

Further Study: From Believer to Disciple

- **Key Scriptures:** Ezra 7:8-10, Proverbs 2:1-5, Acts 17:10-12

Main Theme

Spiritual growth requires intentional investment. Ezra studied God's Word, obeyed it, and then taught it. The Bereans examined the Scriptures daily, and Solomon encouraged people to seek wisdom like hidden treasure. Genuine discipleship involves more than belief. It involves a lifelong pursuit of knowing and following God.

Reflect

1. What stands out to you about Ezra's approach to God's Word?
2. Why do you think Solomon compares wisdom to treasure that must be sought diligently?
3. What can Christians learn from the Bereans' habit of examining Scripture for themselves?
4. Do you primarily think of yourself as a believer in Jesus or as a disciple actively following him? Why?

Digging Deeper

The message highlights that learning the Bible is not simply about gaining information. The goal is transformation. In Jewish culture, a disciple (*talmid*) sought to become like their teacher. Jesus calls his followers not merely to believe in him, but to learn from him and imitate his life.

Have a go... Read the parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13) – read it a couple of times together so help it bed in.

1. What was the subject of this parable? What was Jesus trying to explain?
2. What differentiates the two groups of virgins?
3. Who got to enter the marriage feast?
4. Who might the 5 foolish virgins represent in the life around us today?
5. Why did Jesus say that he didn't know the others? Should they have known?
6. Could it be possible that a person who expects to receive, actually misses out? Why?

Application Challenge Choose one of the following this week:

- Spend 15 minutes each day studying a passage rather than simply reading it.
- Use a study Bible or Bible app to investigate one question from your reading.
- Discuss a Scripture passage with a friend, family member, or life group.
- Memorize and meditate on Proverbs 2:4-5.

Prayer

Lord, give me a hunger for Your Word. Help me not only to believe in You but to become a faithful disciple who studies, obeys, and lives out Your truth. May Your Spirit lead me into deeper understanding and a closer walk with Jesus. Amen.