

STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 – How Not to Wreck Your Life

The Fear That Fixes Everything Start with Awe, Not Ego

SMALL GROUP GOAL

To explore what it means to fear the Lord and how that foundational awe leads to practical wisdom in our daily lives.

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction,
to understand words of insight,
- 3 to receive instruction in wise dealing,
in righteousness, justice, and equity;
- 4 to give prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the youth—
- 5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
- 6 to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles.
- 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

PROVERBS 1:1-7

READ

Proverbs 1:1-7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE TEXT:

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. According to verse 7, what is the starting point of wisdom? Why do you think that is?
3. How would you define “the fear of the Lord” in your own words?
4. In your opinion, why does the Bible contrast “fear of the Lord” with foolishness?

MEDITATION:

5. Where in life do you feel like you’re “building without instructions”?
6. Can you think of a time when ignoring God’s wisdom led to pain or confusion? What would have been the wiser choice?
7. Proverbs says fools “despise instruction.” Are there any areas in your life where you’ve resisted wise counsel? Why?
8. Tim Keller says, “Wisdom is knowing what to do in the 80% of life where moral rules don’t apply.” Where have you faced one of those 80% situations recently?

APPLICATION:

9. How might “starting with awe, not ego” change how you make decisions this week?
10. What daily habits could help you cultivate a deeper fear (reverence) for the Lord?
11. In what way could you reflect God’s wisdom in your workplace, family, or friendships this week?

PRAYER

- Pray for hearts that are teachable and humble.
- Ask God to help each person develop a deep reverence that leads to daily obedience.
- Pray for anyone in the group currently facing major decisions or confusion—ask God to give wisdom from above... James 1:5 (ESV)

CHALLENGE

Each day this week, read one chapter of Proverbs (start with chapter 1). As you read, underline or write down one verse that shows you what God values—and use it to guide your day.

Memorizing Proverbs 1:7 (ESV) “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

