

Series: Don't be that Guy

Series Overview: This is a four-week series that explores the characteristics of the fool in Proverbs and challenges students to pursue wisdom in their daily lives. Each week highlights a different way the fool rejects God's wisdom—by refusing to listen, speaking carelessly, avoiding hard work, and neglecting time with Jesus. Through Scripture, real-life examples, and practical application, students will learn how to build their lives on Christ, use their words to bring life, work diligently from a place of grace, and abide in Jesus daily.

Series Graphics: [to be provided by Benj – link to graphics will be included here]

Memory Verse: Proverbs 1:7

Week 1: Wisdom and Folly

Message Overview: A wise person seeks understanding, listens, and builds their life on God's truth, while a fool rejects wisdom and understanding, leading to ruin.

Key Scripture: Proverbs 12:15; Matthew 7:24–27

Key points:

- Introduction
 - Introduce the series – studying the “fool” in Proverbs. In the book of Proverbs, we read the word “fool” anywhere between 71-99 times (google search).
 - A fool:
 - Illus: Share a humorous story about someone stubbornly refusing help or advice (e.g., refusing to ask for directions), or someone who thought they knew everything but ended up failing (a DIY project gone wrong, refusing directions and getting lost, etc.)
 - We've all had moments where we thought we knew best – only to realize we were wrong.
 - The bible calls this attitude foolishness, and Proverbs warns us repeatedly about it
 - During this series, we're going to examine the fool discussed in Proverbs...the guy we don't want to be! This week, we'll explore why fools reject understanding and what it means to pursue wisdom.
 - “That Guy” takes no pleasure in understanding.
- The Fool's Perspective
 - Proverbs 12:15: “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advise.”
 - A fool is self-reliant and rejects correction
 - A fool's arrogance: believing they're always right
 - They assume they have all the answers and don't need help
 - Proverbs 18:2
 - A fool talks more than they listen – they care more about proving a point than learning the truth
 - Consequences: isolation, failure, missed opportunities

- Give an illustration (can be funny with this) – overestimating one’s abilities due to ignorance (Dunning-Kruger effect)
- The Foundation of Wisdom
 - Matthew 7:24-27: Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish builders.
 - Wise builder: builds on the rock by listening to and applying Jesus’ words
 - Foolish builder: builds on sand, ignoring wisdom and truth
 - Illustration: show a visual or describe a house built on rock vs. sand
 - Highlight the importance of foundations during storms
 - Wisdom isn’t just about knowledge – it’s about choosing the right foundation
 - We either build our lives on God’s wisdom or on our own **limited** understanding
- Practical Steps to Wisdom
 - Listen first: Proverbs 19:20
 - Develop active listening skills – to God, parents, mentors, and peers
 - This week, instead of instantly responding in disagreement, pause and really listen
 - Ask yourself – Is there wisdom here I need to hear?
 - Prayerful Self-evaluation: Ask, “Am I quick to dismiss advice or correction?”
 - Surround yourself with wise people
 - Proverbs 13:20
 - Identify a godly mentor or wise friend you can learn from
 - Seek God’s Word: Proverbs 2:6
 - Jesus is the ultimate foundation and wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:24)
 - He invites us to build our lives on His truth, offering security and purpose.
- Wrap up
 - Jesus is wisdom (1 Cor 1:24)
 - He offers us true understanding – not just for life’s challenges, but for eternity
 - The wisest choice we make is to trust in Him completely.
- **Gospel Proclamation:** We are all like the foolish builder at some point, trying to rely on our own wisdom. Jesus offers forgiveness and a new foundation to build our lives upon when we trust in Him.

Key question/application: Are you building your life on God’s wisdom, or your own opinions? What is one way you can seek wisdom this week?

Community Group questions:

- Describe a time when ignoring advice led to a bad outcome. What did you learn?
- Why is it hard to admit when we’re wrong? Why is it hard to listen to correction or advice?
- What is one way you can better listen to God and others this week? How can you seek wisdom this week?
- How does trusting Jesus as our foundation change how we make decisions?