



# Introducing Lady Wisdom

# How should believers apply Prov 1:20-33?

## Rejoice

Rejoice that you are on God's path

## Rest

Rest in the promise given in v. 33

## Commit

Commit to being a voice for God's way and His wisdom



Proverbs 1:20-33  
Message

God's wisdom  
is portrayed as  
a prophetess,  
warning those  
who want to  
remain carefree

# Introducing Lady Wisdom

I. Lady Wisdom cries out passionately (20-21)

“**Wisdom**” (v. 20) is plural – Wisdom here is a comprehensive idea encompassing all the “wisdom words” in 1:2-7

Lady Wisdom is **God’s attribute of wisdom**

Proverbs 1:20-33

# Ancient Dan, city gate & podium



# Dan – paved street leading from main gate



# Dan - Plaza, city gate & podium



# Dan – City walls

“At the head of the noisy streets” is more likely  
“on the highest walls”



(Bruce Waltke, *Proverbs*, 1:197)



# Introducing Lady Wisdom

- I. Lady Wisdom cries out passionately (20-21)
- II. Lady Wisdom calls immature people to repent and listen (22-27)
  - A. Repent of going your own way and learn from her (22-23)
  - B. If you refuse to listen, your calamity will vindicate her wisdom (24-27)
- III. Lady Wisdom contrasts two potential outcomes (28-33)
  - A. If you reject her message, she won't help when you need her most (28-30)
  - B. If you reject her appeal, you will suffer eternal consequences (31-32)
  - C. If you obey her, you will experience real security and peace (33)

Proverbs 1:20-33

# Proverbs 1:22-23

## SIMPLE ONES

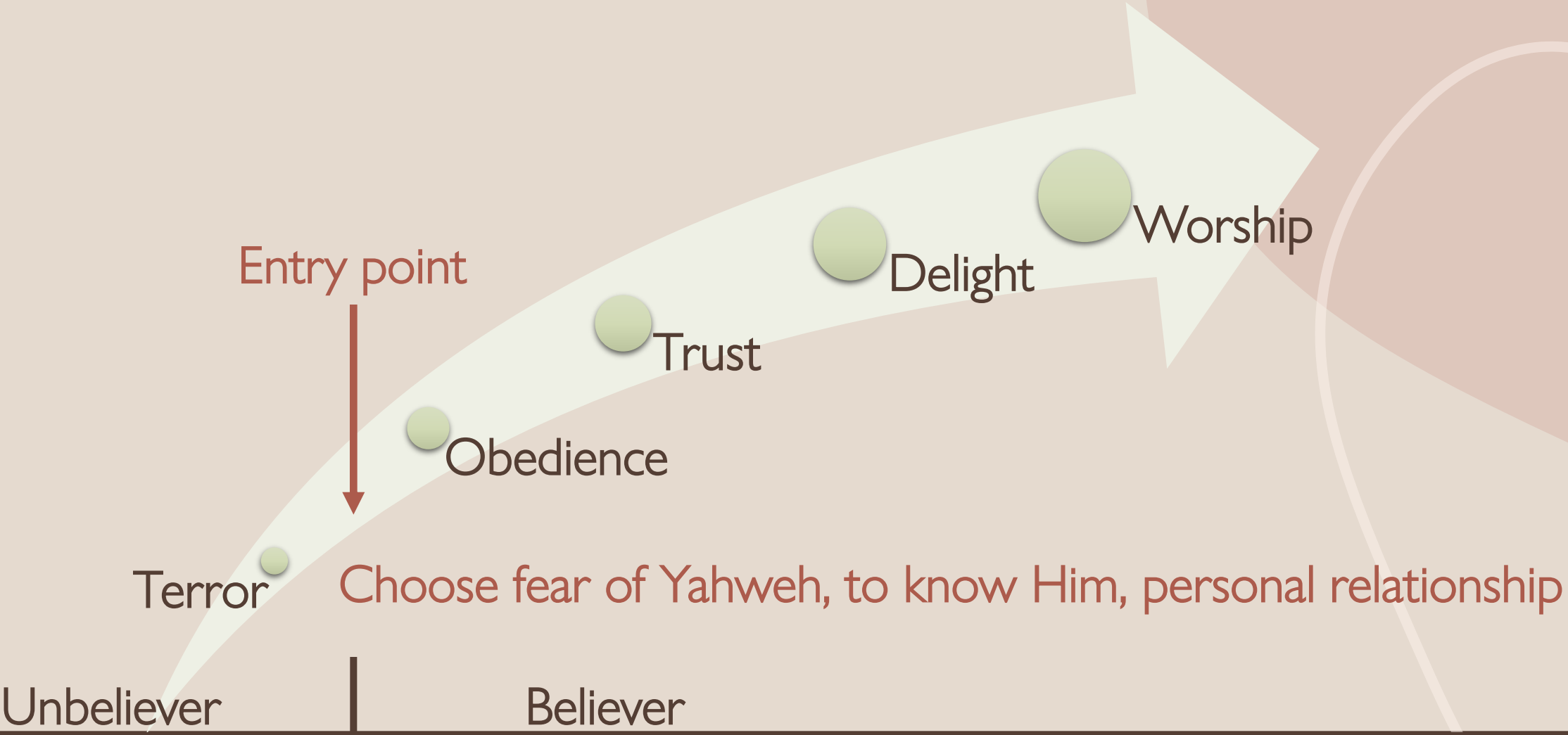
- Naïve
- Gullible
- Love to remain immature

## TURN

- The Hebrew word for repent, to move in the opposite direction from the way you've been going
- Turning your heart away from sin and toward God
- A radical change in your affections so that you heed Lady Wisdom's rebuke and choose to walk in God's way

Plural verbs show that “the simple acted as a group with no one courageous enough to dissent from the others”

# Fear of Yahweh – Broad range of meaning



# Proverbs 1:32

## TURN AWAY

- From the same root as the Hebrew word for repent (turn)
- In the OT, it always refers to “Israel’s apostasy, faithlessness, backsliding”

(Bruce Waltke, *Learning From The Sages*, ed. Roy Zuck, p. 201)

# WHO IS LADY WISDOM? (PROV 1:20-33)

Like a prophet, she teaches, calls us to make the right choice, to repent, rebukes those who won't listen, threatens judgment, passes sentence, warns that the time is short, and offers hope to those who will listen.