



Intro Letter

Proverbs

Welcome to the INTRUTH Bible Study on Proverbs.

Studying the Word of God transforms lives!

The Bible is God's message of redemption, as well as our instruction book for life. God wants us to search His Word so we can understand the TRUTH of His character and His desire for us. Proverbs, in particular, is a collection of practical life wisdom designed to teach us how to live so that we can discover and fulfill the purpose God has for our lives.

Each lesson has a memory verse, 15-20 questions, and a challenge to Walk in Truth. They are written with the New Living Translation (NLT), but any translation will add to your experience and enrich your discussion. The first 5 lessons cover the first 9 chapters of Proverbs- a father's exhortation to his child to fear the Lord and find wisdom. The remaining 7 lessons are topical. It might be helpful to highlight verses in Proverbs so you can find them at a glance, orange for warning/vices, pink for the tongue, green for money/work ethic, blue for relationships, yellow for God's character...

These lessons are geared toward adults or young adults. Important life decisions are being made at this time of life and having the truth of God's Word in our hearts will set us on a path to success and fulfillment in life, living out the purpose God has for each one of us.

To get the most out of this study, first do the lesson on your own, asking God to give you insight. Then you will gain further understanding and insight by discussing the questions in a small group setting and learning from other people. Relationships are deep and rich when the Bible is the main topic of discussion!

Proverbs is full of applicable real-life wisdom. When you choose to fear the Lord, you gain wisdom, purpose and true success. As you study Proverbs, may you find God's answers to your questions, and correct any wrong thinking or beliefs you have about life. May the Lord use these lessons to help you develop a personal, life-long love for the Bible and encourage you to connect in a community that prays, supports and shares life together.

"Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge over pure gold. For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can be compared with it." Proverbs 8:10-11

Enjoy!



Proverbs



THEME VERSE: "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding. Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer."

Proverbs 9:9-12

Author

Solomon, Son of David, King of Israel (and Agur and Lemuel), possibly recorded by Hezekiah's men.

Date

Sometime during the Solomonic era, beginning in 971 B.C. to the end of the reign of Hezekiah, 686 B.C

Purpose

"The purpose of these proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline, and to help them understand wise sayings. Through these proverbs, people will receive instruction in discipline, good conduct and doing what is right just, and fair. These proverbs will make the simpleminded clever. They will give knowledge and purpose to young people." Proverbs 1:2-4

Method

Proverbs contrasts different kinds of people- wise/fool, humble/proud, understanding/simple-minded, diligent/lazy, faithful/adulterer, generous/greedy, ...in order to encourage a heart for God's ways. Proverbs incorporates allegory and imagery to teach spiritual truths. The wisdom of Proverbs is freely available to anyone and applicable to all walks of life. It appeals to one's choice and the resulting benefits or consequences of choices, attitudes and beliefs.

Outline

Chapters 1-9 A Loving Father's exhortation to his children to fear the Lord, seek wisdom, trust the Lord, avoid the trap of the immoral woman, to listen, to learn and to live in such a way as to reap the benefits God has for those who obey Him.

Chapters 10-31 Wisdom and Guidance for daily life.

Wisdom- Living in the Fear of the Lord



MEMORY VERSE: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
Only fools despise wisdom and discipline.
Proverbs 1:7



Proverbs 1:1-7 — The Purpose of Proverbs

1. What is the purpose of the book of Proverbs? vv. 1-2
2. What is the meaning of “wisdom?” Use a dictionary for help.
3. What does the wisdom of Proverbs do for people who choose to listen? vv. 3-7
4. How are those who lack wisdom described? vv. 4, 7
5. What does it mean to fear the Lord, according to these verses?

Exodus 20:18-21

Joshua 2:1-14

Psalms 112:1

Psalms 128:1

B Proverbs 1:8-19 — Our Choice: To Acquire or Reject Wisdom

6. What are young people admonished to do? vv. 8-9

7. What is the reward of choosing wisdom?

8. What warning does God give young people? vv. 10-15

9. How do sinners entice, or tempt, people?

10. Why do you think it is so easy to fall for this?

11. What is the true character and fate of those who entice others? vv.16-19

C Proverbs 1:20-33 — The Result of Our Choice

12. How available is wisdom? vv. 20-21

13. What message does wisdom cry out to the simple-minded? vv. 22-23

14. What consistent habits result in choosing to reject wisdom? vv. 24-25

15. Conversely, what habits can we develop if we realize we are lacking in wisdom?
16. What is the consequence of consistently choosing to ignore God's wisdom? vv. 26-31
17. What is the final reality for those who turn away from God? v. 32
18. What do you think the promise in verse 33 means? What does it not mean?
19. What hope does 1 John 1:8-9 give to the one who has ignored God?
20. Who do you know that seems to have the wisdom of God? Describe them.

WALK IN TRUTH



Are you acquiring wisdom? Or rejecting it? The world's methods can seem attractive and intelligent, even beautiful at times, but do not be deceived- this path leads to death. God's ways are infinitely better. His path is the key to life. If you feel you have been foolish and ignored God, repent and ask for forgiveness. He is ready to forgive and to help you. Do you want to be wise? Take Proverbs to heart. Listen, pay attention, embrace the powerful truths in Proverbs. Diligently apply them to your life. Most importantly, seek to know the HEART of God. He gave you this book of wisdom because He loves you and wants you to live an abundant, fruitful and satisfying life!

The Path of Wisdom



MEMORY VERSE: For the Lord grants wisdom! From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
Proverbs 2:6



Proverbs 2:1-8 — Wisdom Is a Treasure

1. What powerful word pictures describe the way we should seek wisdom? 2:1-4
2. On the contrary, what do you imagine would then work against gaining wisdom?
3. What happens when we seek wisdom as a treasure? v. 5
4. Why does this happen? vv. 6-8
5. Think about the “treasures” in your life. Do you treasure God’s instructions?
6. What results do you see in your life from your attitude towards God’s instructions?



Proverbs 2:9-19; James 4:4-10 — Wisdom Protects from the Path of Evil

7. What specific changes happen in the way we think when we pursue wisdom wholeheartedly? vv. 9-11

8. Can you think of a time when wisdom helped you:

Understand what is right, just and fair?

Find direction?

Experience joy?

Stay safe?

8. What kind of people does wisdom protect us from, according to verses 12-15?

9. Why might it be tempting to get involved with this kind of person?

10. Wisdom also protects us from the “immoral woman,” also known as the forbidden or adulterous woman. Describe her character. vv. 16-17

11. Why is she so dangerous? vv. 18,19

12. What further insight does James 4:4-5 give us about “adultery?”

13. What is our defense against spiritual adultery? James 4:6-10

14. Why do you think we are susceptible to the trap of spiritual adultery?



Proverbs 2 — Wisdom Is The Path of Righteousness

15. How many times in chapter 2 do you see a reference to a path or a way? Why do you think there are so many?

16. Do you think having wisdom is the same as having common sense? Why or why not?

17. What two opposite paths can people choose and what are the results? vv. 20-22

18. How do the truths in Proverbs 2 speak to you regarding your own journey with God?

WALK IN TRUTH



Paths are like escalators. When we get on an escalator, a power outside ourselves moves us. All we have to do is decide whether to go up or down and the machine does the work. Likewise, when we choose a lifestyle, attitude, friends, habit or way of thinking, we are propelled by a power greater than ourselves in the direction we have chosen. This is wonderful if we are on the right path, but awful if we are on the wrong path. If you are on the wrong path, get off, even if it hurts when you jump! Ask God to help you get on and stay on the right path, the path of wisdom. If you do this, you will avoid all kinds of heartache and trouble and instead experience more blessings than you can imagine.

The Benefits of Trusting God



MEMORY VERSE: Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5,6



Proverbs 3:1-10 — Choosing to Trust God

1. A sign that we trust God is that we choose to do what He says. What choices lead to what benefits in the following verses?

1-2

3-4

5-6

7-8

9-10

2. Why do you think we tend to forget the things God has taught us (vv. 1-2)?

3. Why do you think loyalty and kindness (vv. 3-4) get away from us at times?

4. Why might we trust in our own understanding instead of God's (vv. 5-6)?

5. Are you ever impressed with your own wisdom (vv. 7-8)? Why is it implied that this is "evil," depriving us of health and vitality?

6. Why is it easy to fail to honor the Lord with our wealth and our very best (9-10)?

B Proverbs 3:11-26 — Happiness Is A Benefit of Trusting God

7. How should we view God's discipline? vv. 11-12

Psalm 119:71

2 Corinthians 12:6-10

Hebrews 12:5-10

8. How do you think God disciplines us?

9. Can you think of a difficult time in your life that God used to discipline you?

10. While sin and foolishness lead to destruction, what are the benefits of wisdom according to the following verses?

13

14

15

16

17

18

11. Do these verses promise an easy life to the one who chooses wisdom? If not, what do you think these verses mean?

12. What do verses 19-20 teach about wisdom? Why is this important?

13. What additional areas of life are impacted when we choose to trust God and hang on to His ways?

21-22

23

24

25

26

14. Which of these do you especially need today?



Proverbs 3:27-35 — Relational Benefits from Trusting God

15. What does God admonish us not to do? vv. 27-31

16. Why are these admonitions so important? vv. 32-33

17. What is the truth about how God deals with people? vv. 34-35

18. Is there any specific way you are challenged or encouraged to trust God and obey Him more so you can reap the promised benefits?

WALK IN TRUTH



Sometimes our human reasoning makes perfect sense to us, but if we rely on our own thoughts, instead of trusting God, we will miss out on His blessing. If we want to experience the benefits God has for us, we must trust Him and do things His way. Take these verses from Isaiah to heart and you will reap the benefits, no matter how difficult life can be at any given time, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

A Righteous Heart



MEMORY VERSE: Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.
Proverbs 4:8



Proverbs 4-5:2 — Father's Loving Advice

1. What advice does this father, Solomon, give his children in verses 1-13?
2. What do you notice about the way he communicates with his children?
3. What spiritual truths do these allegories help us understand?
4. Who is the actual father writing to his beloved children in Proverbs? 2 Timothy 3:16
5. Why is it so important to avoid the path of evildoers? vv. 14-19
6. Contrast the wicked with the righteous. Do you see both kinds of people today?
7. What do the action words in 4:20-5:2 tell you about righteousness?

8. What do you think is meant by the word, “heart” in Scripture?

9. Anyone can benefit if they follow the advice in Proverbs. But what hope do we have when we realize we simply can’t attain righteousness by ourselves? Romans 8:1-4

B Proverbs 5; 6:24-35 — The Trap of Sin

10. The “immoral woman” or the way of sin is referred to many times throughout Proverbs. How is “she” described in 5:3-6?

11. What should we do when we are tempted? vv. 7-14

12. What is the root cause and end result of falling into her trap?
Root cause:

Result:

13. Proverbs 5:15-23 applies to all of life, but also specifically to marriage. What is the difference between God’s plan for marriage and the trap of the adulterous woman?

14. What harsh realities are revealed about the foolishness of adultery in 6:24-35?



Proverbs 3:27-35 — Relational Benefits from Trusting God

15. What trap does the loving father warn his child about, and how should the child get out of it? vv. 1-5

16. What might cause one to fall into this trap, or hesitate to get out of it?

17. Can you imagine a parent saying the exact words in verses 6-11 to their child? What is the parent's main concern, and why are these words necessary?

18. Have you ever known, or been, the person described in verses 12-15?

19. What are the 7 things that the Lord hates and detests?

20. Are there any of these things that you have NOT been guilty of?

WALK IN TRUTH



Sometimes our human reasoning makes perfect sense to us, but if we rely on our own thoughts, instead of trusting God, we will miss out on His blessing. If we want to experience the benefits God has for us, we must trust Him and do things His way. Take these verses from Isaiah to heart and you will reap the benefits, no matter how difficult life can be at any given time, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

A Home Built on Wisdom



MEMORY VERSE: Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.
Proverbs 9:11,12



Proverbs 7 — Wisdom and Faithfulness

1. How are we to treat our Father's advice and wisdom? vv. 1-4
2. As you have seen, God consistently uses marriage and family to illustrate His relationship with us. Christ is the bridegroom and we, the church, are His bride (Ephesians 5:22-33). Isaiah 62:5 says, "...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." Our enemy, Satan, wants to destroy this union, which is why God continually warns us about the immoral woman and adultery. According to Proverbs 7:4-5, why is wisdom so important?
3. Verses 5-20 describe the immoral woman seducing a young man. Using this analogy, how do you think this plays out in our lives when we fall into a trap and are unfaithful to God?
4. What is the reality of the seduction and sin of giving in to an affair with the world? vv. 21-27

5. Just as adultery divides families, being unfaithful to God separates us from Him. We live in a broken world, sometimes in broken families or marriages. How do these verses help us in our brokenness, even when it is a result of our own actions?

Mark 10:26-27

James 5:15-16

6. How is the enemy trying to trap you or your loved ones lately?

B Proverbs 8 — Wisdom and Creation

7. How does wisdom call to us? What is her message? vv. 1-9

8. Just how valuable is wisdom? vv. 10-11

9. How does “Wisdom” describe herself in the following verses?

12-16

17-21

22-26

27-31

32-36

10. Considering what you may know about creation, how does this picture of wisdom fit into what you imagine creation was like?



Proverbs 9 — The Home of Wisdom

11. Describe the house that wisdom has built. vv. 1-6
12. What is the difference between a mocker and a wise person? vv. 7-12
13. How have you seen this difference lived out in the world at large?
14. How have you seen this in your own life, either as a mocker or as one seeking wisdom?

15. What differences do you see between the manner in which Wisdom and Folly invite men (people) into their homes? vv. 13-18 (and 1-6)

16. How do you see wisdom, or folly, determining the quality of people's home lives?

17. When you think of verses from the first nine chapters that promise long life or wealth/riches for those who seek wisdom, how do you reconcile this with the painful reality of God-fearing people who have suffered tremendously for their faith?

John 15:18-27

18. As you think back on the 5 lessons in Proverbs you have done so far, what impressions or exhortations will stick with you for life?

WALK IN TRUTH



The first nine chapters in Proverbs repeat themes of a loving father admonishing his children to seek wisdom and flee from the immoral woman. When things are repeated in the Bible it is because they are important. The more they are repeated, the more important they are. Seeking wisdom, or pursuing God, and fleeing from the immoral woman, or committing adultery with the world, are of the utmost importance in our lives. Are you convinced that "Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life? If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit, if you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer?" (Proverbs 9:11,12) As we move on in our study, the remaining lessons will be topical so you can gain an understanding of how God guides us specifically on different aspects of life. Apply this wisdom to your lives and you will see God's promises revealed in your own home or sphere of influence.

Work Ethic



MEMORY VERSE: Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.
Proverbs 12:24

The Bible begins and ends with God's creative work- in the heavens and the earth, in man, in redemption, provision, sustaining the earth, creating the new heaven and the new earth... (Genesis 1, Colossians 1, Revelation 21) When we mistakenly think of work as punishment, rather than a gift, we take shortcuts in life and miss the blessings and purpose God has for us. May God's Word shape your view of work and help you develop a good work ethic so that you may reap the benefits of diligent work.

(All cross references are from Proverbs unless otherwise noted. Consider highlighting these references in green.)



The Value of Work

1. What does Psalm 19:1-6 tell you about God's work?
2. How do the many dictionary definitions of work, both as a noun and a verb, enhance your thoughts of the **potential of effective work**?
3. What are some basic truths about the **purpose of work** and the **danger of idleness**?
18:9

20:4

21:25

22:29

28:19

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

4. How have you seen these verses proven to be true in life?
5. Were you raised to view work as a gift or as a punishment?
6. What are some ways parents might instill a good work ethic in their children?

B The Reward of Diligence and the Cost of Laziness

7. A person who is habitually inactive or lazy is also referred to as a “ sluggard.” Look back at Proverbs 6:6-11. What wisdom do these verses offer the lazy person?
8. What do you think it looks like to work like the ant in real life? What obstacles prevent this
9. How do the following verses contrast a good work ethic with laziness?
12:11

12:24

12:27

13:4

15:19

10. Do any of these contrasts especially stand out to you?

11. What insight does Proverbs give about the importance of **integrity** in work?

13:11

14:23

15:19

18:9

20:17

21:5

21:25

27:23-27

28:6

28:8

12. Do any of these insights challenge or encourage you in your work?



The High Calling of Work

13. Genesis 1 describes God creating the heavens and the earth in 6 days. What did God say about His work, and what did He do after He created everything? Genesis 1:31-2:3

14. God does not want us to be lazy, but He does not want us to work ourselves to death either. Why do you think it is important to have a healthy balance between work and rest?
23:4-5

Exodus 23:12

15. God has a high calling for each of us. In a way, we are all in full time ministry, no matter what our actual work looks like. How do the following verses encourage you as you toil?

13:22

16:3

John 6:26-29

Colossians 3:23-25

16. What are your strengths and weaknesses in your work ethic or in setting goals?

17. How have you seen God's blessings in your life, or in the life of someone you know, as a result of working to please Him?

WALK IN TRUTH



It is human nature to resent having to work, but the truth is that we gain dignity when we do productive work because our lives have purpose. Do you feel you have the right attitude about whatever your work is? Do you value all kinds of work, or do you look down on certain work? Respect all people and all who work hard. We need quality workers in all walks of life. Ask God to give you a renewed vision and purpose in your own work, and a renewed appreciation for the work others do. And thank God that you are able to work.

...all that we have accomplished You have done for us. Isaiah 26:12

Money- God's Provision



MEMORY VERSE: The generous will prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.
Proverbs 11:25

Money, money, money, money, money. There are well over two thousand verses in the Bible about money because we like money and, while we need money, we tend to value and trust it more than we should, so we desperately need to have the right attitude about it. Ask God to shape your thoughts, attitude and goals about money so that you can be blessed by trusting Him and handling money His way instead of your own way and be a blessing to others.

(Consider highlighting these Scriptures in green for work ethic and money)



The Dilemma of Money

1. What truths and lies about money are stated or implied in Ecclesiastes 5:8-17?

Truths

Lies

2. What gifts does God give us according to Ecclesiastes 5:18-20?

3. What do you think the downside or danger might be in having too much or too little money?

4. What do the following Proverbs verses say about the **power of money**?

11:4

14:20

14:24

19:4,6

20:21

25:21,22

B God's Plan For Money

5. How we should we, or should we not, go about **acquiring money**?

11:1

13:11

14:23

21:5,6

22:16; 22-23

22:26-28

23:4

28:8

28:20,22

6. How does God want us to **view or value money**?

11:28

15:16

16:16

23:4-8

1 Timothy 6:6-10

7. How do you think we can give money it's proper place in our lives?

8. What does God want us to **do, or not do**, with money?

11:24,25

13:22

14:31

17:18

21:13

Matthew 6:1-4



God is Our Provider

9. Why is it so important that we **handle money God's way**?

22:9

28:24-27

Luke 6:35-38

Acts 20:32-35

10. In Hebrews 13:5-6, what is the **command, the promise** and our **response**? How are these three inter-related?
11. How have you seen God's Word about money proven to be true in life?
12. What does Matthew 6:19-34 tell us about **true treasures**?
13. What do you think treasures in heaven are? How might you store them up today?
14. Do you have any financial concerns that these Scriptures can help you with?
15. Why is it so easy to worry about tomorrow?
16. Why shouldn't we worry about tomorrow?

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you believe that “Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for Him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern?” It’s true! He does! When we fail to see God’s provision or find ourselves worrying about the money, it could be that we don’t understand His love, power and ability to provide. Or it could be that we are trying to serve two masters. Or we trust in ourselves instead of Him. Or we mix up our desires with our actual needs and end up with unrealistic expectations. Or we are in sin or experiencing the results of sin and not living for His Kingdom. If you struggle with any of this, God can meet you where you are if you are willing to admit to your wrong thinking, trust Him and learn from Him. v “All your worries will not add a single moment to your life.” (Matt 6:32,33,27)

The Tongue's Power



MEMORY VERSE: The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.
Proverbs 18:21

What is powerful enough to either destroy life or give life- medicine, surgery, bombs, weapons, car or plane accidents, starvation, disease, healthy food, clean water...? The Word of God says that the TONGUE has this kind of power, so we would do well to understand this and to know how we can use our words to bring life to others rather than death.

(Consider highlighting verses about the tongue in pink in your Bible so you can find them at a glance.)



The Power of the Tongue

1. Are you a person who tends to talk a lot, or use words sparingly? Proverbs 18:21
2. Do you feel a need or desire to learn to speak differently? If so, why?
3. What powerful “consequences” or results have you seen in people’s lives from words spoken to them, either positive or negative?
4. Look at James 3:1-12. What points does James make about the tongue in verses 1-2?
5. How does James describe the power of the tongue? 3:3-6?
6. What dilemma, warning and contradictions does James point out in verses 3:7-10?

7. What point is James making in 3:11-12?

B The Power of Our Words on Our Own Lives

8. What we say greatly affects our **personal lives**. What insight do these Proverbs give you about the connection between our speech and the impact it has on our lives? If it helps, you can jot down phrases or words in the following categories:

Negative Character
Traits



Negative
Actions/Results



Positive Character
Traits



Positive
Actions/Results

10:19

10:31-32

12:14

12:15

12:19

13:3

19:9

9. Which of the truths in these verses especially speak to you as a personal warning?

10. Which verses encourage you or motivate you to use your tongue for good?



The Power of Our Tongue in Other People's Lives

11. What we say also affects other people. What does Proverbs teach us about the power or influence of our tongues **in the lives of others**? Again, if it is helpful, you can jot down words or phrases in the following categories:



10: 11,12

10:20,21

11:9,11

11:12,13

12:6

12:18

15:1,2,4

15:18

18:4

25:14-15

12. Proverbs 26:17-28 lists all negative attitudes and actions. What truths stand out to you in these verses?

13. How does God feel about our use of the tongue? Proverbs 12:22

14. Why do you think it is so important to keep our word?

15. What ideas come to mind that can help us avoid speaking death and avoid failing to keep our word?

16. When we do speak death instead of life, or fail to keep our word, what should we do?
1 John 1:9,10

WALK IN TRUTH



Our tongues are living proof that we are sinful creatures. We long for life but often speak death. We speak without thinking. We hurt others by our insensitive or evil words. Woe is me! But remember that the goal of Proverbs is to fear the Lord and thus gain wisdom and life. The wonderful truth is that if you love the Lord and trust Christ as your Savior, you are safe in Him. Ask Him to help you tame your tongue and use it to glorify Him and edify people. *“And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.”* *Philippians 1:6*

The Tongue's Potential



MEMORY VERSE: From a wise mind comes wise speech; the words of the wise are persuasive. Kind words are like honey- sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.
Proverbs 16:23,24

A Hearts Determine Words

1. It's been said that, "what's down in the well comes up in the bucket." Our hearts and minds are like the water in the well and our words, attitudes and actions are what come up in the bucket. What is the connection between our **tongues and our hearts**?

10:8

10:20,21

12:20,23

15:7

15:28

15:31,32

16:20,21

17:9,10

18:2

29:20

2. Do any of these Proverbs challenge or convict you regarding your heart and speech?

3. Have you seen growth in your own life in the way you speak?

4. According to previous lessons in Proverbs, how can we have hearts that cause us to speak wise and helpful words?

B Wise Guidance for Speaking and Listening

5. What **rules, warnings and advice** does the Bible give us regarding what we should **say** or to whom we should **listen**?

15:22

17:10

17:27,28

18:2,6-8

18:13

20:3

20:19-20

21:13

21:23

22:10-11

23:9

24:28,29

27:1-2

27:5,6

27:14-16

6. Which do you find most difficult- speaking words of wisdom, remaining silent, or being a good listener?

7. Do you know people who are good at speaking, staying silent or listening? How do you feel when you are with them?

8. Why do you think each is so important?
speaking

being silent

listening

9. Proverbs 26:4-5 seems like a contradiction at first. What do you think these 2 verses actually mean?



God's Plan for Our Tongues

10. How do the following verses inspire you regarding the **power and potential** you have in your own tongue?
14:25

15:23

15:30

16:23,24

18:20-21 (last week's memory verse!)

20:15,21

24:26

25:11-13

11. When have you been dramatically **negatively** impacted by someone's words to you?

12. Think about what lies you might be believing about yourself. Recognize them and find Scriptures that are true and meditate on those. For example:
Lie: I'm ugly. Truth: I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13-18

13. When have you been dramatically **positively** impacted by someone's words to you?

14. What do you feel you need most right now in the area of your speech?

15. What is one thing you can focus on right now to help you to realize the marvelous potential of your tongue?

WALK IN TRUTH



It is really quite fascinating how powerful the tongue is- how easy it is to abuse or bless with our tongues. Left to our own human reasoning, we mistake our own thoughts and words for wisdom; flattery for respect; constructive criticism for rejection; honesty for being judgmental... The potential to bless people is greater than we can imagine if we fear the Lord and walk in His ways. Guard your heart in the Lord, and ask Him to help you fulfill the purpose He has for you in the way you speak.

Rebellious vs Teachable



MEMORY VERSE: People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy. Blessed are those who have a tender conscience, but the stubborn are headed for serious trouble.

Proverbs 28:13,14

Time for a heart check! It's possible to do many things right that we learn about in Proverbs, but still miss the point. One can go to church, perform good deeds, study the Bible... and still have a rebellious spirit instead of a teachable spirit. Have a teachable spirit!!



Teachable or Rebellious?

1. What extreme opposite truths do the following verses say about a person with a teachable spirit compared with a rebellious or stubborn heart?

10:17

12:1

2. Why do you think can be so difficult to accept discipline or reproof or instruction?

3. What are some of the ways God provides instruction, and what results occur when one either accepts or rejects it?

13:1

13:10

13:13

28:13,14

29:1

9. What do you think Proverbs 21:11 means?



LUKE 15:11-24 — Moving from a Rebellious Prodigal to a Teachable Child

10. Describe the younger brother's journey from rebellion to a teachable spirit. Luke 15:11-24

11. What do you think was at the root of his initial rebellion?

12. What excuses do you hear people use today for their rebellion?

13. To what do you attribute his change of heart?

14. What was the evidence of his changed heart?

15. How would you describe the older brother's heart? Luke 15:25-32

16. What do you think was at the root of the older brothers attitude?

17. Both brothers sinned, even though they looked quite different. Which one do you relate to the most?

18. What strikes you about the way the father treated both of his sons?

WALK IN TRUTH



It's human to reject correction or instruction, but it's also deadly. Part of maturing in faith means getting over the need to be right, and learning to receive reproof and advice. This can be difficult for a seasoned believer who has tried hard to live right. But we all fail. We all need help. Is there an area in your life where you need to stop being stubborn and start being teachable? Ask God to show you, to forgive you, and give you a teachable spirit! When you do this, just watch and see what God does! He will run to meet you and celebrate that you were lost, but now you are found! He will heal you and lead you to the next place, one of joy and victory.

Family and Parenting



MEMORY VERSE: Discipline your children, and they will give you happiness and peace of mind. When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is happy.
Proverbs 29:17,18



EPHESIANS 5:21-6:4 — God's Design for Family

1. What does God want every believer to do? Why? Ephesians 5:21
2. What is God's instruction to wives? Ephesians 5:22-24,33
3. What do you think healthy submission does, or does not, look like in a family?
4. Why is the wife's role and attitude so important? Proverbs 31:10-13
5. What instructions and warning does God give husbands? Ephesians 5:25-33, 6:4

6. What are children called to do? Ephesians 6:1-3

7. Why is a parent's faith in God so crucial to the health of children according to Proverbs?
14:26,27

20:7

B The Battle For Our Children

8. In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul warns Timothy to "flee the evil desires of youth" (NIV). What unique battles do you think youths face?

9. How does Satan's goal for our children compare with God's plan? John 10:10

10. What is true about children according to these Proverbs?
22:6

22:15

11. What choices must children make to win the battle for their lives? Proverbs 23:15-25

12. How does God instruct parents regarding discipline of children in the following Proverbs?

13:24

19:18

20:30

23:12-14

29:15

13. Why do you think people today tend to be opposed to spanking their children?

14. Every child is different and so they respond differently to discipline. What have you found to be effective methods of discipline either as a parent or when you were a child?



Hope for the Future

15. What truths are given in our memory verse? Proverbs 29:17,18

16. How have you seen these truths lived out?

17. What does verse 27:11 add to these truths?

18. As it is with us, our children mess up and fall into sin, and like us, they need love and forgiveness. How can we be good parents to our children? Colossians 3:12-14

19. Our children can hurt, offend and anger us. What have you found helpful in helping restore your child after they have sinned?

20. How do you imagine the future will be affected by the ways we parent our children?

WALK IN TRUTH



Strong families make strong communities. Too often people put work, pleasure and even ministry ahead of their families, and they suffer the consequences of failing to take proper care of their marriage or children. We must ask God to help us be like He is when it comes to family. Our Father loves us and gives us His undivided attention and guidance. He disciplines us, but always forgives and restores us. He causes or allows pain in our lives but is never abusive. He never gives up on us and continually reminds us of how much He loves us, so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins so that we can spend eternity with Him. May we love our families as God loves us!

Friendship



MEMORY VERSE: Whoever walks with the wise will become wise; whoever walks with fools will suffer harm.
Proverbs 13:20



The Importance of Good Friends

1. Why is our memory verse such an important truth?
2. Why do we need friends? v.18:1
3. What do these Proverbs teach about **choosing good friends** and avoiding bad ones?
18:24

24:21,22

27:6

27:9

27:17

28:7

28:10

4. How do you think people can be “destroyed” by the people they consider to be “friends?”

5. What insight does the Bible give us regarding harmful or problem people in our lives?
16:7

22:10

25:7b-10

25:21,22

25:19

25:26

B Vices and Virtues and Their Effect on Relationships

6. How do you think envy can hurt a friendship? v. 14:30

7. What do these verses say about anger or being slow to anger? How might these truths affect relationships?

14:17

15:18

19:11

19:19

29:11

29:22

8. How do you think alcohol abuse affects relationships? v. 20:1

9. Why does fear of man spoil friendships? v. 29:25

10. What effect do you think pride vs. humility, or honesty vs. dishonesty, has on relationships?
11:1-3

16:5

16:18

18:12

22:4

22:5

29:23

11. Why do you think having a good reputation helps attract good friends? v. 22:1



How to Be a Good Friend Instead of a Bad One

12. Think of a true friend in your life. What qualities make them a good friend?

13. What insight do these verses give you on **how to be a good friend**?

25:17

25:18

25:20

31:8,9

14. Think back on all the verses we studied on the power and potential of the tongue. What impact do you think words have on friendships?

15. Jesus is the best friend we can ever have. What did He say about friendship? John 15:9-13

16. What one thing would you like to focus on in order to be a better friend?

17. Optional Bonus Question: Look at Proverbs 31:10-31. In one or two words for each verse, write the character trait that a godly woman possesses. (ie. v.10 valuable, v.11 trustworthy...)

WALK IN TRUTH



“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others too, and what they are doing. Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.” Philippians 2:1-5