



**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 in such a way that we fully enjoy our lives as God intended.

## Part 2

### Dealing with Fools

Proverbs 26:1-12 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

#### DISCUSS

Fools do not consider God in every aspect of or as part of the equation of their lives. Fools do not remember God's instructions and commands and apply it in their lives. They do not work to garner the respect of both God and man; they trust only in themselves and do not seek counsel from others. They do not live out eternity-focused stewardship, but instead focus on the immediate, instant gratification, and the now. With so many fools and foolish people we encounter in our lives, how, then, do we deal and interact with them as defined by Scripture? Read Proverbs 26: 1-12.

#### **Fools need not be honored and their words should not be trusted (v. 1-3)**

- Share examples of foolishness that are so popular to this generation. What are the possible reasons why people would glorify foolish acts?
- Why is it inappropriate to honor a fool and trust their words?
- How should you react to those who curse or bash you?

- How would your character and good conduct speak for who you are?

#### **Depending on the situation, one may either ignore or respond to a fool (v. 4-5)**

- Read these two verses again carefully. How do you understand them? Give examples of scenarios that best describe how these verses look in your everyday life.
- In what way is silence the best response to a verbal attack?
- When should you engage to correct or ignore and avoid engaging to respond to a fool?

#### **Fools are ill-equipped and incapable. Do not trust them to carry out important tasks (v. 6-10)**

- What warning does verse 6 give you? Why is this warning important to take note of? Do you want to entrust an important message to someone who isn't able to communicate the message well?
- Why is it important that inexperienced or incompetent people should not be put or serve in places of authority or handle much responsibility?
- Why is hiring on the basis of family relationships instead of qualifications, friendships instead of competencies, a recipe for disaster that could cause a big fall?

#### **Fools never learn from their mistakes. There is no need to give them second chances (v. 11-12)**

- In 2 Peter 2:20-22, the apostle Peter uses this proverb to refer to which particular fool?
- Why do fools never learn from their mistakes?
- Read Titus 3:10-11. If people are unwilling to change and learn from their mistakes, should you still give them another chance? Why or why not?

#### REFLECT

The world is watching how you respond to fools and foolish people. Would you choose to follow and associate with fools, or would you choose to ignore their antics and disassociate with them? As a follower of Jesus, are you living as wise, propagating the message of salvation and eternal life instead of entrusting this important message to fools?

## **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, You have clearly explained to us how we should live as wise and not as fools. I ask for wisdom, Father, to discern what is wise and not to be fooled by the fools and the foolishness of this world. May I heed the warnings of the Scripture not to associate with and become a fool myself. Thank You that with Your help, I can be wise in living my life. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.