

Proverbs 1:1-7

The Vision Question: What direction am I traveling? What am I pursuing? What am I building?

Matthew 7:24–27 | Proverbs 15:16–17; 20:17 | Ecclesiastes 2:4–11

The Good life is lasting, satisfying, earthly, and eternal.

The power of a thing called diligence.

Proverbs 21:5; 21:30–31

Traits (practices) of the wise and diligent.

- Spell out your goals... in pencil.
Proverbs 21:5
- Get wise counsel.
Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 14:7
- Put first things first.
Proverbs 20:4; Proverbs 24:27
- Finish what you start.
Proverbs 12:27
- No Blinders: Stop, look and listen.
Proverbs 21:5; Proverbs 14:15
- Balance question: Are you working too hard?
Proverbs 23:4–5
- Do it for God's glory.
Proverbs 16:3; Proverbs 16:9 | Matthew 6:33

We invite you to use these notes to continue the conversation throughout the week. Whether online or in person, we need to connect together! So take that Next Step and find yours today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>

Share your story

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover from our time of worship together on Sunday?

What was your most productive day ever like? Your laziest day?

Do you struggle with being over-productive or over-lazy? How do you come to a healthy balance? What wisdom can you share with the group that you've acquired over the years?

Connect to God's story

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

What is one piece of wisdom that you initially struggled to act on but learned how to live out? What was that process like? What was a key component in helping you break through to action?

Think about the relationship between listening and wisdom. Who in your life is a good listener? What qualities do you need to be a good listener? What obstacles do you have to being a good listener?

Read Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7.

Compare the previous proverb (1:1-7) with Adam and Eve's relationship to God's wise counsel. What do you notice?

How can being deceived change or confuse what you think is wise?
How can the fear of the Lord overcome deceit?

Read Proverbs 21:5 & 12:27

What can you expect when you try to get through with every job as fast as possible no matter the quality of your work? Have you ever met someone who plans well and works hard? Do you consider them wise? Beside poverty, what else may hasty shortcuts on the job lead to?

Why do you think the writer of Proverbs compares the lazy with the diligent? What do they do differently? Is there a difference between having a lazy moment and being lazy? What helps you move from laziness to diligence?

*Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

- Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)

SEEKING GODLY WISDOM • A Proverbs Reading Plan

This week we launched our new series called "Proverbs – the Way of Wisdom". Most of us have experienced the powerful and even calming effect of the insight of a person with godly wisdom. The big question is how does one gain this kind of wisdom? Scripture makes it clear that it does not happen by accident, but rather on purpose when we seek it, like searching for a hidden treasure. (Proverbs 2:1-22)

Since Proverbs has 31 chapters, a practical way to do this is to daily read the chapter that corresponds to the day of the month and consider these questions:

What applies to me today?

Where have I seen this in others?

Where have I experienced this?

As you do this from day to day, know that you will be storing up for yourself insight on how to handle life as God would want you to as well as helping others to live out the wisdom and love of God in their life.

OPTIONS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR READING OF PROVERBS:

- Pick a Time - If we want to make something happen, we usually need to set a time when it will actually happen.
- Mark it Up - Have a pen in hand to jot down notes and underline those verses that catch your attention. It will be encouraging to look back at what you wrote after you've done this over time.
- Write Down Your Thoughts - Get a notebook and write down anytime you have a response to one of the three questions above.
- Use an App- YouVersion bible app has many proverbs reading plans with audio options to listen to the word as well.
- Ease Up - If you miss a day reading, don't stress and say, "Forget about it". Just pick it up the next day and keep going!