

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

- ²To know wisdom and instruction,
- to understand words of insight,
- ³to receive instruction
 - in wise dealing,
 - in righteousness,
 - justice,
 - and equity;
- ⁴to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—

1. What does it say?
2. What does it mean?
 - Why was this written?
 - What does this teach me about Jesus?
3. How does it apply to my life?

⁵Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,

- ⁶to understand a proverb
and
a saying,
the words of the wise
and
their riddles.

⁷The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

1. What is a proverb? What is the book of Proverbs?

“The Hebrew noun ‘proverb’ is related to a verb that means ‘to represent, to be like.’ So a proverb is a little model of reality, a little verbal representation of some aspect of our daily lives.” – Ray Ortlund¹

Introduction (Prov. 1-9)	1:1 – Title
	1:2-6 – Purpose

¹ Raymond C. Ortlund, *Proverbs: Wisdom that Works* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2012), 26.

	1:7 – Theme/Motto
	Chapters 1-9 – Poems that motivate you to seek wisdom
10:1-22:16	Proverbs of Solomon
22:17-24:22	“30 Sayings of the Wise”
24:23-34	“More Sayings of the Wise”
25-27	More Proverbs from Solomon
30:1-33	Proverbs of Agur
31:1-31	Proverbs of King Lemuel

2. Why was it written?

3. What is wisdom, anyway?

Proverbs 3:19, Proverbs 9:1, Exodus 36:1, Matthew 7:24-27

Wisdom is skill for _____ your life on an _____ foundation.

4. Does it have anything to do with Jesus?

Proverbs 3:19, Hebrews 1:2, Colossians 2:3, 1 Corinthians 1:24, Matthew 12:42

5. And who are you calling “simple,” Solomon?!

Simple: someone who is “_____” about the path of life.

SIMPLE > FOOL > SCOFFER

6. How do I get wisdom? (1:7)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Read Ecclesiastes 8:5. According to this verse, what two things does a wise heart know? Why are both of those things essential to living skillfully?
2. Can you think of a time in your life when you were trying to do the right thing, but maybe did it at the wrong time, or in the wrong manner?
3. Turn to Proverbs 1:1. Why is Solomon's title here a help to us to see how this book connects with Jesus? Compare this verse with Matthew 12:42. How does Proverbs point us to Jesus?
4. The word in Proverbs 1:4 translated "prudence" in the ESV can be translated "shrewd" or "crafty." It translates a Hebrew word that we also find in Genesis 3:1: "Now the serpent was more *crafty*..." Think carefully about some of the things that the Serpent (the Devil) understood about life in Genesis 3. List as many as you can think of. Now check out Matthew 10:16. In what ways should we be like serpents?
5. Can an unbeliever possess a kind of wise understanding of how the world works?
6. According to Proverbs 1:7, what distinguishes any truth about reality that the world could offer and ultimate wisdom?
7. According to Colossians 2:3-8 (and especially verses 3 and 8), how can we spot the Serpent's wisdom?