



FOOLPROOF

If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them

#npfoolproof

Week 3

3 of 5

April 22, 2018

Bottom Line: Refuse to let your fool define you.

Icebreaker: What part of your personality do you think is the greatest asset in your relationships? What item do you most wish you owned and why?

Key Verse: *Don't befriend angry people or associate with hot-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.* Proverbs 22:24-25

When we try to relate to a fool over a long period of time, we're the ones who put in the most effort to make the relationship work because the fool is unwilling to change his or her behavior. The difficulty is, over the long haul, when we fail to practice the wisdom God offers us, we ourselves begin to think and behave foolishly. When our foolish strategies fail—which they always do—we come to hate who we have become, and we resent our fool even more.

There are two most common mistakes we make: The first is to repeatedly rescue the fool. Proverbs 19:19 tells us, *"Hot-tempered people must pay the penalty. If you rescue them once, you will have to do it again."* Without paying consequences and reaping the results of their sins and poor judgment, fools will hit the replay button over and over. The cycle will never end. The second mistake is found in our key verse. It tells us that our refusal to disentangle from these people and set boundaries will not end well—we will become like them and endanger our souls.

Abigail's story is one of wisdom and courage. Though Abigail had lived with her husband Nabal for a long time and survived by just giving in to him (1 Samuel 25), the day came when she faced her fears and faced the facts about her husband. In doing so, she disentangled from his destructive choices, saved her own life and future, and was able to influence the king away from foolish choices. We need to choose wisdom and courage, too. We never know what and who hangs in the balance.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

Discuss: "Without paying consequences and reaping the results of their sins and poor judgment, fools will hit the replay button over and over."

Resentment changes you. If you resent your fool, you are losing yourself and your purpose. God says "it defiles you and those around you." What does that mean? How does resentment defile?

Fools make self-serving statements, not truthful statements. You must "demolish" arguments with them in your mind, and capture the negative false thoughts and give them to Christ. How do you do that?

Which is hardest for you? to make the initial courageous boundary, or to live with it? Why?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What lies are easy to believe about your fool?

One of the easiest lies to believe is that you can convince him. How does God prove/say that is HIS responsibility, not ours?

When the fool is in your own family, someone you deeply love, what are the lies you tell yourself about allowing the foolish behavior to continue?

What are some changes you have seen in originally good and wise people who refuse to disentangle from their fool? How have they become foolish as well? How has it affected their fool?

What do you see in Abigail that helps you? Do you see her behavior as disloyal, or the best and wisest choice? Why? Have you been in that position—where you have had to choose between loyalty to your fool and loyalty to what is right?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Discuss who might be your Abigail when you are behaving like David—ready to become like the fool.
2. Pray for wisdom and courage for each other.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Refuse to let your fool define you.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Proverbs 22:24-25

Tuesday: Proverbs 19:19

Wednesday: Psalm 1:1

Thursday: Proverbs 14:7

Friday: Psalm 119:33-34

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)