



2021 Pursue Summer Study  
 “The Truth Is...”  
 Principles of Truth From the Life of Solomon  
 A Study in Ecclesiastes  
 Week 2

*Solomon has found that life can be very discouraging when it doesn't play out the way one would expect. He had written many wonderful principles of wisdom to guide his life and to pass to his son in his book of Proverbs. Although those principles were true, they didn't allow him to control the outcomes of life as he may have expected them to. A truth such as Proverbs 22:15 “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; a rod of discipline will remove it far from him” is a principle that assures that discipline for the young is a necessary and good thing, but it can't promise that the child who is being disciplined will respond positively to that method. Wisdom is a necessary element in pursuing a fulfilling life, but if it isn't attached to the paradox of God's sovereign control and authority and*

*the reality of human choices, it will create an unrealistic expectation that can become a stumbling block in life. The tone of Ecclesiastes gives the picture of a man who possessed wisdom, power, money, and influence and applied those to his life “under the sun.” But at the end of his life, the things he produced and possessed became fleeting and meaningless. Therefore, he determined that to live life with the “fear of God” is the key to a fulfilled life. Living in the reality that God created and sustains life, and therefore determines its laws and principles as to how it is to be lived becomes his major teaching. Wisdom, then, is the process of gaining understanding of God and His laws and principles throughout the circumstances of life so we can live it the way God has structured it.*

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*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7*

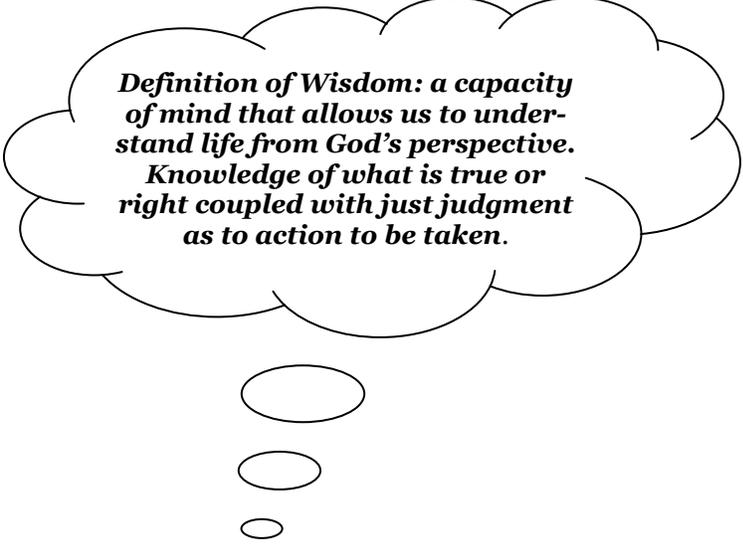
*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10*

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**Principle #2: The Truth Is... the fear of the Lord is the starting point for gaining wisdom, and applying wisdom is the process of living life intentionally with God's truth as the plumb line.**

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Proverbs 2:1-11. What does Solomon say is required to gain wisdom? What might that process look like in your daily life?



**Definition of Wisdom: a capacity of mind that allows us to understand life from God's perspective. Knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action to be taken.**

2. What does Solomon see as some of the benefits of wisdom?

*Proverbs 2:12-13*

*Proverbs 4:7-9*

*Ecclesiastes 7:12*

*Ecclesiastes 7:19*

*Ecclesiastes 8:1*

*Ecclesiastes 9:1*

*Ecclesiastes 9:13-18*

*Ecclesiastes 12:11*

3. *What did he see as the difficulties of gaining wisdom? Ecclesiastes 1:13-18*

4. *Would you agree that wisdom can bring grief? Explain your answer.*

5. *What does Solomon say is the opposite of wisdom? 2:13 Why do you think it is described as darkness?*



*Folly is the opposite of wisdom. It is not imbecility, insanity, or error. It is wrongheadedness. It has to do with practical insights into the nature of things that lead to success or failure in life. Folly involves rejection of revealed moral and spiritual values on which life is based.*

*Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia*

6. *From the following verses, describe some of the behaviors of a fool.*

*Proverbs 1:7*

*Proverbs 1:22*

*Proverbs 10:14*

*Proverbs 10:23*

*Question 6 continued...*

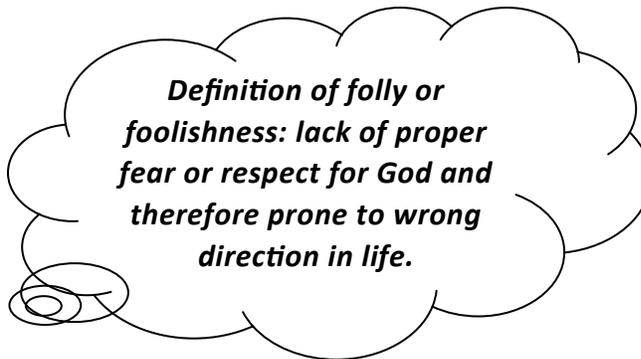
*Proverbs 12:15*

*Proverbs 14:8-9*

*Proverbs 14:29*

*Proverbs 18:6-7*

*Proverbs 20:3*



7. *Describe and discuss some life situations where you have been or are being foolish instead of wise. What motivated you to make wrong choices?*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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