

## Getting Started

- Share something you have been learning/observing as you have been reading a Proverb a day over the past two weeks.
- Explain the difference between being foolish and being a fool.

## Discussion

Read and discuss Proverbs 26:1-12 using the outline that Pastor Rob shared on Sunday.

- **Identifying the Fool and their trap (26:1-3)**

- <sup>1</sup> Like snow in summer or rain in harvest,  
so honor is not fitting for a fool.
- <sup>2</sup> Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying,  
a curse that is causeless does not alight.
- <sup>3</sup> A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,  
and a rod for the back of fools.

- In what ways are fools “dangerous”?
- How do you see these behaviors of a fool in our world/culture today?

- **Interacting with a Fool (26:4-5)**

- <sup>4</sup> Answer not a fool according to his folly,  
lest you be like him yourself.
- <sup>5</sup> Answer a fool according to his folly,  
lest he be wise in his own eyes.

- These verses seem to contradict each other. What is message that Solomon is trying to communicate?

- **Am I the Fool? (26:6-12)**

- <sup>6</sup> Whoever sends a message by the hand of a fool  
cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.
- <sup>7</sup> Like a lame man's legs, which hang useless,  
is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- <sup>8</sup> Like one who binds the stone in the sling  
is one who gives honor to a fool.
- <sup>9</sup> Like a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard

is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

<sup>10</sup> Like an archer who wounds everyone  
is one who hires a passing fool or drunkard.

<sup>11</sup> Like a dog that returns to his vomit  
is a fool who repeats his folly.

<sup>12</sup> Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?  
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

- Which of these similes made the greatest impression on you and why?
- How does verse 11 help us distinguish from random foolish behavior compared with a lifestyle of being the Fool?
- Has the Lord been revealing any blindspots you may have regarding your own character?
- Discuss the significance of verse 12 related to the theme of Proverbs. If the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom how is pride and selfishness the beginning of foolishness?

## Prayer

Identify one take away from this week's message/discussion, share it with the group and ask God for the wisdom to start, stop or do more of that behavior in the coming weeks.