

# Proverbs 1:1-7; 9:9-10

## *The Beginning of Wisdom*

### Introduction

Wisdom is obtained through a process that has a beginning and an end. The fear of God is the beginning and the end of that process as well as the means of moving through it.

### Discussion Questions

- Instruction or discipline is the first step in the process of getting wisdom [1:2]. What areas of life are you in this step right now?
- Insight is an advantage over the simple information that begins with instruction [1:2]. It is the next step in obtaining wisdom in an area of life. Would you consider yourself discerning? In what way? What area of life do you feel the need for insight most?
- Understanding goes beyond the what of wisdom to the why [1:3]. This is a real turning point in the process of obtaining wisdom. When does understanding seem the most useful in life?
- Prudence or shrewdness is moving beyond understanding to harnessing what you know [1:4]. This skill requires stability in the midst of complexity. What areas of life do you see a craftiness displayed by others? What was amazing about their shrewdness?
- True knowledge is experiential not just informational [1:4]. Experience is the best teacher but it comes at a high cost. Have you gained more knowledge from your own experiences or the experiences of others?
- The fear of the Lord is the linchpin in all wisdom [1:7, 9:10]. In what way does this guide your own choices in life? How would you explain this most crucial aspect to someone else?

### Think About It

The fear of the Lord is at the center of all the instruction, insight, understanding, prudence and knowledge that makes up and defines true wisdom.

### What Will You Do?

Fear God and obey his commandments. Increase in learning and seek out guidance from others. Make righteousness, justice, and equity themes of your life. Rejoice in the knowledge of the Holy One who gives wisdom and grace to your humble estate.

### Renewing Your Mind

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (Prov. 9:10)*

*The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. (Prov. 29:25)*

*The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.** (Ecclesiastes 12:13)*

*Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52)*

*He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made **our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.** (1Cor. 1:30)*

*The knowledge of God's mystery, which is **Christ, in whom** are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom and knowledge.** (Col. 2:2-3)*

### Prayer Requests

*I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him. (Ephesians 1:16-17)*

*We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Col. 1:9-10)*

