



## A Guide to Wise Living

**About the Series:** Life's a maze with many challenges, distractions, and obstacles, and sometimes we take a wrong turn or make foolish choices. The Book of Proverbs gives us practical ways to live wisely so as not to have so many regrets in life and helps us live our lives in such a way that we fully enjoy our lives as God intended.

### Part 1

## The Way of the Wise

Proverbs 1:7, 3:1-10 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

### DISCUSS

Name one foolish decision you regret that has lasting consequences in your life. Read Proverbs 1:7 and 3:1-10 and discuss the following principles on how followers of Jesus are to live in the way of the wise.

#### Consider God in every aspect of life (v. 1-3)

When one fears God in reverence and honor, you take into account what God thinks about the matter, what He says about the matter, how He has revealed to us how He operates. It is in these considerations that a wise person makes decisions in their life. How does the book of Proverbs differentiate the wise and the fool? What will make a person wise? Would you consider your life now a wise living?

#### Remember and apply God's instructions (v. 4)

God's commands should be close to our heads and our hearts. When God's commands are remembered in your head and pondered in your heart, it

becomes a part of you. Why is it so easy to disregard God's commands? What are the results of intentionally remembering and applying God's command?

#### Gain the respect of both God and man (v. 5-7)

Remembering and living out God's command in wise living comes with it the benefit of respect from both God and man. We earn the respect of others through godly conduct and wise living. Why should we live in a way that would gain the respect of others?

#### Trust in God alone and not in ourselves (v. 5-8)

If we humbly acknowledge and submit to the source and author of all wisdom, then we can find guidance on how to best live out this life. The reason why we don't trust God is because we think we are wise in our own eyes and do not need God. What makes it difficult for us not to trust in ourselves? Why is it crucial to listen to outside voices and not just your own? What does this tell us about the wise?

#### Recognize the need for eternity-focused stewardship (v. 9-14)

This eternity-focused stewardship stands in contrast to the usually temporary stewardship of our earthly resources and time that cause us to live foolishly. The pursuit of wise living and the various blessings that come with it are far more than any material thing in life. In life, what is it that matters the most?

### REFLECT

Examine your life if you are doing what the apostle Paul reminds followers of Jesus to do in Ephesians 5:15-17, to "walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise but remember what the will of the Lord is."

### PRAY

Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, we thank You for reminding us that we are called to walk in the way of the wise. Thank You for providing us guidelines that will help us walk wisely. Enable us to trust solely upon You and live in light of your instructions for each one of us. Help us each day so that we can experience the blessings and benefits when we walk wisely. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.