

1 ☐ Fool or Wise

Can you tell the difference?

2 ☐ How do pigs and sheep differ?

- Pigs have tough hair – Sheep have wool
- Pigs squeal and grunt – Sheep bleat
- Pigs love dirt and mud – Sheep like to be clean
- Pigs love to eat garbage – Sheep are careful eaters
- Pigs have a large flat nose – Sheep have a small nose
- Pigs do not chew the cud – Sheep do
- Pigs produce no valuable wool – Sheep do
- Pigs multiply rapidly – Sheep multiply slowly

3 ☐ How do fools and wise differ?

- God condemns fools and praises the wise.
- Other than that, often we can only identify a few basic differences between the fool and the wise person.
- In this study, I want us to learn how to tell the difference between a fool and a wise person.
- Until we can easily identify a fool and a wise person we will have difficulty choosing edifying friends.
- To help us identify them, we are going to study many of their characteristics found in the book of Proverbs.

4 ☐ Fools will not listen

- (Proverbs 1:7) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."
- (Proverbs 1:22) "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?"
- (Proverbs 10:8) "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."
- (Proverbs 10:21) "The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom."

5 ☐ Fools will not listen

- (Proverbs 12:15) "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."
- (Proverbs 17:16) "Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?"
- (Proverbs 18:2) "A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself."
- (Proverbs 23:9) "Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words."
- (Proverbs 26:11) "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly."

6 ☐ Wise people listen carefully

- (Proverbs 1:5) "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:"
- (Proverbs 9:9) "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."
- (Proverbs 10:8) "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall."

7 ☐ Wise people listen carefully

- (Proverbs 10:14) "Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction."
- (Proverbs 10:23) "It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom."

- (Proverbs 12:15) "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."
- (Proverbs 13:16) "Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly."

8 ☐ **Wise people listen carefully**

- (Proverbs 14:8) "The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit."
- (Proverbs 18:15) "The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge."
- (Proverbs 28:26) "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."

9 ☐ **Fools will not listen**

- What have we learned about the fool?
 - He despises wisdom and instruction
 - He hates knowledge
 - He uses his mouth instead of his ears
 - Because he will not listen, he lacks wisdom
 - He always thinks he is right
 - He has no heart to get wisdom
 - He does not delight in gaining understanding
 - He despises words of wisdom
 - He never learns from his mistakes (returns to his vomit)

10 ☐ **Wise people listen carefully**

- What have we learned about a wise person?
 - He will hear and increase in learning
 - He accepts instruction and gets wiser
 - He has a wise heart that will receive commandments
 - He hears and lays up knowledge
 - He becomes a man of understanding
 - He will listen to and obey counsel
 - He deals with knowledge
 - He understands the way he should go
 - He gets knowledge to help him live right
 - He walks wisely and is delivered from troubles

11 ☐ **Questions to Ponder**

- Do you like to learn or would you rather talk?
- Do you usually obey when you are instructed?
- Do you seek counsel?
- Based on what we have learned tonight, are you a wise person or a fool?
- Based on the verses we have studied, are your friends wise or fools?
- What does God want you to learn from this?

12 ☐ **How can you become a listener?**

- Admit it if you have a problem listening and obeying.
- Apologise when you fail to listen properly.
- Confess the failure to listen properly as a sin.
- Ask God to help you want to listen and obey.
- When spoken to, STOP, Look and Listen.
- Memorise Bible verses about listening wisely.
- Stop spending time with fools who do not listen to wise advice.
- Ask a friend to hold you accountable for how you listen.

13 ☐ **God's Counsel to Us**

- (Proverbs 13:20) "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."
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- (Proverbs 14:7) "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge."