

## **Proverbs: Great Advice for Everyday Living**

### **Lesson 23 - Choosing the Right Lens**

#### **Warm up -**

1. Here are some modern proverbs you may have heard. What does each mean?

- a. Too many cooks spoil the stew.
- b. A watched pot never boils.
- c. The early bird catches the worm.
- d. Haste makes waste.
- e. Those who sleep with puppies wake up with fleas.
- f. Add your favorite to the list

2. What's the difference between "book smarts" and "street smarts"? Which would you rather have?

3. The disciple Peter was a pretty impulsive guy. But he was also the guy whom Jesus nicknamed "Rock" and on whom Jesus built his church. Think of some times when he showed wisdom. Then list some foolish moves on his part.

#### **Lesson -**

We live in the information age. We're bombarded with information, more than we ever wanted to know. Used to be, when you needed some information for a school research paper, you'd get yourself over to the library, grab a couple of books from the shelf, and find the sections that would help you learn about your topic. Now you just fire up your search engine, type in a keyword, and you'll find hundreds of entries - so many that narrowing it down is itself a huge job.

There's more. If you're a warm body, you're the focus of all kinds of ads and commercials telling you what you should be and how you should look. (Even if you hardly ever watch TV or go to movies.) Popular culture - films, books, magazines, radio, TV - sets the standard for how we should dress, think, and act. Of course all this information comes free of charge.

On top of that, we spend our lives going to school and church and youth groups and music lessons and teams of all sorts where we get filled up with other kinds of information. In the end, however, it's not so much what you know, but how you interpret what you know and how you act on it - the wisdom you show- that's important. As someone once said, "Wisdom is not just acquired information, but practical insight with spiritual implications."

This section focuses on the book of Proverbs. It's a book Solomon, Israel's wisest king, either wrote or had compiled. What's it all about?

Practical living. Proverbs guides us in making the everyday decisions we face at work, in our families, with our friends, or at school.

According to Solomon, what is at the very center of wisdom? Fearing God. Trying to live according to God's will. Let's find out what this looks like.

### **Read Proverbs 1:1-7**

1. As you read these two sentences, decide which sentence is the introduction and which is the theme for the book.
2. What is the purpose of the book of Proverbs?
3. Who was Proverbs written for?
4. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (v. 7). What other gods do people try to live by?
5. The author says flat-out that "fools despise wisdom" (v. 7). What do you think makes foolish people act the way they do? What are the consequences of their actions?
6. How will you apply what you've learned in this passage to a specific situation you are dealing with?
7. Do we get mostly information (knowledge) in church or mostly wisdom? What, if anything, do knowledge and wisdom have to do with each other?
8. Think of someone who seems very wise to you. What characteristics does this person have? How does he or she show wisdom?
9. Is wisdom an important quality for our political leaders? Make up a campaign ad that focuses on wisdom for a politician who is running for president or another political office.