and defraud.*

Are the sinners in verse 13 **THIEVES**?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

What does it mean to **STEAL**?

*To take and carry away feloniously (deliberate intention to commit a crime), the personal goods of another; to constitute stealing or theft, the taking must be felonious, that is, with an intent to take what belongs to another, and without his consent.*

Is it okay to steal?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

What does it mean to **COVET**?

*To desire inordinately or excessively; to desire that which it is unlawful to obtain or posses.*

**92** Is a thief one who covets?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

If you are familiar with "The Ten Commandments" (also known as the Decalogue), one of them addresses coveting—write it here:

\_\_\_\_\_

One of them addresses stealing—write it here:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you get stuck, look it up: **Exodus 20:1-17** and **Deuteronomy 5:-6-21**



**101** Finish the verse:

Surely in \_ \_ \_ \_ the net is \_ \_ \_ \_

in the \_ \_ \_ \_ of any \_ \_ \_ \_ . v17

What do you think it means?

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Have you ever tempted an animal by bait?

☐ Y ☐ N

Did your trap work, or did they "take the bait"?

☐ Y ☐ N

If a bird watched you set a trap would it make a difference?

☐ Y ☐ N

Who are the pronouns "they" and "their" referring to in verse 18?

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At first glance verse 17 seems unrelated to the verse before or after it. Understanding "context is king", how do verses 16, 17, and 18 work together to teach us the obscure (*not easily seen/understood*) wisdom?

**102** Break from Proverbs:

## OMG?

*To take the name of God "in vain" is to use the name of God in a casual, common way without the highest degree of respect. The Bible reminds us of God's glory. He is holy and worthy to be praised. The use of profane words, language, or swearing misrepresents the respect and honor the LORD deserves and demands.*

# Bible Study

**119** Write a brief definition of *what you think* the word below means:

v23 Spirit \_\_\_\_\_

**120** v22 **FOOLS** H3684 לִיָּסִי kěciyl noun-m 70x (this differs from v7)

*Stupid; silly; foolish; unteachable; dull of intellect; listless (not listening; indifferent to what is happening; inattentive; thoughtless; careless) inertness (sluggish; unwilling to move or act; passive; lacking activity or exertion).*

Were you ☐ surprised or ☐ offended by this definition of fools? ☐ Y ☐ N

Are there parts of this definition that might apply to you? ☐ Y ☐ N

Share more: \_\_\_\_\_

**121** v22 **HATE** H8130 שָׂנֵא sane' verb 146x

*To dislike (disapprove; regard with displeasure or disgust) greatly; to have a great aversion to (an unwillingness, reluctance, opposition or repugnance of mind).*

In context, what does hate mean in verse 22?

*Matthew Henry: None but fools hate knowledge. Fools are only enemies to religion because they do not understand it rightly.*

## 122 COMMAND

*To bid, order, direct or charge; implying authority, and power to control, and to require obedience; the power of governing or controlling by force, or of defending and protecting.*

The Bible contains commands which serve to direct, govern, control, defend and protect us.

According to verse 1:23, Wisdom cries out in all the public places: outside, the streets, chief places, gates and city—calling for the simple, scorners and fools. What is the command Wisdom makes in verse 1:23?

# Bible Study

**139** Write a brief definition of *what you think* each word below means:

v26 Mock \_\_\_\_\_

v26 Fear \_\_\_\_\_

v27 Desolation \_\_\_\_\_

**140** Has 1:24-25 ever personally applied to you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, when or how did God/Wisdom “call” out to you?

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Describe the details of your refusal:

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If you rejected Wisdom’s “call/invitation” and were unwilling to yield or learn, what were the consequences of that decision?

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Are you living with consequences from “learning the hard way”? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you stuck in a pattern of not listening to Wisdom? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

If you answered yes or maybe, what do you need to do or change?

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# Bible Study

**157** Review pg 40 then mark the characteristics of the simple:

- ☐ close-minded ☐ not easily persuaded or enticed ☐ skillful
- ☐ experienced ☐ aware ☐ given to stratagem/strategy
- ☐ insincere ☐ strong in intellect ☐ wise ☐ able to foresee
- ☐ quick of thought ☐ acute in discernment ☐ none of the above

Are simple people excused from the need to gain godly wisdom? ☐ Y ☐ N

**158** v32 **PROSPERITY** H7962 שְׁלוֹמֹת *shalvah* noun-f 8x

*Genuine or false security; abundance; quietness; carelessness, impiety or irreverence towards God as the Supreme being. Note: Our tendency to abuse the blessings of God's care and provision renders prosperity dangerous.*

v32 **DESTROY** H6 אָבַד *'abad* verb 184x

*To be lost, wander away, or lose oneself; to perish; break; not escape; fail; lose; be undone; have no way to flee; to give up or reckon as lost; to demolish or pull down; to ruin; to bring to naught (nothing); to annihilate; to lay waste; to make desolate; to cause to cease; to put an end to; to kill, devour or consume.*

Explain this: "... and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them"

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Share about a person you feel was destroyed by prosperity:

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# Write-the-Word

By now you should have a sense of the message Solomon taught. The pages that follow are provided so you can be creative as you write out the Word to continue hiding it in your heart. If you only have access to a pencil, trace over words repeatedly for ones you want darker. If you have a pen, colored pencils or highlighters, they could enhance your work to a piece of art. Here are some ideas you might consider.

Simply trace all the words pondering the teaching as you write:

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of*

Trace then darken words that were defined in the lesson:

*to perceive the words of understanding;*

Trace then darken parts of the verse you feel are the most important:

*fools despise wisdom and instruction*

Trace then darken commands that speak to your heart/mind:

*if sinners entice you, consent you not.*

Trace then darken parts that draw you closer to God:

*Turn you at my reproof:*

Trace then darken parts of either the wise, or fools:

*For their feet run to evil,*

Trace then darken all the statements of wisdom:

*I have called, and you refused;*

Trace then bubble outline words you want:

*I will pour out my spirit to you*

Trace then add doodle art:

*they lay wait for <sup>!</sup>4 <sup>✿</sup>their <sup>♥</sup>own <sup>💧</sup>blood*

# Match it up

Record the word number in the center column after you match it to the correct definition on the right.

Word/Phrase	#	Match the word to the definition
1 <input type="checkbox"/> perceive		to mentally separate or distinguish H995
2 <input type="checkbox"/> equity	13	to be in great commotion, anxiety H1993
3 <input type="checkbox"/> subtility		criminals; accounted guilty H2400
4 <input type="checkbox"/> interpretation		puzzles; hard questions; riddles H2420
5 <input type="checkbox"/> dark sayings		empty; lack advantage, for nothing H2600
6 <input type="checkbox"/> forsake		oppression; great misfortune; ruin H343
7 <input type="checkbox"/> ornament		something attached (to add beauty) H3880
8 <input type="checkbox"/> sinners		laugh or ridicule others from pride H3887
9 <input type="checkbox"/> entice		schemes, counsel; bad purposes H4156
10 <input type="checkbox"/> lurk		evenness; equal; justice; impartiality H4339
11 <input type="checkbox"/> spoil		explaining what is not understood H4426
12 <input type="checkbox"/> vain		quit or leave; reject; desert; abandon H5203
13 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> concourse		discretion; using strategy; prudence H6195
14 <input type="checkbox"/> simple		dismissed; avoided; found of no value H6544
15 <input type="checkbox"/> scorers		to tempt; to excite hope or desire H6601
16 <input type="checkbox"/> reproof		open-minded; unwise; easily enticed H6612
17 <input type="checkbox"/> regarded		extreme pain of body or mind H6695
18 <input type="checkbox"/> nought		to hide unknown to others; conceal H6845
19 <input type="checkbox"/> calamity		trouble; greatly afflicted; tribulation H6869
20 <input type="checkbox"/> desolation		attend to anything with respect H7181
21 <input type="checkbox"/> distress		sudden destruction; wasted; ravaged H7722
22 <input type="checkbox"/> anguish		goods/possessions taken from others H7998
23 <input type="checkbox"/> despise		hears intelligently with attention H8085
24 <input type="checkbox"/> devices		correction; open blame; finding fault H8433
25 <input type="checkbox"/> hearkens		to treat as despicable, unworthy H936



# Hide it in your heart

*First, fill in all the missing words without referring to a Bible or this workbook. Next, add a brief definition (in parenthesis) so that when you read it, you can also interpret it.*

**1:1** The proverbs (wise general truths) of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

**2** To know \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_;  
to \_\_\_\_\_ the words of understanding;

**3** To receive the instruction of wisdom, \_\_\_\_\_, and judgment, and \_\_\_\_\_;

**4** To give \_\_\_\_\_  
to the simple, to the young man \_\_\_\_\_ and discretion.

**5** A wise man will \_\_\_\_\_,  
and will increase \_\_\_\_\_;  
and a man of understanding shall \_\_\_\_\_ to wise \_\_\_\_\_:

**6** To understand a \_\_\_\_\_,  
and the \_\_\_\_\_;  
the words of the wise, and their \_\_\_\_\_ sayings .

**7** The fear of the \_\_\_\_\_  
is the beginning of knowledge: but \_\_\_\_\_ despise wisdom  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

# Sum it up

Sum up (*condense in a few words*) the entire chapter, or just one verse:

☐ Proverbs Chapter 1 (as a whole)   ☐ Proverbs Chapter 1 Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

**Doctrine** (*What has been taught?*):

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**Reproof** (*What might I be guilty of?*):

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**Correction** (*What steps should I take to repent/turn from sin/error?*):

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**Instruction in righteousness** (*What instruction or training will help me resist wrong behavior and stay on a path toward right-wise living?*):

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