

June Bible Study Series:
Wise Up!
(Lessons from the book of Proverbs)

Lesson Three
Avoiding the Path of a Fool
(Lessons from the book of Proverbs)

**“A fool says what he knows,
and a wiseman knows what he
says.”**

Scripture Lesson:
Proverbs 26:1-11

Proverbs 26:1-11 (NJKV), As snow in summer and rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool. Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause shall not alight. A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool's back. Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes. He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

Like the legs of the lame that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of fools. Like one who binds a stone in a sling is he who gives honor to a fool. Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools. The great God who formed everything gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages. As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

The Hebrew definition of a fool is nabhal "folly"; denotes a wicked person, an evil character, "shamelessly immoral," equivalent to "a son of Belial" A fool is unwise, lacks sense, and lacks judgement.

Isaiah 32:6, For fools speak foolishness and make evil plans. They practice ungodliness and spread false teachings about the LORD. They deprive the hungry of food and give no water to the thirsty.

I. DISCERNMENT BETWEEN THE FOOL AND THE WISE:

**a. To Associate with Fools Is
Both Unwise and Unpleasant.**

Proverbs 14:7

**b. To Employ a Fool Is a Tragic
Mistake.**

Proverbs 26:6

**c. Foolishness Is Inherent in
Children**

Proverbs 22:15

**d. Fools Must Be Dealt with
Differently Than Those Who
Are Wise.**

Proverbs 9:7-8

**“Arguing with a fool only
proves that there are two.”**

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF A FOOL:

a. The Fool is Unrighteous.

Proverbs 14:9

b. The Fool is Unwise.

c. The Fool Does Not Possess Wisdom.

Proverbs 10:21

**d. The Fool is Not Capable of
Obtaining Wisdom:
Proverbs 14:6**

**e. The Fool is Unrealistic About
Himself.**

Proverbs 21:24

f. The Fool is Unrealistic About Life.

Proverbs 16:17

g. The Fool is Undisciplined.

**h. The Fool is Undisciplined with
His Money and Material
Resources.**

Proverbs 21:30

**i. The Fool is Undisciplined
with His Temper.**

Proverbs 12:16

**j. The Fool is Undisciplined with
His Mouth.**

Proverbs 12:23

III. THE FOOL IS UNRELIABLE:

- ✓ His Work – Proverbs 26:6**
- ✓ His Words – Proverbs 10:18**

IV. THE FOOL IS UNTEACHABLE.

Proverbs 1:7

V. The Fool is Unpleasant, Unliked, and Undesirable.

- ✓ **The fool is a menace, a detriment to society.**
- ✓ **He is a pain to his parents, for he hates them (15:20) and causes them grief (10:1; 17:21,25)**
- ✓ **He is a disaster wherever he goes (10:14; 17:12).**
- ✓ **He hinders the understanding of others (14:7).**
- ✓ **His speech is slanderous (10:18).**
- ✓ **The fool is quarrelsome (20:3), and he stirs up dissension and anger.**

VI. How to Treat a Fool:

- 1. Avoid Him**
- 2. Drive Him Out**
- 3. Do Not Waste Instruction**
- 4. Do Not Allow Him to Drag You Down**
- 5. Do Not Dignify a Fool**
- 6. Do Not Attempt to Correct Him**
- 7. Do Not Make Life Easy**
- 8. With Harsh Discipline**

“Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out loud and remove all doubt.”

Bible Study Follow Up Chat Questions:

- 1. Based on the information shared in our series, how would you define a “simple fool?”**
- 2. Why shouldn't we associate with fools?**
- 3. Have you dealt with a fool before? What was the outcome?**
- 4. “Never share more than is necessary.” How can you apply this advice to your life?**
- 5. Can Ignorance be cured? In what way(s)?**
- 6. Can a wise person make foolish decisions? Explain.**
- 7. Even though certain people are identified as fools, there is some foolishness in all of us. Agree or disagree?**