



# UNDER THE INFLUENCE

## Week 2 - The Fool

Our world is full of foolish voices and foolish people. And the Bible warns us to beware of both! Proverbs 14:7 says, Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge on their lips. So let's learn to discern foolish words from wise ones.

### Scripture:

Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge on their lips.  
Proverbs 14:7

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others. A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted.  
Proverbs 12:15-16

Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.  
Proverbs 29:11

Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left. She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying. Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.  
Proverbs 3:15-18

But God said to him, "You fool. You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?" Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.  
Luke 12:20-21

Stop deceiving yourselves. If you think you are wise by this world's standards, you need to become a fool to be truly wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.  
1 Corinthians 3:19

### Ice Breaker and Intro Questions:

1. What's the most foolish decision you've made (that you're willing to share)?
2. What resonated with you from Sunday's service? (Scripture, Song, Message, etc.)

### Discussion Questions:

3. Have people from your group read Proverbs 14:7, Proverbs 29:11, and Proverbs 3:15-18 out loud. Have you experienced the truth in these verses?

4. Have someone read Proverbs 12:15-16 out loud. What are the differences between someone who is foolish and someone who is wise in these verses?
5. Eddie shared, "I can be right about my concern, but "the way" I address it can be foolish." How does this challenge you? (Try to share from your own personal examples, rather than identifying it in others.)
6. The message challenged us not to pattern our lives against foolish people who waste their lives or who insist on doing things their own way (rather than God's). Take a moment to read Luke 12:20-21 and 1 Corinthians 3:19 on your own. What challenges you? What comforts you? (If you need more context, read some of the verses around them.)
7. Would you rather be seen as wise in peoples' eyes or in God's eyes? Who has the final word on whether you live well or not? Reflect on that and share as you're willing.
8. Close your time together by praying together.

### **This Week:**

- Do a search of the words, "fool" and "foolish" in the Bible. (Use a tool like biblegateway.com, the Bible app, or a concordance.) Write down things that you observe and then spend some time talking to God about it.
- Think about who you know who might be open to coming to Easter at West Side this year. Send them a quick invite! Info for Easter (online and in person) is at [www.wschurch.org/easter](http://www.wschurch.org/easter).