



The Way of Wisdom

Exploring Proverbs 31

WOMEN OF THE WORD
LIFE BIBLE MINISTRY

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The Way of Wisdom

How to use this study

Welcome to our Women's Bible Study "**The Way of Wisdom**" which is an exploration of Proverbs 31.

I'd like to share a little with you about how to use this six-week video series with accompanying study notes. You'll find a PDF download for each of the sessions in this study. This is the first of six. You can print them or simply reference them on your device and use a notebook to jot down your own thoughts.

Whether you're participating in this study on your own or in a group, the first thing you will want to do is watch the **Session #1 Video**, which will give you a really good perspective of the content of this Bible Study and help you understand how it is formatted.

- After you have watched the Session #1 video, the next page of this PDF titled **Questions for Discussion: Session #1** gives you resources that are especially useful for group discussion following that video, but certainly worthwhile for your personal study as well.
- The final page of this download is labeled **Study Guide Between Sessions #1 & #2**. You'll find a Proverbs reading assignment and a few questions related to specific Scriptures and concepts. But the majority of discussion questions for the next video will be found in the next PDF labeled **Session #2**.

This first Study Guide contains four pages: a cover page, this introductory page, Question for Discussion on Session #1, and a Study Guide for Preparation before Session #2. All of the PDFs after this one will contain two pages: Questions for Discussion and a Study Guide for Preparation. I just wanted you to know what to expect if you are printing materials for your group.

I'm primarily teaching from the English Standard Version of the Bible (ESV), although I will also reference other translations. If you have a preferred translation, that is just fine – use what you're comfortable with.

We will also be reading through the entire book of Proverbs during this study. I discovered a sweet little paperback produced by Crossway called the **ESV Illuminated Scripture Journal**. You can search for it on Amazon or use [this link](#). It's a reasonable price and you may really enjoy the space for notes.

It's my sincere hope that this Bible Study will bless you and give you not only a greater Biblical understanding of Proverbs 31, but a fresh overview of the book of Proverbs as a whole.

While you're spending personal time following this study, don't forget to pray first and ask the Lord to help you focus your mind on the Scriptures and open your heart to His messages.

May the Lord Bless you abundantly,

Sue

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Questions for Discussion: Session #1

The following are questions that can be used after you have watched the Session #1 Video.

- #1 If you were one of those 100 people interviewed on the street and asked about your thoughts on Proverb 31, what would your answer have been?
- #2 Can you share one Proverb that comes to mind, which would prove the point that they are short, memorable sayings.
- #3 Part of the Webster's dictionary definition of **wisdom** is *the exercise of sound judgment, either in avoiding evils or attempting good*. What would you add to that definition?
- #4 Wisdom doesn't just appear like grey hair. Proverbs 2 expresses some of the action required on our part to walk in the way of wisdom. Read **Proverbs 2:1-5** and discuss what type of effort is required and give at least one real life example of that effort.
- #5 Read **Proverbs 2:6**. Discuss the real source of wisdom.
- #6 Have you ever struggled with the phrase "*The fear of the Lord?*" If so, how has your understanding changed following today's teaching?

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov. 1:7)*



Proverbs Reading Assignment for this Week:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 6 |

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Study & Prep for Session #2

#1 *The Fear of the Lord* is mentioned 18 times in the book of Proverbs. We'll look up six of those references. What do these verses add to your understanding of *The Fear of the Lord*?

- Prov. 10:27
- Prov. 14:26
- Prov. 15:33
- Prov. 19:23
- Prov. 22:4
- Prov. 28:14

#2 From **Proverbs 2:5-15**, list some benefits of seeking wisdom as well as some ills that a person could be delivered from by obtaining wisdom.

#3 **Proverbs 3:5-6** is a very popular passage – it may even be a *life verse* for some. This is the first mention of *trust* in the Proverbs. How would you describe *trusting in the Lord* and *fearing the Lord* as similar ideas and how are they different?

#4a) What are some of the contrasts that you noted as you read through the first six chapters of Proverbs? (Example: *The way of wisdom* (4:11) and the *way of evil* (4:14).

b) Read **Isaiah 5:20-21** which speaks of people entrapped in moral confusion. What does v.21 suggest as the root of that confusion?

#5 **Proverbs 3:7** admonishes us to ***be not wise in your own eyes*** – in other words: *don't be proud*. Read Isaiah 5:20-21 and consider how the words of the prophet echo the words of Solomon. Read these Proverbs and consider what they add to the call toward humility instead of pride:

- Prov. 11:2
- Prov. 16:18-19
- Prov. 28:26
- Prov. 29:23

#6 In preparation for Session #2, Read **Proverbs 31:1-9**. What is *mom* cautioning her son against and what is she instructing him about?