



Proverbs  
Week 1 - Wisdom

### **Introduction**

1. As a group, list and define as many different types (genres) of Old Testament literature that you can think of.

*An introductory activity to get the group thinking broadly about the area of the Bible that we're going to be looking at for the next few weeks. You might like to do this on some large butcher's paper, or simply brainstorming. Examples may include: historical narrative; prophetic; apocalyptic; poetry / song; Law; wisdom literature.*

2. What do you think a 'proverb' is? Give a modern-day example.

*There are many modern sayings that could be used as an example here (such as 'the early bird gets the worm'). Get them to try and explain what they think the purpose of a proverb is.*

### **Read the 'Introduction To Proverbs' sheet**

3. If the book of Proverbs is wisdom literature, how might that impact the way in which we read and understand what is written?

*The proverbs in the book then, should be seen as a tool (or statement) which express biblical truths, and enables people to grow in truth, whilst turning from wickedness. It means that we don't apply everything literally, nor that they provide an exhaustive list of what it means to live as God's people.*

### **Read Proverbs 1:1-7 and 9:10**

4. How do these verses define 'wisdom'? Where is it to be found?

*Wisdom here is described as discipline; knowledge; insight; guidance based on the Lord. It is about living it, and passing it on to others. It is found through 'fear of the Lord' (you may need to explain what this means).*

5. Where have you been tempted to look for wisdom other than here?

*There are many places in which we look to 'worldly wisdom'. It would be good to get specific answers here, rather than simply 'we look to the world'.*

6. Who then, is this book written for, and how will it help them?

*We can say then that the book of Proverbs has been written for God's people who are keen to know how to be 'wise' and how to live godly lives. Hopefully that is you!*

### ***Digging Deeper***

7. What would be the dangers of ignoring the type wisdom as given in this book?

*Ignoring this wisdom may have many consequences. There are the worldly consequences of foolish choices, as well as eternal, spiritual consequences. A glance over chapters 2-9 may prove helpful here.*

8. Do you think that it is possible for unbelievers to be wise? Why / why not?

*This question should provide a good opportunity for discussion. Ultimately unbelievers may have worldly wisdom, but not true godly wisdom. Sometimes these can be hard to differentiate – you might like to get them thinking about how we do that.*

### ***Pray***

Spend time praying as a group that as you study the book of Proverbs the Lord might make you wiser, more discerning, disciplined, and prudent. Pray that you would not give in to enticement and pressure from those around you.