

Lesson 4

Foolishness Past and Present

Memory Verse: Proverbs 14:9 Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.

What **warning** (information to help us know right from wrong) did God show us? Proverbs 15:5A ___ spurns his father's ___ but whoever heeds ___ shows prudence. 17:10A rebuke ___ a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a _____. 18:13 He who answers before ___ that is his ___ and his _____

What **instructions** (actions we should take) did God give to us? Pr. 22:15 ___ is bound up in the ___ of a child, but the rod of ___ will drive it from him. 20:3 It is to a man's ___ to avoid strife, but every ___ is quick to quarrel. 12:16A ___ shows his annoyance at once, but a ___ man overlooks insults.

What **benefits** (the results of choosing wisely) did God tell us about? Proverbs 29:11 A ___ gives full vent to his anger but a ___ keeps himself under _____. 19:8 He who gets ___ loves his own _____. he who cherishes _____ prospers.

What are the **consequences** (results) for not choosing God's wisdom? Proverbs 26:11 As a dog ___ to its vomit so a ___ returns to his _____. 14:17 A quick tempered man does ___ things and a crafty man is _____. 19:3 A man's own ___ ruins his life, yet his ___ rages against _____.

Word Study:

- 1) **Correction:** punishment for the purpose of improvement, change, reform. The correction of the child led to a happier classroom.
- 2) **Education:** the process by which we receive knowledge, information or skills for preparing oneself for mature life. Her education prepared her for the future.
- 3) **Former:** past, earlier, before the current time. She was a former student.
- 4) **Motivated:** to inspire, provoke, cause to action. They motivated the girl to play.
- 5) **Present:** happening at this time or now, immediately. Her present plan is to go.
- 6) **Prudence:** being careful, using discretion, conservative decisions.

We were once children. Each and every one of us was once a child. Proverbs 22:15 tells us "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child.." We were all *former* fools. In Hebrew "Bound up" means to join together, knit together. Tell some events in your life as a child or in your children's lives that were "joined together" in foolishness. Such as:

- 1) Wanting something that wasn't good for you _____
- 2) Desiring too much of something _____
- 3) Choosing something that might bring harm _____
- 4) Doing something that could cause injury to you or someone else _____
- 5) Disobedience to your parent(s) _____

The second part of Proverbs 22:15 tells us "but the rod of discipline will drive it (foolishness) far from him." In Hebrew "Rod" is a "stick for _____, ruling, walking, etc." It is used for *correction* which results in *education*. Tell how you learned NOT to repeat the foolishness shared above in 1-5.

There is a difference between being a former fool and being a *present* fool. Let's read these Scripture to learn how they are different.

- Proverbs 26:11 "As a dog returns to its _____ so a fool _____ his folly.
- Proverbs 15:5 "A fool spurns his father's _____ but whoever heeds _____ shows *prudence*.
- Proverbs 17:10 A rebuke _____ a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a _____.

A wise woman learns from a fool. We know foolishness when we see it. When we look at ourselves we may have been foolish or maybe are now foolish. But we are not fools because we *do want wisdom!* Those who are foolish act foolish. It's in their heart. We must grow out of it or maybe we won't. Whether someone gets over it is how they respond to _____ and _____.

When God comes with correction He doesn't discipline just for punishment. Psalm 103:10 tells us "He does not treat us as our sins deserve.."

We are to be teachable or the heat is turned up.

Proverbs 26:11 Like an addiction we return to our folly. If we always make things someone else's fault, folly leads that addiction.

Proverbs 15:5 If we provoke the discipline from God—It is like a small child continuing to provoke a parent and refusing to make changes in behavior.

Proverbs 17:10 When we are disobedient to God and He says STOP IT !!! If we don't stop He gets louder and LOUDER. A fool doesn't respond. I can act like I don't hear it – or I can accept His discipline and change—Sometimes He sends it by someone else. Perhaps a wounded friend.

Proverbs 29:11 Nothing is more foolish than a foolish tongue. A very foolish person follows through with whatever they are thinking. Some see it as the gift of gab, others not so much. Especially during an intense emotional moment.

As a teen-ager on an exciting date I thought "He thinks I'm in love with him! Why in the world does he think that?" Because I told him so!! Emotional volcanoes! When the force of emotion is bigger than words, let your words be few! Shut it down until after the emotional time. Let things settle down. Tell yourself "I need to keep my mouth shut!" and have a holy fit with God. He can read our heart and we may not mean what we say. Sometimes we don't know what to say!

Proverbs 14:16-17 Nothing like being arrogant and foolish. Most fools have no idea they are foolish. They are bold, strong and confident. We ask "What are you doing?" "I don't know!" "What do you mean you don't know? You're doing it aren't you? If you're doing it surely you must know why you're doing it!" We must come face to face and realize we've been foolish. When He gives me correction He gives me opportunity to respond and do it right!

Proverbs 20:3 Some people are *motivated* by conflict. They love to have a good fight. Don't answer a foolish man. Don't mud wrestle or sling mud. People don't cuddle with a biting dog. Or even with a yipping one. I've been on both sides. I've been married at least 7-8 times –just to the same man! Remember folly offends, wisdom mends.

Fighting is a form of passion. We want to feel something and we pick a fight to see if they have a passion for us. It becomes a trap of conflict and quarreling, a bad habit in how we develop relationships.

Instead, think, I care so much about you I'm going to Starbucks and let it go! Step away! Don't have a fight, have a nap. Sometimes we need rest. No one can make you fight! It takes 2 and you can decide to fight or not.

Have a good passionate relationship with Christ to feel something.

Proverbs 18:13 If we answer before listening we are going to listen less and talk more, because we are already thinking of an answer before they are finished talking. We've had an argument back and forth in our mind—we've already practiced. We have so much more important things to say! No. Don't take away their voice--let them be heard. At least say "I hear you. I may not agree with you but I hear your heart!" Let them get it off their chest and out of their mouth. A poor listener has low regard for what the other is saying or is too concerned with self importance. A wise woman esteems another.

Proverbs 12:16 We need people skills. How to deal with those who have annoying habits. Maybe they snort a lot, drum the table, has poor manners at the table. A woman who is easily annoyed believes she is better and cooler than another. Pride! A wise woman annoys herself more than anyone else. Wisdom is annoyed with self not others.

Proverbs 19:3 When we blame God for our difficulties, remember that He does not force us to do anything but instead gives us free will to make choices. Yes, even foolish ones. Ever hear someone say "why did God let me ...?"

Compare this Scripture to another.

Proverbs 19:8 God is the creator of life and He knows how to live it! God is out for our best. Always. All wisdom comes from Him.