



ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Summer 2020 // Proverbs; Song of Songs // Session 6: Pursuing Wisdom

Suggested Use Date: 07/12/2020

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:

If you were granted the opportunity to gain wisdom in one area of life, what would it be and why? God offers wisdom by which to live life and glorify Him. He has revealed Himself in nature (Ps. 19:1), in His written Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and in Jesus (Heb. 1:1-4). In our study this week, we'll talk about how God promises to provide wisdom to those who search for Him.

Read Proverbs 8:6-21, looking for the action words. Review the comments for Session 6 in the *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide* to gain insights into these actions words. How do the actions point to the value of God's wisdom?

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 8:1–9:18, focusing particular attention on Proverbs 8:6-21.
- **Listen** to the Explore the Bible Adult Leader Podcast. Go to 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
- **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.



HELPFUL LINKS

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



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NOTES

GREET: *Welcome participants as they join and invite them to imagine a camp scene of two groups engaged in a tug of war. Invite volunteers to share any memories they have of participating in such a contest. After several responses, ask: **How is temptation like and unlike a game of tug of war?** Allow for additional responses.*

TRANSITION: Our study in Proverbs consistently has Wisdom tugging one direction and Folly the other. Wisdom personifies our relationship with Christ while Folly, represented by the immoral woman in a previous session, is pulling against the path of following Jesus Christ. In Proverbs 5–7, we discovered that sexual sin can have severe consequences. In Proverbs 8–9, we see that we must be in an ongoing relationship with wisdom found in following Christ. In today’s study, we will see how God promises to provide His wisdom to those who search for Him. *Option: Use the Extra! idea. See goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras*

READ Proverbs 8:6-11, *guiding the group to listen for action words that point to the value of wisdom. After the reading, invite responses, including especially the action words “listen” and “accept.”*

ASK: Why might someone NOT consider God’s wisdom to be a priceless treasure? (PSG, p. 59; DDG, p. 55) What might a person pursue instead of God’s wisdom in an effort to find truth? (PSG, p. 58; DDG, p. 55) What do you cherish most of all about God’s wisdom? (PSG, p. 59; DDG, p. 57)

EXPLAIN: *Point out that in verses 6-11, Solomon allowed the wisdom of God to speak through the voice of a virtuous woman who devoted herself to talking about “noble things” that lead people along the path of excellence. She noted that God’s people should have nothing to do with lies or other forms of wickedness. God’s people who have come to know and trust His Word can testify that His wisdom means more to us than all the precious metals we might gain in life.*

TRANSITION: Encourage participants to focus now on the distinctive features of God's wisdom that make it so valuable to them.

READ: Direct the group to read silently **Proverbs 8:12-16**, noting especially the attributes of wisdom and what wisdom hates.

DISCUSS: Call attention to the phrase "to fear the LORD" (v. 13). Remind the group that fearing the Lord means "to revere, respect, trust, and submit to God" (PSG, p. 59; DDG, p. 55). Ask: **How does fearing God lead to gaining wisdom? Can a person gain true wisdom without a fear of God? Explain.** (PSG, p. 60; DDG, p. 55). Emphasize the four truths about God's wisdom listed as bulleted statements on page 60 of the PSG. (God's wisdom possesses good advice; God's wisdom is sound; God's wisdom gives God's people understanding; God's wisdom gives God's people strength.) Then ask: **According to verse 13, what are three things that wisdom hates?** Point out that having the wisdom of God means both loving what He loves and detesting what He detests.

READ Proverbs 8:17-21, directing the group to listen for the availability of wisdom and the benefits of wisdom described in these verses.

GUIDE: Guide the group to look carefully again at verse 21 and explain that God's wisdom gives people the assurance that the prosperity "she" offers comes as an inheritance—in other words, as a grace-gift. If wisdom was earned, then it would imply that people had to work to earn such a blessing. Because it is an inheritance, it is received because of a person's trust in the Giver, who is the Lord God. Therefore, when people receive God's wisdom, they can act on it with complete assurance they are making the right choices in life.

COMPARE: Lead the group to read silently Matthew 6:33 and 7:7-23; then compare how these teachings of Jesus connect and confirm what is stated in Proverbs 8:17-21. Call attention to the Key Doctrine and its statement about the Scriptures' truth and trustworthiness (PSG, p. 61; DDG, p. 55).

ASK: What are the dangers of discovering God's wisdom in the Scriptures yet failing to act on it?

SUMMARIZE: In Proverbs 8, we have seen that wisdom is valuable, powerful, and obtainable (as a gift) if we seek the Lord and obey His Word. *Lead the group to summarize the characteristics of a wise person that are revealed in Proverbs 8:6-21. Guide the group to reflect on at least two actions they could take immediately to aid in their pursuit of God's wisdom.*

CHALLENGE: *God's wisdom found through a relationship with Jesus Christ is the most valuable possession a person can have. Like the tug of war envisioned at the start of the session, we must be holding onto the rope and moving toward total obedience of the Lord as we seek His wisdom.*

NEXT STEPS



- Contact the group during the week to encourage them. Pray specifically for any needs they are willing to share with you.
- 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.