Feast on Wisdom

Lesson Scripture: Proverbs 9
Focus Scripture: Proverbs 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18

Key Verse: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
Proverbs 9:10

Proverbs 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18 (NRSV)

Proverbs 9:1-6
1 Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.
2 She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.
3 She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,
4 “You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says,
5 “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.
6 Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

8-10
8 A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you.
9 Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.
10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

13-18
13 The foolish woman is loud; she is ignorant and knows nothing.
14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the high places of the town,
15 calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way,
16 “You who are simple, turn in here!” And to those without sense she says,
17 “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”
18 But they do not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.
**WORD POWER!!**

- **Foolish Woman** – One who tries to draw people away from God by mimicking wisdom; also called “folly.”
- **Simple** – People who know little about wise and godly choices.
- **Without Sense** – Those who haven’t yet decided whether to follow wisdom or folly.

**GETTING READY!!**

André felt like he was in one of those cartoons where an angel whispers in one ear, and a devil whispers in another. At his old school, people respected other people’s beliefs. That’s why no one said anything when André prayed before eating. They also didn’t say anything when he decorated his backpack with scripture verses.

Things were different at his new school. Some kids liked what André did so much that they asked if they could pray together before school started. Others said he was pushing his beliefs on them. André wasn’t sure what to do. He just knew that he didn’t want to give up on God.

What do you think André should do?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**INTO GOD’S WORD!!!**

Two voices are calling those who haven’t made a decision about fearing God yet. The first voice belongs to wisdom.
Notice how she prepares her house before her guests’ arrival. Everything wisdom does in advance is meant to help people fear God.

First, wisdom builds a big house that’s secure and stable because it’s built with seven pillars. Second, she takes great care in preparing a feast for her guests. Wisdom has servants but she’s the one who slaughters the animals. She’s the one who mixes the wine. She’s the one who prepares the table. That way, wisdom can make sure everything is just right. Next, she sends the servants out to invite people to her feast. Finally, wisdom delivers a personal invitation from the highest places in the town that includes a powerful promise. She says those who join her feast will live well and use good judgment, because they’ll know how to fear God.

The other voice belongs to a foolish woman known as folly. She’s not prepared like wisdom. Nor does folly promise that people will learn to fear God. Instead, she makes it seem like making ungodly choices can lead to good outcomes. Unfortunately, some folks fall for her tricks.

Activity #1 – A Well Built House and a Special Feast. The house below belongs to wisdom. Decorate it with things that might help someone choose to get close to God. (Hint: What do you do to get close to God?)
In the “Friday Night Tights” episode of Disney Channel’s *Raven’s Home*, Booker gets tricked into making a bad choice. He’s been doing ballet with his friend Danni because he loves dance and he likes Danni. Yet, he lets the new kid at school convince him that ballet isn’t cool. After Booker backs out of dancing ballet with Danni, he discovers that the new kid has tricked him.

Guess why the new guy was able to trick Booker? First, the new guy didn’t seem like a bad guy. Second, he used Booker’s desire to be “cool” against him. Third, the guy made it seem like he was trying to help Booker. Last, Booker ignored the signs that the guy’s advice could hurt his relationship with Danni.

Something similar happens to the people who listen to folly in today’s lesson. Folly’s invitation starts off in a harmless way. She invites the same people that wisdom does. Yet, Folly makes it seems like it’s alright for her invitees to take things that belong to others. That should be a clear sign to them that folly’s advice is bad. The simple-minded people who listen to her don’t recognize that sign, and end up disconnected from God.

**Activity #2 – The Signs Are There.** Look at the phrases below.
Circle the ones that might be signs that something is a bad choice.

1) You get a “yucky” feeling when you think about lying to your parents.
2) Your heart starts beating faster just before you say your Easter speech.
3) Your skin starts to itch when someone asks you to try a fruit-flavored vape cigarette.
4) Your hands get sweaty just before you ask the preacher a question in Bible study.
5) Your eyes get wide when someone says you don’t need to read the Bible.

REMIX!!!

Folly does a really good job of mimicking wisdom. She calls from a similar location. She also makes it seem like what she has is just as good as what wisdom has. But it’s a trick. When we dig deeper, we discover folly only offers false information. That’s why she doesn’t want us to dig deeply.

Wisdom is much different. She wants us to feel confident about our relationship with God. That’s why she designs a stable house and hearty feast. Wisdom wants us to have everything we need to live like we fear God. Now, it’s up to us to decide which voice to pay attention to!

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

I hear so many voices calling me
Making it unclear what kind of person I may be
The messages of hate and mistrust get louder still
    But I'll resist them with all of my will
    I now know these foolish words are just a lie
    Trying to trap me so that hope, peace, and joy die
    To wisdom's word I will hold true
    Using all of your advice like glue
    So that, God, I may forever stick with you.