

Scripture and Background Information for January 6 - February 2

We are beginning the year with a study from Proverbs called “Fool Proof.”

Rather than providing similar, short background information each week, we have written one document to provide you with background for the entire series.

To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

Background for Proverbs

As we are looking toward a new year, many of us are eager for a fresh start. We all have our conceptions of what will make this year the best one yet. If there is more to life, we want it. Proverbs challenges the way we look at life. The book challenges us to seek “wisdom” – seeing life from God’s perspective.

Solomon was the author of most of the Proverbs and those that cannot be directly attributed to him would have been influenced by him. Solomon’s purpose was to provide statements that were short, compact, and memorable designed to be passed down. Solomon defines the purpose of Proverbs in its opening in 1:2-4. Proverbs are for gaining wisdom, receiving instruction for a prudent life, and giving discretion to the young. Proverbs is best read as general and broadly applicable truths to provide guidelines in living a wise life.

*Proverbs 4:5-9 – the “she” in the verses refers to wisdom personified as a woman

Scriptures for group discussion for each week of “Fool Proof”:

January 6-12	Proverbs 4:5-9	“Choose the Right Path”
January 13-19	Proverbs 13:14-16, 20-21	“Seek Out the Right People”
January 20-26	Proverbs 11:23-28	“Align with God’s Priorities”
January 27-February 3	Proverbs 5:1-6	“Trust in God’s Promises”