



## WEEK 6

# BE AWARE OF FOOLISHNESS

### *Proverbs 6*

*She was a God-fearing, wise woman known for her tenderness and striking beauty. Her outward appearance reflected the beauty that came from her heart, despite the heartache that plagued her day in and day out. She was married to a ruthless, power hungry and prideful man who was known through the Judean region as a man of great wealth. Yet all the money in the world held little value compared to her desire to be treated kindly by her husband. He only looked out for himself and nothing could stop him from getting what he wanted. Everything he did dripped of evil intent. Nabal, meaning fool, was his name. His very name defined his character. He declared to everyone that he was a fool, and his behaviors proved it. But through it all, Abigail remained faithful and steadfast.*

*One afternoon Abigail was approached by one of Nabal's young men who told her some very distressing news about how her husband had treated David. Known throughout the area as a great soldier, David was highly respected by all. The young man explained to Abigail that David's army both protected them and their sheep from the Philistines. At shearing time David kindly asked for Nabal to return the favor by giving supplies to him and his men. Nabal foolishly replied with insults and critical words about David. Angry, David planned to bring retribution against Nabal and his entire household.*

*Abigail knew she had to act quickly to protect her home and her foolish husband. Time was of the essence. Knowing her husband's evil character, Abigail wisely kept her plan quiet. She loaded donkeys with bread, fruit, meat, and wine and sent her servants ahead of her to meet David. Under the cover of the hillside, she came to David. In humble submission and great reverence, she bowed before him. Pleading for forgiveness, she asked that Nabal's foolishness be put on her. Then with boldness and great courage, she reminded David that God would avenge him and deal with Nabal. She also reminded him that his future was secure as God had appointed him ruler over Israel. David praised Abigail for her Godly wisdom. (1 Samuel 25)*

*Every day we encounter Nabals and Abigails. Every day we are faced with our own responses and choices regarding our behavior. Will we act like Abigail by responding to foolish behavior with wisdom and discernment, or will we act like Nabal by elevating our wants and desires above everyone else's? In Proverbs 6 we will be introduced to four different types of foolish people. These are not first-time introductions. I imagine we can see their foolish behaviors mirrored in ourselves or others. Solomon will instruct us to watch out for the imposer, the lazy person, the wicked person and the adulterous person.*



*He will warn us of their foolishness and will speak plainly of the consequences for falling into their evil traps. He will also tell us of the seven sins that are detestable to God. The answers will always be found in God's wisdom when dealing with foolish behaviors and the sins of the heart. Wisdom not only guards us but also protects us, and, like Abigail, fuels our wise and diligent response in the face of evil. May Abigail be our example and God's Word be our instruction so that we may live a life pleasing to God; saying no to foolishness and yes to His wisdom.*



## **R** RECEIVING God's Word

*Open in Prayer*

Read Proverbs 6



## **E** EXPERIENCING God's Word

*Experience 1: The Imposing Person - Proverbs 6:1-5*

1. Read Proverbs 6:1-2. What warning does Solomon give to his son? Our agreement with this foolish request can entrap us. Explain.



2. In verses 3-4 Solomon's son is encouraged to save himself from the trap of the imposing person. Read the following phrases taken from these verses and write the deliverance instructions in your own words below.

"Go"

"humble yourself"

"plead with your friend"

"give no sleep to your eyes"

3. Read Proverbs 3:5. Two comparisons have been made between the imposer and the wise person. Explain the comparisons.

### ***Experience 2: The Lazy Person - Proverbs 6:6-11***

1. In Proverbs 6:6-8 Solomon gives us an object lesson in nature concerning the wise person and the lazy person. What does he use for the object lesson? Explain the comparison.

"Solomon's interest in the ant centered on the colony's work ethic and on the fact that ants do not have to be forced to work. Ants are not slothful. They are an example of industry. They do not need slave drivers to make sure they get up in the morning and fulfill their appointed tasks. Let the slothful man consider that! The ant works without force." (John Phillips, *The John Phillips Commentary Series: Exploring Proverbs Volume One*, p.138-139.)

2. Read Proverbs 6:9. What does the sluggard do with his time and why is it equated with laziness?

3. God has a lot to say about laziness. Read the following verses and note what you learn.

Proverbs 12:24

Proverbs 15:19

Proverbs 26:14-15

4. Read Proverbs 6:10-11. What is the motto of the lazy person? What is the outcome of lazy behavior?

***Experience 3: The Evil Person - Proverbs 6:12-19***

1. Read Proverbs 6:12-15 and answer the questions below.

- a. What comes out of his mouth? (v.12)
- b. How do his eyes communicate his motives? (v. 13)
- c. How does he walk? (v.12-13)



- d. What do his fingers do and what does this mean? (v.13)
  - e. What is in his heart? (v.14)
  - f. What is the result of his actions to those around him? (v. 14-15)
2. Go back to verse 12. The evil person is called “worthless.” In the KJV he is called “naughty.” This word is “beliya’al” (H1100) in Hebrew. It means to be “unprofitable, wicked or good for nothing.” Is the person or their behavior worthless? Explain.
3. In verse 15 the judgment of the foolish, evil person is described. It says, “He shall be broken without remedy.” Read Isaiah 30:12-15 and answer the following questions.
- a. What does a foolish person do that causes judgment to come to him?
  - b. From these verses, describe God’s judgment.

c. In verse 15 the remedy is given. What is it and what action is required of the evil person?

4. Read Proverbs 6:16-19. In these verses the actions of the evil man are given a name. They are hated by God and called abominations. Notice in verses 16-19 that the same parts of the body were used in verses 12-15. Look at the body parts below and list the sin(s) that are ascribed to each part according to verses 16-19.

- Eyes
- Tongue/Mouth
- Hands
- Heart
- Feet

5. God tells us in Proverbs 6:16-19 that there are sins that are an abomination to Him. How are the things God hates opposite of who He is fundamentally? Finish the sentences below.

God hates a proud look because God is...

God hates a lying tongue because God is...

God hates hands that shed innocent blood because God is...

God hates a heart that devises wicked plans because God is...



God hates feet that are swift in running to evil because God is...

God hates a false witness who speaks lies because God is...

God hates one who sows discord among the brethren because God is...

***Experience 4: The Adulterous Person - Proverbs 6:20-35***

1. Read Proverbs 6:20-23 and Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 is God's command to parents regarding how to train up their children. Solomon would have known Deuteronomy 6:6-9. What similarities do you see in these two sets of verses?
  - a. Read Proverbs 6:24. From what you just learned in the previous three verses, how does the influence of the Word of God protect the wise from the foolish?
  
2. Read Proverbs 6:25-29. What are the consequences of falling for the foolish behavior of the seductress or any foolishness that seduces us?



“Again, we are reminded that it is the heart which must be kept or guarded if the feet would be preserved from forbidden paths. Sorrow and poverty – spiritual and natural – will be the dread result if there is any tampering with uncleanness.” (*Notes on the Book of Proverbs*, H.A. Ironside, pg. 17)

3. Read Proverbs 6:30-31. Here we find the description of a thief who is stealing because he is starving. In Exodus 22:1-4 God lays out restitution for the thief who is caught. What is the restitution available for the thief in Proverbs 6:30-31?
4. In Proverbs 6:32-35, a description is given of the judgment brought against an adulterer. What is the restitution for the person who commits adultery? Explain.

### ***Experience 5: Abigail***

Read 1 Samuel 25

1. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-3. How is Nabal described? How is Abigail described?





- a. How does God bless her for acting wisely?



### ACTING on God's Word

While growing up, my dad often would say to me (Brenda), "Obey me now, and you can thank me later." Interestingly, as an adult, I am thankful for the times I obeyed my parents because their counsel and Godly instruction kept me from destructive behaviors. They taught me to avoid certain things because they loved me and did not want me to be harmed. It is similar with God. He hates certain things and wants us to avoid them because of His great love for us.

In Proverbs 6 there are four foolish people Solomon tells his son to avoid. They are the imposing person, the lazy person, the evil person and the adulterous person. Below you will find a few scenarios that could result when encountering these individuals. Read the descriptions below and write the Biblical counsel you would give in response to the situation.

#### The Imposer:

*"A friend has asked me to co-sign their loan for a new car. They are presently unemployed but say they are about to be hired by a large, successful company. They need the car to get to this job. They say I'll get my money back each month in installments. What should I do?"*

Your Biblical Response from Proverbs 6:1-5:



The Lazy Person:

*“My child is neither working this summer nor participating in any other extra-curricular activities. He sleeps late, doesn’t pick up after himself, and spends too much time on his phone and in front of screens. What should I do?”*

Your Biblical Response from Proverbs 6:6-11:

The Evil Person:

*“Seems like any time I get into a conversation with my next-door neighbor, she always talks negatively about the other neighbors. She is quick to point out all of their flaws while making herself seem as though she is perfect. She speaks poorly about their marriages, their decisions and their parenting choices. She is always villainizing them and assigning evil intent to their actions. I know some of these same neighbors and do not observe the same things. Every conversation with her is divisive. What should I do?”*

Your Biblical Response from Proverbs 6:12-19:



The Adulterous Person:

*“I have an old high school friend who reached out to me through social media, and she shared that her marriage is struggling. She thinks her husband is having an affair. She would like to connect with me and some of our other high school friends in Las Vegas for a girls’ weekend. I am not busy that weekend and she invited me to join her. She detailed the plans for the weekend which include drinking, attending a risqué show, and hopefully having a ‘no strings attached’ weekend. It seems her intent is to show her husband that she can have a good time too. What should I do?”*

Your Biblical Response from Proverbs 6:20-35:

1. Which type of foolish behavior characterized above snares you most often and why?



2. When we engage in foolish behaviors, we don't always consider the consequences before acting. What did you learn today about foolish behaviors and their consequences that enables you to act wisely the next time you encounter these four types of people?



## **D** DELIGHTING in God's Word

Reflecting back on our chapter, how has the Lord prompted you to pray?

Write a verse from the chapter that God has spoken to your heart.

Close in Prayer