

## Wise As-Week 1 “Wise Vs Foolish” – Jim Burgen April 11, 2021

### // Bible References

Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 14:26, 22:4 Matthew 7:24-27, Proverbs 11:2

### // Message Summary

This weekend Jim starts off a new series in the book of Proverbs. Throughout this series we will be unpacking how we can make the wisest choices for all of life's decisions. Most of the intro to this series is about the phrase “the fear of the LORD” which Jim defines as, “remembering or acknowledging that all of God's intentions toward you are good.” In group this week be ready to dive deep into the idea that Jesus did not come to make you *feel* better, instead he came to make you better.

### // Biblical Context

#### Proverbs Overview

- Proverbs has a few different authors but the most notable of these is King Solomon. He is known for building the Jewish temple and asking God for wisdom. He is also the author of Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes. Proverbs has 31 poems of wisdom and warnings against living a foolish life. The main theme in the book is that wisdom starts with fear of God and trust of God. The book in short is about making good or bad choices.

#### The Fear of the LORD

- The phrase “the fear of the LORD” is a common and confusing phrase all throughout the Bible. **Fear:** Throughout the Bible there are many references that fear was used in different ways, such as dread (Deuteronomy 1:29), terrified (John 1:10), being in awe (1 Kings 3:28), and reverence (Leviticus 19:3). For this phrase, it encompasses all those meanings. Fear is used to show the amount of respect we should give to the Lord. **LORD:** There is a specific reason LORD is capitalized in your Bible. The Hebrew people (the people whose story is all through the OT) referred to God as Yahweh. Yahweh means “He who brings everything into existence.” But the Hebrews thought that name was so holy they would not say it or write it. So, when written in Proverbs, they would take out all the vowels YHWH to show God as holy. English translates this as LORD.

### //Community Questions

1. Share a favorite life Proverb with the group. ex. “Don’t cry over spilled milk”, “Begin to weave, and God will give the thread”, “Even though you know a thousand things, ask the man who knows one.” etc.
2. Define wisdom and talk about someone in your life who shows great wisdom?

### //Discussion Questions

1. Jim tells us that “the fear of the Lord” means “to remember and acknowledge that all of God’s intentions towards you are good.” Do you have a hard time believing that? If so, share an example of how you are struggling with that now?
2. What is an area of your life where you are forgiven but healing is still going to take a while?
3. Read Proverbs 11:2 and share with the group a time where instead of acting out of wisdom you acted out of pride. What were your takeaways, both good and bad?
4. What are you doing to make sure that choices you make are yielding the best possible outcomes for you and everyone around you? If those choices are not producing the best possible outcome, what do you need to rethink in your life to yield the best possible outcome?
5. Jim says, “It is equally as foolish to KNOW God’s truth and NOT apply it to your life, as it is to apply something to your life that is *different* than what God says is true.”
  - a. What areas of your life do you find it easier to apply God’s truth?
  - b. What areas of your life do you find it harder to apply God’s truth?

### Challenge:

Identify a high-stake area of your life where what you are currently doing does not align with what God says is the “wisest choice.” Then rethink/repent and consider what it would look like in your life to move from the path that you are currently on to the path of what God says is the “wisest choice.”