

The Beginning of Wisdom

Notes 26th January 2025

As a way to get started ask the following question



What's the best piece of advice you've ever received or heard?

Good advices have great wisdom in them because they are often practical truth proven by much experience.

In our new series we will explore the Wisdom literature in the Old Testament. It includes the books of **Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes**, though elements of wisdom are also present in the Psalms and the Song of Solomon.

These three books address similar questions: **What kind of world are we living in? How can we live well in this world? What does the "Good Life" look like, and how can it be achieved?**

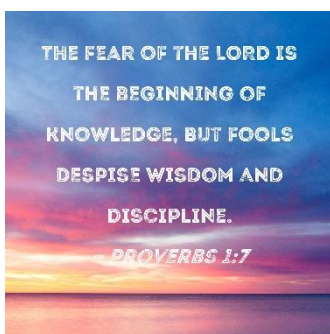
The week we start with the book of Proverbs. If you have the technological capacity in your LifeGroup, you might want to watch together the following helpful introduction on the book of Proverbs at <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/wisdom-proverbs/> and the helpful overview of the book on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzmYV8GNAIM>

Read Proverbs 1:1–7

The opening verses of Proverbs serve as a preface, highlighting its purposes and the foundational attitude needed to gain true wisdom and knowledge—the fear of the Lord.

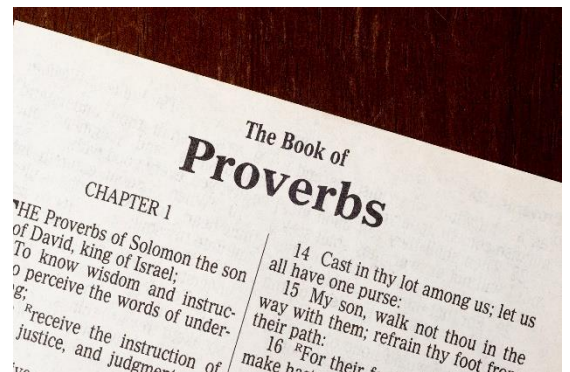
- **How many purposes can you identify in these first seven verses?**

While wisdom is sometimes simplified to mere knowledge, in the Hebrew tradition, the word for wisdom, *Khokhmah*, emphasizes applied knowledge. In other words, wisdom is the proper application of knowledge—particularly godly knowledge. It involves using knowledge and experience to make sound judgments and decisions. Wisdom is about developing practical skills to live well in God's world, which is why the Hebrew understanding of wisdom is closely tied to “the fear of the Lord.”



Here, *fear* does not refer to terror but to a deep sense of reverence and awe for God and our place in His universe. It is a moral mindset that acknowledges: *I am not God, and I don't get to define good and evil or right and wrong for myself.* This requires humility and a willingness to accept God's definitions, even when they challenge our preferences or conveniences.

- **Reflect and discuss:** How does this understanding of “the fear of the Lord” shape your discipleship to Jesus?



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If you have time read 2 Corinthians 5:1–10

The pursuit of wisdom and the fear of the Lord go beyond managing daily life—they are about living with eternity in mind. In this passage, Paul ties wisdom to an eternal perspective, revealing how the "fear of the Lord" influences our priorities, drives our actions, and prepares us to stand before God.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...” (2 Corinthians 5:10). A truly wise person recognizes that every action, thought, and motive will one day be judged by Christ. This understanding impacts how we use our time, talents, and resources, encouraging us to live in a way that honours Him.

Reflect, Pause, Act

1. **Reassess Priorities:** Are you living for temporary gains or eternal treasures?
2. **Pursue Holiness:** Let the fear of the Lord inspire you to live with integrity and obedience.
3. **Share the Gospel:** Knowing eternity is real, are you pointing others to Christ?



Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We know that true wisdom starts with honouring and respecting You. Help us to trust your promises and guide our hearts and lives to follow your eternal plan.

Jesus, help us to live each day with heaven in mind, doing, saying, and thinking what pleases you. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and shape us so our lives show your goodness and love. May we always point others to you Jesus.

Amen.