

Bedford Street Church of Christ—Ladies' Bible Class (LBC)
Lessons Series Starting February 13, 2022 * Facilitator—Lynne Davis

Are You Being Wise or Are You Being Foolish?

Both of these are proverbs. What is the difference between the two?

"A stitch in time saves nine."

"Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion."

Information is all around us but proper use of this information, wisdom, is sorely needed in our nation, our state, our church, and in our personal lives. The book of Proverbs is about godly wisdom, how to get it and how to use it. What better place to turn than writings defined as 'the wisdom literature' to develop a successful life.



In these writings, wisdom isn't some intangible, lofty, philosophical idea, wisdom is quite practical, useable and affects every area of a person's life every day. Wisdom gives purpose to life and keeps us in harmony with the purpose God has for his world.

This will not be an exhaustive study of the entire writing of Proverbs, rather a walk through with stops along the way to gain greater appreciation for some of the topics covered in the writings. The topics range from acquiring and using wealth, making, and keeping friends, building a happy home, avoiding temptation and trouble, drunkenness, controlling our emotions and building godly character and many more. We will meet Lady Wisdom and Dame Folly. We will listen in on a father's conversation with his young son. Finally, we will meet with fresh eyes the much talked about woman of Proverbs 31.

Do you have a favorite proverb? Perhaps you'll share it and its meaning with the class during this study. One of my favorites is, ***"We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps."*** NIV (Proverbs 16:9)

This promises to be a life changing study if you will open your heart to Proverbs 1:7.
~Lynne

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Overview and Objectives

Before we dive into selected topics from proverbs, we will do our introductory look to ask the questions of the who, what and whys of this book. Who wrote it, what is it about and why does it exist. We will discuss the important keys to understanding Proverbs and proverbs. After we lay the foundation for this study it will be a discussion-rich study.

Your personal study will help you see some recurring words. Make sure you take the time to write them down and define them. After this foundation is laid, we will then delve into a discussion of some selective themes from the proverbs. I will ask you to memorize at least 5-10 biblical proverbs that resonate with you. In addition to those we discuss, I will ask you to scan through chapters 10-29—which contain proverbs - to find one or more that we are NOT studying but that interests you. Study them for your own growth and wisdom and be prepared to share one or more insights if and when the opportunity arises.

During this study and well in advance, sisters will be asked to take specific topics and developed them for the class. These might be topics such as: What Does Lady Wisdom Have To Say? What is Dame Folly's Invitation? Whose Voice Will You Follow?

Handouts will be used in each LBC. Bring a notebook or folder to keep up with the handouts. The more detailed outline will naturally unfold as the study develops.

By the end of this study, if you've stayed connected, you will be able to:

- 1) share lessons you've learned from the writings from the book of Proverbs,
- 2) discuss whether you identify with lady wisdom or dame folly and why,
- 3) write a contemporary conversation to your son/daughter/niece/nephew/self based on your comprehension of the father's conversation with his son,
- 4) commit to memory at least 5-10 proverbs,
- 5) make wise choices for your life.

General Outline of Proverbs

* Chapters 1-9.— Ten (10) speeches from a father to a son. The moral logic of the book presented. Lady Wisdom and Dame Folly both beckon.

* Chapters 10-29— Ancient proverbs covering a range of life's issues applying wisdom and fearing God to all topics such as: alcohol, character, enticements, debt, family, forgiveness, friendships, generosity, justice, marriage, poverty, sex, speech, work, work ethics and on.

Chapters 30-31— Two large poetic collections (poems)