


# Term 2 Study Guide

A photograph of a forest path that forks into two directions. The path is made of dirt and rocks, and the forest is dense with tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in moss and fallen leaves. The text 'THE WAY OF WISDOM' is overlaid on the image in white, with 'THE WAY OF' in a smaller font above 'WISDOM'. Two green horizontal bars are positioned on either side of the text.

THE WAY OF  
WISDOM

**Proverbs**



# Welcome to Term 2

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Life is challenging. On any given day you may have to navigate work / study deadlines, sick family members, tricky relationships, expensive bills, unexpected interruptions, complex technology, road rage (including your own), temptation, and the necessities of eating and resting. How do you do that well? There are multitudes of podcasts on time management and dealing with stress. There are life hacks that promise you the ability to move through responsibilities efficiently. But efficiency doesn't help us face our many challenges. Try helping a child deal with their friendship struggles efficiently. It will probably make things worse.

The Bible tells us what we need is wisdom: "For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer" (Proverbs 9:11-12).

So where do we get it? Well, that's what we're going to look at in Term 2. We'll be seeking wisdom in the books of Proverbs and 1 Kings.

Proverbs is wisdom literature (along with Ecclesiastes, Job, Song of Songs, various Psalms, and James). Written mostly by Solomon, Proverbs teaches wisdom to those willing to listen and consider and think. It warns us of the dangers of a foolish life, and invites us to listen to wisdom to help guide us to living well in an unwell life.

1 Kings on the other hand isn't wisdom literature. But it teaches us about wisdom and folly through the experiences of the kings after David. Much like 2 Samuel, 1 Kings helps us see the lived experience of people acting foolishly or with wisdom.

Our prayer is that these series will cultivate a desire among us to love wisdom. Many of us know the difference between right and wrong, but we perhaps struggle with what is wisdom and what is folly. Let's pray that God will give us insight and joy as we seek to grow in wisdom together this term.

As well as our sermon series, there are a number of other key events in the term. These include:

- The *Women's Teaching Day* with Kate Mitchell and Jen Baddeley, called *The Good Women*.
- The *Mission Focus Month* we're we'll give attention to hearing from our mission partners and the work they are doing.

Please pray for the term ahead. Ask that God would use it to grow us as God's people and mature us in Christ.

If you'd like to join a Home Group, you can sign up at:  
<https://my.redlands.org.au/pages/home-group-sign-up/>

In Christ, Jen and Josh

# Taste and See

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We've run Taste & See for the past two years and God has graciously used it to draw people closer to him. Taste & See is a course where people meet Jesus over good food, good conversation, and good company. The aim is that people might "taste and see that the Lord is good". Each week we walk through the Bible's story about Jesus over a meal that illustrates an aspect of that story. It's a wonderful opportunity for our church to reach our community with the good news of Jesus.



With Sam leaving, this year we'd like to put together a team of people to run the course. We're aiming to run it over four Sunday evenings in term 3:



**July 19<sup>th</sup>**

**July 26<sup>th</sup>**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**August 9<sup>th</sup>**

Please be praying for the make-up of the team. Ask that we'd have people from church who love sharing the gospel and are gifted in areas like welcoming, set up, and cooking. Pray for open hearts to hear the good news of Jesus, and opportunities for those seeking to ask their questions in a non-threatening environment. Pray that those seeking would find answers through God's Word.

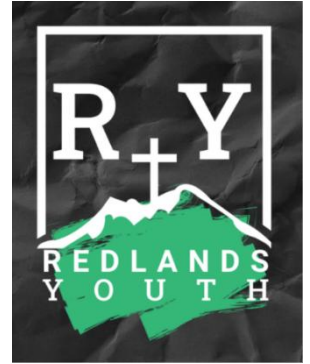
Pray especially that those who visit for the course would consider joining our church community, that the conversations at the table wouldn't end there but would continue beyond the Taste & See course.

We appreciate your prayers and partnership in this important outreach ministry. May God be glorified and may many come to "taste and see that the Lord is good."

# Redlands Youth

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Redlands Youth is in a season of transition and change with Sam leaving at the end of Term 1. Sam will be greatly missed by the Redlands Youth team and youth. We give thanks for the wonderful impact he's had on the youth through his preaching, teaching, and leadership.



With Sam moving on, who will be leading Redland Youth for the rest of the year? We're thankful to God that Joel and Ingrid ledema have offered to take the reins. Joel and Ingrid have previous experience in youth ministry and in preaching and teaching to younger people. Ingrid will do most of the on the ground organisation and Joel will help with preaching and teaching from time to time. Please be praying for Joel and Ingrid as they take up the leadership of the ministry. Pray and give thanks also for the remainder of the leadership team which includes Norm Oneissy, Jacob ledema, Douglas Catchpole, and Jemima Bobos.



Another important part for the term at Redlands Youth is LAUNCH Camp. LAUNCH is a "Leaders In Training Camp" for students from years 10-12 who have been encouraged by their home church to consider Christian leadership. It is an opportunity to hear from the Bible, be equipped in ministry

skills and connect with peers from other churches who love Jesus and want to serve him. Launch Camp is designed to be attended for three consecutive years with each year providing different areas of growth and training. Please be praying for those invited that God would use LAUNCH as a time of real growth.

# Mission Focus Month

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In June we'll be having our annual Mission Focus Month where we'll receive updates from and pray for our mission partners. Our current mission partners are...



## EARLY CHURCH

E & L  
South East Asia



## VICTORIA POINT

Tim & Jeanne ledema  
FOCUS  
QUT Christians



## 10:30 CHURCH

L & C  
South East Asia



## REDLAND BAY

A & S  
South Asia



## NIGHT CHURCH

Chris & Kate Brown  
AFES  
Griffith Christian Students



## REDLANDS YOUTH

L & E  
East Asia

# Women's Teaching Day

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This year we're excited to host another Redlands Women's Teaching Day on 23rd May. This year we'll have two talks from Kate Mitchell who will help us explore the idea of 'The Good Woman' along with a talk from Proverbs 31 by Jennie Baddeley. This will give us a chance to think through what it means to belong to Jesus as women. It will be an encouraging and challenging time for us as we seek to grow as followers of Jesus together.

One of the things people really appreciate about our women's teaching days is time to talk and enjoy fellowship together over good food. We have planned this into the day this year with long breaks for morning tea and lunch, along with excellent food! We will also have a physical bookstall again this year, with books for adults as well as good books for the children in your life.

Come along - or encourage the women in your life to come along! It will cost \$40 which includes morning tea and lunch and run from 9:30-3pm.

Contact Jennie Baddeley with any questions: [jen@redlands.org.au](mailto:jen@redlands.org.au)



# Study 1 - The Listener

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## WHAT THE WORLD SAYS:

*"Trust yourself above everyone else."*

*"You don't need someone else telling you how to live"*

*"Experience is the best teacher."*

1. Why do you think people are drawn to this way of thinking?
2. What problems does this advice seem to solve?
3. Where do you see this advice playing out (school, online, in music, people you look up to)?
4. What might be **good** about following this advice? What might be **risky**?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

**Read Proverbs 1:7-10**

5. How is the Bible's idea of wisdom here different from "trust yourself"?
6. What problems does this advice seem to solve?
7. What might be **good** about following this advice? What might be **risky**?

## **WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?**

8. If God's way and the world's way pull in opposite directions, how do you know which one to follow and when?
  
9. If you're honest, who do you trust more in the moment: your own instincts, your friends, or God?
  
10. What kind of person do you want to be in 10 years' time? And which path do you think will help you get there: the world's or God's?

## **A BETTER WAY**

It's normal to feel pulled in different directions. Choosing the right path isn't just about trying harder or trusting your own instincts. Jesus is the wise Son of Proverbs 1 who always listens to God (the Father) perfectly, shows the way to life, and forgives us when we get it wrong. Following Him means we don't have to rely on ourselves, instead we can walk with the one who knows the way, and who IS the Way (John 14:6).

### **Read Luke 2:46-52.**

11. How does Jesus demonstrate himself as the wise Son of Proverbs 1? What is his attitude toward listening to God? What can we learn by listening to Jesus here?

# Study 2 - The Wise

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## WHAT THE WORLD SAYS:

*"Smart people always have the answers."*

*"Wisdom is knowing how to get what you want."*

*"Only fools follow rules. They slow you down."*

1. Why do you think people are drawn to this way of thinking?
2. What problems does this advice seem to solve?
3. Where do you see this advice playing out (school, online, in music, people you look up to)?
4. What might be **good** about following this advice? What might be **risky**?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

### Read Proverbs 3:5-8

5. How is the Bible's idea of wisdom here different from "have all the answers"?
6. What problems does this advice seem to solve?
7. What might be **good** about following this advice? What might be **risky**?

## WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?

8. Here we have the world's definition of wisdom and God's definition of wisdom. How are they pulling in opposite directions?

9. When might it be more tempting for you to follow the world's way instead of God's way?

10. What might life look like for you in 10 years' time if you follow:

The world's way	God's way

## A BETTER WAY

Proverbs says the wise listen, learn, and walk carefully. But none of us do that perfectly. Even when we know what's wise, we still mess it up. That's why we need more than good advice. We need a Saviour. The Bible says that Jesus is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). =

### Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

11. How is God's wisdom to us in the cross, more than good advice for living? Discuss how the cross also helps us with living the wise life?

# Study 3 - The Simple

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## WHAT THE WORLD SAYS:

*"Just go with the flow."*

*"Don't overthink it."*

*"Relax, everyone's doing it."*

1. Why do you think people are drawn to this way of thinking?
2. What problems does this advice seem to solve?
3. Where do you see this advice playing out (school, online, in music, people you look up to)?
4. What might be **good** about following this advice? What might be **risky**?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

**Read Proverbs 7:7-23**

5. What picture is being painted here of 'the simple'?
6. What problems does this picture seek to solve?
7. What might be **good** about following this warning? What might be **risky**?

## WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?

8. Here we have the world's picture of 'simple' and God's picture of 'simple'. How are they similar? How are they different?

9. When might it be tempting for you to take the path of 'the simple'?

10. What might life look like for you in 10 years' time if you follow:

The world's way	God's warning

## A BETTER WAY

Proverbs says the simple aren't malicious, but they're unguarded and easily led. We don't always choose the wrong path because we want to, but because we don't see where it leads. That's why Jesus doesn't just warn us, He invites us. He says, "Come to me... and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

### Read John 10:1-6

11. How does Jesus as our good shepherd help us avoid the trappings of the simple? What does our response need to be?

# Study 4 - The Fool

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## WHAT THE WORLD SAYS:

*"I don't need advice. I know what I'm doing."*

*"No one's going to tell me how to live my life."*

*"It's my life. I'll deal with the consequences later."*

1. Why do you think people are drawn to this way of thinking?
2. What problems does this attitude to life seem to solve?
3. Where do you see this attitude playing out (school, online, in music, people you look up to)?
4. What might be **good** about following this attitude? What might be **risky**?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

**Read Proverbs 14:16; 18:2; 26:11-12**

5. What picture is being painted here of 'the fool'?
6. What problems does this warning seek to solve?
7. What might be **good** about following this warning? What might be **risky**?

## WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?

8. Here we have the world's way of doing life on our own, and God's warning to not go that way. What's challenging for you about God's warning?

9. When might it be tempting for you to take the advice of the world?

10. What might life look like for you in 10 years' time if you follow:

The world's way	God's warning

## A BETTER WAY

Proverbs is blunt: fools trust themselves and refuse correction, and we all fall into that at times. Knowing what's right isn't enough if our hearts won't listen. That's why we don't just need advice; we need saving. Jesus has come to invite us to start again. He came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10), including those of us who thought we knew better. Following Him is the first step from foolishness toward real life.

### **Read John 3:1-15.**

11. How does Nicodemus serve as an example of a fool, and how does Jesus lead him into wisdom and life?

# Study 5 - The Mocker

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## WHAT THE WORLD SAYS:

*"That's a bit cringe"*

*"People still believe that?!"*

*"If that works for you..."*

1. Why do you think people are drawn to this way of thinking (shutting down conversation instead of exploring the truth)?
2. What problems does this attitude to life seem to solve?
3. Where do you see this attitude playing out (school, online, in music, people you look up to)?
4. What might be **good** about following this attitude? What might be **risky**?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

**Read Proverbs 9:7-8; 21:24; 22:10**

5. What picture is being painted here of 'the mocker'?
6. What problems does this warning seek to solve?
7. What might be **good** about following this warning? What might be **risky**?

## WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?

8. Here we have the world's way of dealing with people, and God's warning about that way of living. What's challenging for you about God's warning?
  
9. When might it be tempting for you to shut down conversation instead of exploring the truth with others?
  
10. What might life look like for you in 10 years' time if you follow:

Live like "the mocker"	Follow God's warning

## A BETTER WAY

Proverbs calls out the mocker as someone who laughs at truth instead of listening to it. We all do this sometimes, using jokes, sarcasm, or pride to avoid being challenged. The problem isn't that we don't know better; it's that we don't want to humble ourselves. That's why we need grace, not just advice. Jesus was mocked and made fun of for us, taking our pride on Himself.

### Read 1 Peter 2:20-25

11. How is the example of Jesus here a challenge to us to be different to Mockers?

# Study 6 - Lady Wisdom

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## WHAT THE WORLD SAYS:

*"If you're informed, you'll be okay."*

*"Common sense goes a long way."*

*"Knowledge is power."*

1. Why do you think people are drawn to this way of thinking?
2. What problems does this attitude to life seem to solve?
3. Where do you see this attitude playing out (school, online, in music, people you look up to)?
4. What might be **good** about following this attitude? What might be **risky**?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

**Read Proverbs 8:1-36**

5. What picture is being painted here of 'Lady Wisdom'?
6. If we listen to Lady Wisdom, what problems does her way of living seek to solve?
7. What might be **good** about listening to Lady Wisdom? What might be **risky**?

## WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?

8. Here again we have the world's way of following wisdom, and God's picture of true wisdom (Lady Wisdom). In what ways do they pull in opposite directions?
9. When might it be more tempting for you to follow the world's wisdom instead of Lady Wisdom?
10. What might life look like for you in 10 years' time if you follow:

Worldly wisdom	Lady Wisdom

## A BETTER WAY

Proverbs pictures Lady Wisdom calling out, offering a life that's worth choosing. The world says wisdom is about being smart, making good choices, and staying ahead, but Proverbs goes further. True wisdom isn't just information; it's a voice calling us to follow. That's where Jesus comes in. The Bible says that in Him "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). Jesus doesn't just teach wisdom, He embodies it.

### **Read James 3:13-18.**

11. Think of examples from Jesus' life where he embodies the wisdom James is describing.

# Study 7 - Lady Folly

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## WHAT THE WORLD SAYS:

*"You only live once."*

*"Live in the moment."*

*"If I do it just this once it won't hurt anyone."*

1. Why do you think people are drawn to this way of thinking?
2. What problems does this attitude to life seem to solve?
3. Where do you see this attitude playing out (school, online, in music, people you look up to)?
4. What might be **good** about following this attitude? What might be **risky**?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS:

### Read Proverbs 9:13-18

5. What picture is being painted here of 'the simple'? What picture is being painted here of 'Lady Folly'?
6. If we listen to Lady Folly, what problems does her way of living seek to solve?
7. What do you think it means that "her guests are deep in the realm of the dead"? Why is God's warning here so severe?

## WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?

8. Here again we have the world's way of following wisdom, and God's warning not to follow Lady Folly. In what ways does Lady Folly's voice sound like our world?

9. When might it be tempting for you to follow this voice?

10. What might life look like for you in 10 years' time if you follow:

Lady Folly	God's warning

## A BETTER WAY

Proverbs shows Lady Folly as loud, tempting, and convincing. She promises fun without consequences and freedom without limits. Her way looks easy, and that's what makes it dangerous. Folly never talks about where her path leads. Jesus does.

**Read Matthew 7:13-14.**

11. What is it that makes Folly's way wide, and Jesus' way narrow?

# Study 8 - Two Ways to Live

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## LOST FROM THE START

### Read Proverbs 14:12

1. Can you think of a time you were sure you were right, but it turned out you weren't?
2. Why do you think it's hard to listen to advice or correction, even when we know it's good for us?

## FOLLY LOOKS FUN BUT IT LEADS TO DEATH

### Read Proverbs 4:19

3. What are some things in life that look fun or harmless but could actually lead to trouble?
4. How do you know when a choice is just "fun" or when it could really hurt you or others?

## WISDOM CALLS, BUT WE MUST LISTEN

### Read Proverbs 9:10

5. What does it mean to "fear the Lord" in your everyday life? How is that different from being scared?

6. Where do you notice God's wisdom trying to speak to you right now?

## **JESUS SHOWS THE WAY**

### **Read Ephesians 2:1-9**

7. What is this saying about Jesus and about you?

## **WHICH WAY DO YOU CHOOSE?**

### **Read 1 John 5:11-12**

8. These verses say life is found only in Jesus. Are you living with Him (following Him), or trying to go your own way (following the world)?

9. If you were to choose to keep living your own way instead of following Jesus, what do you think that would cost you in the long run?

