



# UNCOMMON SENSE

A STUDY OF PROVERBS

LEADER GUIDE

Discipleship and Scripture. They just go together. At IF, we are passionate about discipleship and studying God's Word together. We believe that the Scriptures are the foundation for discipleship. With this study, we hope to provide a tool that encourages studying the Scriptures and guides you into a discipleship relationship.

This leader guide is meant to support you as you lead and provide additional questions for your discipleship pair or small group to discuss as you walk through this study together. We simply want to make your role a bit easier and provide a starting point to get the conversation going.

## Leader Expectations

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### GATHER AND FACILITATE CONVERSATION

We recommend that each person read the study daily. Then, once a week, gather as a discipleship pair or small group to dialogue about the daily questions and/or discuss the questions provided in this guide.

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### BUILD A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO GO DEEPER

There are many ways to study together in a discipleship relationship. However you go about it, we ask that you create a simple and pure environment to come, pray, and learn about studying the Bible.

**Pray:** In preparation, spend time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit for His guidance and wisdom. Pray for the humility to listen well. Pray for those participating in the study, that they would gain a deeper understanding of godly wisdom and the depth of God's love.

**Lean on God:** God will have a unique agenda for your group each time you meet. Rely on Him instead of trying to control the conversation. Lean away from your own weakness and into His strength and direction.

**Be transparent:** You have the opportunity to set the tone for those around you. If you choose not to be vulnerable, other women may not feel the freedom to be honest. We encourage you to be honest and transparent, creating an environment for others to open up.

**Listen, but also lead:** When women are vulnerable, they take a tremendous risk that needs to be honored. Protect them by not interrupting and instead listening and empathizing. In love, point women back to what the truth of God's Word says in their situation.

**Model trust:** Be open with your group about how you are processing this study. Throughout the study, continue to seek God and ask for His help in understanding His Word. These women look to you for an example. We encourage you to be intentional in your relationship with God as you walk through the next six weeks.

## KEEP UNITY A CENTRAL VALUE

Each woman in your group likely has a different story; a varied collection of experiences. As a leader, you have the responsibility to foster a spirit of unity. We ask for sensitivity, openness, and a safe environment for everyone to learn together. We encourage you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in demonstrating love to everyone as you learn and process this study together.

## Supplies

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- IF:Equip study book for each participant, or access to the study on IFEquip.com or the IF:Gathering app
- Leader Guide
- Bible

Optional, but helpful: Daily videos. To access the daily videos on IFEquip.com or in the IF:Gathering app, use your computer or phone to play the video for the group.



## Week One

1. What's your knee-jerk response to challenges that arise unexpectedly?
2. What part of your life most needs godly wisdom right now? Why?
3. How would you describe the book of Proverbs to someone who's never read it?
4. What makes a person wise? What characteristics does a wise woman have?
5. How would you define "wisdom" in your own words?



## Week Two

1. Who do you call first when you need help? Why?
2. How do you know when advice you have received is godly?
3. What obstacles keep you from taking time to pray and wait on the Lord?
4. How do you initially respond to feedback or criticism? How has your relationship with Jesus changed your response?
5. Do you remember a time when a friend's criticism caused a change of heart in you?



## Week Three

1. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your soul?
2. What role does the Spirit play in your soul health?
3. How does what you believe determine how you live?
4. Identity—how do you define it?
5. Is generosity an indicator of soul health? Why or why not?



## Week Four

1. How do you take time to honor God with your body?
2. Self-control is the fruit of the Spirit. How does that encourage us?  
How does that challenge us?
3. How can both strength and submission coexist in our relationship to the Lord? What does that look like?
4. How does pride weaken our relationships with God and others?
5. Can you think of a strength you have that can be used as either a vice or a virtue? What wisdom keeps you on the virtue track?



## Week Five

1. Proverbs 28:26 says, “Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.” How would you rephrase this in your own words? What does this proverb mean?
2. What does keeping thoughts captive to Christ look like during your work week?
3. What mental soundtracks are on your frequently played list?
4. How do you use God’s wisdom to determine whether to speak or keep silent in a given situation?
5. Can you think of a time where the Spirit of God guided your choice of words during a conversation? Talk about it!



## Week Six

1. What involvement should a Christian have with issues of justice and mercy?
2. What are your favorite examples of friendship from the Bible? From your life?
3. Who's your neighbor? How do you know when you're being a good neighbor?
4. What legacy do you hope to leave behind?
5. Have you ever been in a fight with your friend? Were you able to resolve the conflict? What did that do for your friendship?