



## ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 7: Living Wisely

Suggested Use Date: 07/19/2020

*For use with Explore the Bible Leader Guide, Personal Study Guide, and Daily Discipleship Guide*



# PREPARATION

## Best Practices for Leading an Online Group



**PRAY** for your group members and for God to grant you insight as you study and prepare your Bible study session. Do this throughout the week.



**SCHEDULE** your group's online Bible study using the online meeting tool you prefer. Invite group members and guests to participate using a meeting ID if required by your online meeting tool. [Click here](#) to view a Best Practices document for online groups.



**SEND** digital copies of the next session to group members who do not have a print copy. If using the *Personal Study Guide*, encourage group members to read the passage and comments for the next session. If you are using the *Daily Discipleship Guide*, encourage your group members to follow up your session by engaging with the five daily Bible readings.



**CONNECT** with your group via email or text messaging early in the week.

Create your own message:

- Briefly tell the group the title of your next Bible study, why it is important, and what they will learn.
- Challenge group members to study before the group session if your group uses a *Personal Study Guide*; remind group members to follow up your online study with their daily readings if your group uses the *Daily Discipleship Guide*.
- Remind group members when your group will meet online.

Or copy and paste this suggested wording into the email or text message to your group:

When baking something, following the recipe exactly will lead to a great dessert, but failing to follow the recipe will lead to a messy kitchen. Something similar is true when it comes to God's wisdom. Solomon contrasted following God's wisdom with the foolishness of failing to do so.

Before we gather, Consider the stark contrasts Solomon highlighted between the wise and the foolish in Proverbs 14:8-15. Be sure to read the comments for Session 7 in the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide*. How does the contrast give us a clearer view of the two paths?

We will meet at (add time) using (name of online tool). Here is the link to our meeting: (add meeting ID if your online tool doesn't do that automatically)

### WEEKLY MESSAGE



**PREPARE** to lead your group's Bible study.

- **Study** Proverbs 14:8-15, examining the literary device used to contrast the wise and the foolish.
- **Listen** to the Explore the Bible Adult Leader Podcast. Go to [goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training](https://goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training) for an overview of the main points and key ideas from each session.
- **Visit** the Explore the Bible blog for additional leader helps at [goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps](https://goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps)
- **Create** your teaching plan for guiding your group's online Bible study experience. Use the Online Group Plan on the next pages as a starting point, modifying it for your group as needed. Consult the *Adult Commentary*, *QuickSource*, and *Leader Pack* for additional ideas and resources.



**REMINDE** your group members to study and prepare via another email or text message closer to the day your group meets.

- Include a quote from the *Personal Study Guide*, a question, or an insight you plan to discuss with the group when you meet online.



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## HELPFUL LINKS

- Explore the Bible main landing page: [goExploreTheBible.com](https://goExploreTheBible.com)
- Digital version of Explore the Bible: [curriculum.lifeway.com](https://curriculum.lifeway.com)
- Explore the Bible leader helps: [goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps](https://goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps)
- Explore the Bible Podcast: [goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training](https://goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training)
- Free Coronavirus links and leader helps: [lifeway.com/coronavirus](https://lifeway.com/coronavirus)



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NOTES

**GREET** *people as they join and invite them to share about a time when they failed to follow a recipe, and it ended in a kitchen disaster (PSG, p. 64; DDG, p. 61). Emphasize the importance of following a recipe.*

**TRANSITION:** Our study in Proverbs reveals the importance of following wisdom. We have already examined some of the benefits of obedience and the consequences of disobedience. In today's session, we'll see how living wisely leads to joy, while failing to do so leads to grief. *Option: Use the Extra! idea. See [goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras](http://goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras)*

**EXPLAIN:** *Using Understand the Context, explain the literary structure of Proverbs 14 in which a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated in reverse order (PSG, p. 65; DDG, p. 61). Point to the text treatment in the PSG and DDG to clarify. In our study today we will examine the first and last verses of the passage and move by pairs of verses to the center two verses. The middle two verses provide a summary emphasis of the other verses.*

**READ Proverbs 14:8,15** *as the group listens for how the wise and foolish are characterized.*

**PRESENT:** *Use information from Pack Item 13 (Handout: Fool in Proverbs) to identify how Solomon used the word fool in Proverbs. Emphasize that Solomon characterized obedient followers of God as sensible.*

**ASK:** **When you think about a sensible Christian, who comes to mind? How does that person's example help you to be prudent? (PSG, p. 67, DDG, p. 63)**  
**Why is a person being thoughtful, measured, circumspect, and methodical so valued but so difficult?**



**READ:** Direct the group to read silently **Proverbs 14:9,14**, contemplating how the two verses are connected.

**GUIDE:** Read *Philippians 4:11* and *Galatians 6:7-10*. Direct the group to review the comments about verses 9 and 14 (PSG, pp. 67-68) or the Day 2 and Day 3 comments (DDG, p. 65-66) to gain insight into the connection between these two New Testament passages and Proverbs. Ask: **How does pursuing God's wisdom lead to contentment regardless of the circumstances?** (PSG: p. 68; DDG, p. 63) If using the DDG, challenge the group to revisit these New Testament passages when they complete the Day 2 and Day 3 explorations.

**READ Proverbs 14:10,13.** Describe a time in your life when you were able to remain joyful in difficult circumstances.

**ASK:** How does following God lead to contentment regardless of the circumstances? How does the joy of God transcend even the worst of situations? From the PSG (p. 69) and DDG (p. 63): **What if someone asked you about the joy that's abiding in your heart? How would you describe it?**

**READ:** Direct the group to silently read **Proverbs 14:11-12**. Remind the group that this is the center or crux of the passage as they listen for the result of failing to follow God's plan.

**QUERY:** How can one differentiate between what seems to be the safe life and a God-honoring life?

**SUMMARIZE:** Read **Proverbs 14:8-15** in a variety of translations, noting different words used to contrast the wise and the foolish.

**SAY:** Ask: **If contentment is one of the key traits of a born-again believer, why do so many believers fail to exhibit contentment?** Lead the group to share their response to the second set of questions under *In My Context* (PSG, p. 72) or *Apply the Text* (DDG, p. 64): List the causes and cures for the lack of contentment and



joy people may experience. **With whom do you need to share the cures you identified?**

**EVALUATE:** Lead the group to reflect silently on the following: **How do you think others would see you in the areas of making sensible decisions, being content with your circumstances, and exhibiting joy regardless of your life situations?** Challenge them to consider this evidence to support their answer through the week.

**RELATE:** Lead the group to share insights they have gained so far as they have studied Proverbs. Close in prayer, thanking God for providing direction for our lives. Ask that He will lead us to be obedient to His instructions and as a testimony to others, help us to exhibit joy in all of our life circumstances.

## NEXT STEPS



- Contact individuals in the group who are struggling with difficult circumstances to encourage them and assure them of your prayers.
- Send digital copies of the next session to those in the group who do not have a print copy. If using the Personal Study Guide, encourage the group to read the passage and comments for the next session.
- Repeat the process outlined in the Preparation section of this document.