



IHL Devotionals 2025-26: Proverbs 7-9

*This year our devotionals focused on the book of Proverbs. This book contains advice to achieve wisdom and godly living. This week we read **Proverbs 7-9**.*

*Participation in devotionals is encouraged but not mandatory. Feel free to speak up, ask questions, and share lessons from your own lives and faith journeys. This is a safe space. All are encouraged to **follow along in your own bible** – bring your printed copy, use the app, whatever works best for you.*

Intro: In Proverbs 7-9, we continue to see themes of wisdom: How to acquire it, why it is valuable, what happens when you run from it, and how to align yourselves to seek the Lord's wisdom daily. A quick aside [*spoken to locker room*]: If you haven't been following along with the weekly readings through Proverbs, don't worry, and don't feel like you're too far behind to catch up. These chapters are easy reading. The section for next week is chapters 10-12. Carve out a few minutes to get into the word. I promise it won't take that long.

Chapter 7 was a not-so-figurative warning about avoiding the temptations of a promiscuous woman. In early chapters, promiscuity was a metaphor; here, it appears more literal, though the lessons still apply broadly. Chapter 8 continued preaching the virtue of wisdom, equating it to justice and good judgement, more valuable than jewels. It also makes the point that wisdom informed God as he created the universe; it predates Earth and Mankind. We're going to read from Chapter 9.

Open your Bibles: Read Proverbs **9:6-12** out loud in the room. [*You can ask for volunteers.*]

Discussion: Going out of your way to help someone, only to receive an insult in return, leaves a burn you won't soon forget. If you've spent any time on social media, you may be surprised how relevant this passage remains thousands of years later.

As we all seek to become men of wisdom and understanding and inner tranquility, we eventually learn that those traits will not find us if we allow fools to keep making us mad all the time. This passage offers excellent advice on keeping cool and staying focused on the Lord. *If you correct a fool, they will return an insult. But if you correct the wise, they will be thankful.* That's what this passage is saying. Those scenarios play out constantly online, in the workplace, and in our personal lives. Set your expectations accordingly.

Questions & launching points

- What character or personality traits differentiate the mockers from the wise?
- How can we become wise? What does that growth actually look like?
- Does anyone want to share a real-world experience from their own life?

Closing prayer & prayer requests (Next week: Read Proverbs 10-12.)