

What is a fool?

Proverbs speak about fools and the foolish more than any other book in the Bible. While our culture defines a fool as someone who lacks judgment, prudence, or common sense, the Bible portrays the fool as something more. What do you see when you read Proverbs?

1. Carefully observe what type of knowledge that is being spoken of. Discuss what you see.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
But **fools** despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov 1:7, NKJV)

Fools mock at sin,
But among the upright there is favor. (Prov 14:9, NKJV)

2. What type of behavior do fools exhibit?

The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way,
But the folly of **fools** is deceit. (Prov 14:8, NKJV)

A **fool** has no delight in understanding,
But in expressing his own heart. (Prov 18:2, NKJV)

As a dog returns to his own vomit,
So a **fool** repeats his folly. (Prov 26:11, NKJV)

3. What priority in life do you see being advocated here? Discuss the challenges.

Better is the poor who walks in his integrity
Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a **fool**. (Prov 19:1, NKJV)

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Teacher Notes

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Help the student with his observation: what is associated with the fool?

Ask the student: what does “fear of the Lord” indicate? Would you fear something that doesn't exist? What does “but among the upright there is favor” mean?

God is a real and alive Being

God's word helps us understand the reality of life and ourselves.

God's word helps us control our natural impulses and desires and teaches us what we should desire.

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Ask the student: what do you observe about foolish behavior?

Ask the student: how does deceit play a role in behavior? Is it like telling yourself a lie?

Ask the student: what does it mean that “a fool repeats his folly?” Encourage discussion.

3. What priority in life do you see being advocated here? Discuss the challenges.

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Ask the student: what does integrity mean? what is more important – your integrity or money?