


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

Getting Wise in Term 2

⁷ *The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.* ⁸ *Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honour you. (Proverbs 4:7-8)*

They say knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in your fruit salad. And they're right. It's one thing to know facts, but a wholly more important skill to be able to apply that knowledge to life. And that is what the book of Proverbs offers us. Insight that not only "works" in life but leads to life that is richly practical.

But more importantly, Proverbs reminds us what makes wisdom work: embracing that this is God's world. Just as your car lasts longer if it's serviced according to the manufacturer's instructions, life is meant to be lived God's way - going "with the grain" of the world he's made. And trusting his hand to bring justice and kindness, rather than grasping for what we want ourselves.

Proverbs will be a great book to spend time in, and to invite others to explore as well. While we aim to make every Sunday a good one for inviting friends to church, there will be something especially accessible this term. And with Taste & See running during the term, people who come with questions have an easy way to go further in finding the answer.

What's more, our Mission Focus Month in June will remind us how God is offering this wisdom to all the world. And how lives are changing as a result.

Which is great. Because it would be discouraging news to find you've been driving over 200,000 kilometres, damaging your car by ignoring the manual. And often we have. At times damage is already done, bad decisions have already been made, and we feel stuck living with the consequences. But the wonderful news of the gospel is that Jesus is, for those that God calls, "the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:24) A wisdom that can heal every brokenness, and bring hope when life seems only to offer despair.

Pray that this would be a great term for all of us - regulars and visitors - to find true wisdom in Jesus.

In Christ,
Russell

Taste and See

Explore the timeless message of Jesus over good food, good company and good conversation.

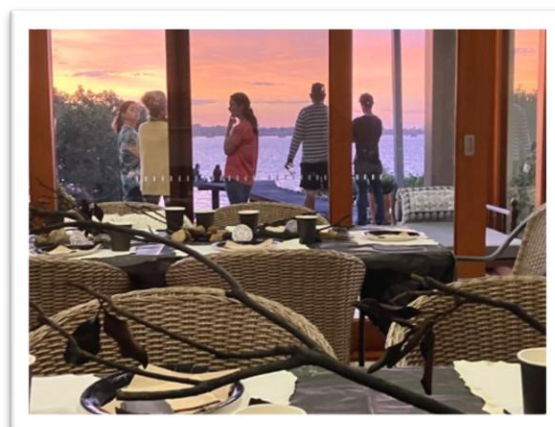
It takes four things for someone to become a Christian: Prayer, God's Word, People and Time. Will you pray as we prepare to host Taste & See, which aims to combine the final three ingredients? Over four weeks, Taste &

See offers a relationally warm space for people investigating Jesus to get to know Christians, and hear a clear presentation of the gospel, especially by looking into parts of the book of Luke.



Taste & See is a "bringvitation" event. You are welcome to come ... if you're bringing someone else. We don't want the room so full of Christians someone with genuine questions feels out of place. But we do want them to meet other Christians, so we have a team of people will be attending simply to be available to sit and chat with your friends or family.

You can support Taste & See by being part of the catering, decorating and hosting for the evenings. Let Russ or Jocelyn know if you'd like to help out.



Mission Focus Month

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

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



STUDIES

Study 1 - The Listener

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?



S H O R E H O P E
A REDLANDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH