



# WISE WORDS

## A Study in Proverbs



## Introduction

- <sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:  
<sup>2</sup> To know wisdom and instruction,  
to understand words of insight,  
<sup>3</sup> to receive instruction in wise dealing,  
in righteousness, justice, and equity;  
<sup>4</sup> to give prudence to the simple,  
knowledge and discretion to the youth—  
<sup>5</sup> Let the wise hear and increase in learning,  
and the one who understands obtain guidance,  
<sup>6</sup> to understand a proverb and a saying,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.  
<sup>7</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:1-7 ESV

The book of Proverbs begins with its first verse indicating authorship among the royal line of God's chosen people and pointing forward to the coming Christ. A book written by kings yet couched in familial language with insights for the simple, the young, the wise, and everyone in between – should we choose to embrace them. Verse 7 declares that knowledge starts with a healthy fear of the Lord, with a right understanding of who He is, and the desire to learn all that He wants to teach us.

Proverbs is a collection of Wise Words given to us by God instructing how to live as His people, according to His ways, in the world He created. The Proverbs are not a list of promises to us, but instead outline principles for us, describing practical holiness and what that looks like Monday to Friday (and weekends too), at work and at home, often in the smallest details of life.

Each week, our teaching team will humbly and reverently approach the text, trusting that the Holy Spirit will convict, challenge, and then equip us in the areas where we need to grow. While Proverbs is a book that operates at ground level, we will intentionally lift our eyes to the Lord Jesus as the source of wisdom, our perfect example of wisdom, and our counselor on this journey toward wisdom. Topics covered will include money, sex, relationships, work, speech, justice and much more. What a comfort that the gospel frees us from a long 'to do' list and invites us to delight in God's ways, wholeheartedly pursuing wisdom because of our great salvation and out of love for our great Saviour.

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## Teaching Schedule

Week 1.....	Ellen McAree
Week 2.....	Lois Shepherd
Week 3.....	Ann Penner
Week 4.....	Jessica Dyck
Week 5.....	Kate Leyenaar
Week 6.....	Deborah Manera
Week 7.....	Andrea Nicholls
Week 8.....	Zeta MacDonald (Special Guest)
Week 9.....	Samantha Cheng (Women's Ministry Intern)
Week 10.....	Ann Penner
Week 11.....	Jessica Dyck
Week 12.....	Ellen McAree

# **Show Us Christ**

**Proverbs Study Theme Song  
By Sovereign Grace Music**

Prepare our hearts, O God  
Help us to receive  
Break the hard and stony ground  
Help our unbelief  
Plant Your Word down deep in us  
Cause it to bear fruit  
Open up our ears to hear  
Lead us in Your truth

Show us Christ, show us Christ  
O God, reveal Your glory  
Through the preaching of Your Word  
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Your Word is living light  
Upon our darkened eyes  
Guards us through temptations  
Makes the simple wise  
Your Word is food for famished ones  
Freedom for the slave  
Riches for the needy soul  
Come speak to us today

Show us Christ, show us Christ  
O God, reveal Your glory  
Through the preaching of Your Word  
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord

Where else can we go, Lord  
Where else can we go  
You have the words of eternal life  
Where else can we go,...

## Memory Verses

Proverbs 2:6-8

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
<sup>7</sup>he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,  
<sup>8</sup>guarding the paths of justice  
and watching over the way of his saints.

Proverbs 3:3-6

<sup>3</sup>Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them around your neck;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
<sup>4</sup>So you will find favor and good success<sup>a</sup>  
in the sight of God and man.  
  
<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 24:3-4

<sup>3</sup>By wisdom a house is built,  
and by understanding it is established;  
<sup>4</sup>by knowledge the rooms are filled  
with all precious and pleasant riches.

Proverbs 30:5

<sup>5</sup>Every word of God proves true;  
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

## Reading Schedule

As you desire to grow in Godly wisdom this fall, why not challenge yourself to read a chapter of Proverbs daily over the course of this study? Apparently, Reverend Billy Graham regarded Proverbs so highly that he absorbed a chapter every single day for years (in addition to other personal Bible study). To keep it simple, there are 31 days in the month and 31 chapters in Proverbs. Note: you don't have to start on the first day of the month.

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"Knowledge is an accurate understanding of truth. Wisdom is understanding and living in light of how that truth applies to the situations and relationships of your daily life. Knowledge is an exercise of your brain. Wisdom is the commitment of your heart that leads to transformation of your life."

Paul David Tripp

*Dangerous Calling: Confronting the Unique Challenges of Pastoral Ministry*



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 1-2

2. Reflect:

What do the first seven verses say about the goal of the book of Proverbs? Can you paraphrase Solomon's mission statement so that it's clear in your mind? Is there anything you notice that he does not say?

3. Apply:

Write the words of James 1:5 below.

As you begin this study, spend some time in prayer asking the Lord to grow wisdom in your heart and mind and to help you identify areas where you are in need of wisdom. Write down some of the areas in the space below.

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 3-4.

As you read, note or underline statements about God and his character and actions. Feel free to jot them down here.

2. Reflect:

How would you describe the value that Proverbs places on wisdom? Why is that?

3. Apply:

How would you describe your own value and pursuit of wisdom? Where do you tend to go for wisdom? Is there anything about that that needs to change?

Spend time in prayer asking God for help to seek and value wisdom in the way Proverbs instructs.

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 5-9

2. Reflect:

Why do you think that the writer spends so much time discussing adultery and sexual impurity?

Compare and contrast the characteristics of personified wisdom and personified folly (behaviour, speech, outcome, etc.).

3. Apply:

What did you find most convicting in these chapters? Did the Spirit put something on your heart that you need to confess to God and ask for his power to change?

Spend some time praying/reflecting/journaling about how God is calling you to pursue wisdom in a deeper way.

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 8:12-13

☐ Proverbs 15:33

☐ Proverbs 16:1-6, 18-20

☐ Proverbs 29:33

2. Reflect:

In your own words, what does Proverbs say in these verses about pride and humility?

Are there any other verses that have helped you understand this topic?

3. Apply:

Take your statement above to the Lord and ask him to help you to grow in humility and to identify areas where he is at work in your heart.

4. Going further:

What do these New Testament passages have to say about pride and humility? Do they shed additional light on the teaching from Proverbs?

Matthew 23:1-12

Philippians 2:5-11

James 4:1-10



**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 10:1-5

☐ Proverbs 12:12-14

☐ Proverbs 16:1-4

☐ Proverbs 18:9

☐ Proverbs 24:27-34

2. Reflect:

In a sentence, sum up what these proverbs say about a godly work ethic.

Choose a Proverb that you want to remember about work and write it out below.

3. Apply:

What kinds of work has God given you to do? How do you tend to approach work? Take some time to ask God to show you how you can best honour him in your work.

4. Going further:

What do the New Testament passages below have to say about how a Christian should work? How do they shed light on the truths you've seen in Proverbs?

Ephesians 4:28

Colossians 3:22-25

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 10:4

☐ Proverbs 15:16-17

☐ Proverbs 22:7

☐ Proverbs 30:7-9

2. Reflect:

Make two lists below - one of positive ways God calls us to handle money and the other of examples of negative handling of money.

Positive

Negative

Choose one Proverb that you find helpful in this area and write it out below.

3. Apply:

Spend some time in prayer, asking God to help you view and handle money in a way that pleases him.

You may want to consider looking over your finances with these concepts fresh in your mind, asking God to show you areas where you could bring Him more glory as you use your money.

4. Going further:

What do these New Testament passages have to say about how a child of God should handle money? How do they expand your understanding of the teaching in Proverbs?

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

1 Timothy 6:3-10

Hebrews 13:5-6

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 11:1-10

☐ Proverbs 12:17-20

☐ Proverbs 17:15, 26

☐ Proverbs 22:8-9, 22-29

☐ Proverbs 28:1-10

2. Reflect:

What do these verses have to say about how God defines justice? Try to sum it up in your own words.

What other Bible passages have you read that help you to understand God's view of justice? If you have access to a Bible (or website) with cross-references, try looking up the references for a few of the verses above.

3. Apply:

When have you seen injustice in a situation? What was the impact on the people involved?

Has there been a time when you clearly saw justice done? What was the outcome?

How have these verses impacted your understanding of or desire to do justice?

4. Going further:

What do the New Testament passages below have to say about justice? How do they add to the picture of justice in Proverbs?

Matthew 12:9-21

Luke 11:42

Romans 3:21-26

Revelation 20:11-21:8

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 3:1-8

☐ Proverbs 4:1-12

☐ Proverbs 13:22-25

☐ Proverbs 22:1-6, 15

☐ Proverbs 23:12-25

2. Reflect:

What instructions and examples do these verses give to parents? What about to children?

Parents

Children

What kind of relationship is being depicted here?

3. Apply:

Whether you are a parent or a child, how does your behaviour and attitude compare with the wisdom in these verses? Spend some time prayerfully re-reading and asking God to show you how you can grow in honouring him in these relationships.

4. Going further:

What standard do the New Testament passages below give for Christian parents and children? How do they expand upon the wisdom you've seen from Proverbs?

Matthew 7:7-12

Matthew 15:1-9

Ephesians 6:1-4

Hebrews 12:3-11

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 10:6-21

☐ Proverbs 12:15-20

☐ Proverbs 15:1-8

☐ Proverbs 17:4

☐ Proverbs 18:2-8, 21

2. Reflect:

Paraphrase in your own words what the passages above have to say about the use of the tongue.

Can you think of examples in scripture of people who used their tongues well or badly?

3. Apply:

Proverbs spends a lot of time talking about the tongue. Why do you think it's considered to be so important?

What does your use of words look like lately? Is there something you need to repent and confess? Is there something you should be saying that you've left unsaid? Take some time to prayerfully consider these questions before God and ask for the Spirit to give you wisdom and clarity in the use of your tongue.

4. Going further:

What do the New Testament passages below have to say about speech? How do they add to the picture of wise words presented in Proverbs?

Ephesians 4:11-16

James 3:1-18

1 Peter 3:8-12

**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 6:12-19

☐ Proverbs 13:20

☐ Proverbs 18:1

☐ Proverbs 27:1-10

2. Reflect:

What do the verses above have to say about healthy and unhealthy relationship dynamics?

Are there any other verses that have helped you understand this topic?

3. Apply:

How could the wisdom in these verses help you decide how to behave in the relationships in your life? Prayerfully lay your relationships before God and ask him to work in you and your interactions with those around you.

Choose one of the verses from Proverbs to write out below and consider memorizing it over this week.

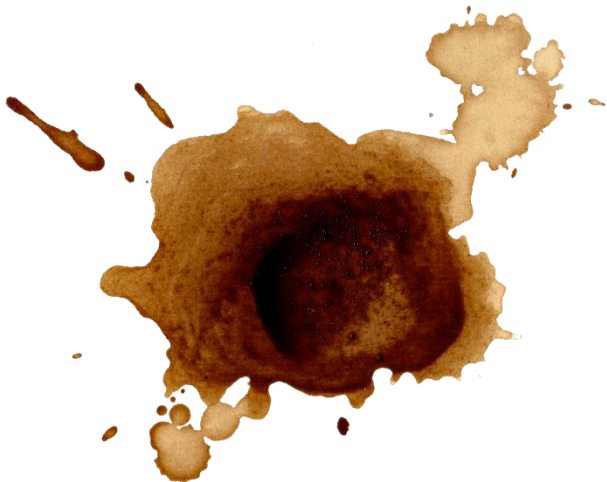
4. Going further:

What standard do the New Testament passages below give for Christian relationships? How do they expand upon the wisdom you've seen from Proverbs?

Romans 12:9-21

Ephesians 4:1-6

1 John 4:7-21



**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 5:15-23

☐ Proverbs 6:20-29

☐ Proverbs 7:1-5, 21-23

2. Reflect:

Take a few moments to think about these verses and then try to sum them up in a sentence or two.

How does this contrast with cultural and other messages you have heard about sexuality?

3. Apply:

Spend some time in prayer, asking God to help you understand sexuality as he designed it and to live that out with the help of his wisdom, his grace, and his strength.

How can you next pursue the path of wisdom in this area? Is there anything that you need help to address? Whom might you ask for support and guidance?

4. Going further:

What do these New Testament passages have to say about the sexual behaviour of a Christian? What additional light do they shed on the teaching from Proverbs?

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Ephesians 5:22-33



**Notes:**



1. Read:

☐ Proverbs 31:10-31

2. Reflect:

What kinds of things does this worthy woman choose to do with her time and energy?

What do you see in this passage that reveals her motivations and goals?

How does this woman live out wisdom in the areas we have studied in previous lessons? Make note of some examples below.

3. Apply:

What kinds of motivations and goals currently influence how you use your time and energy? Prayerfully re-read the verses above and ask God to help you continue to grow as a 'woman who fears the Lord' and daily lives for him.

4. Going further:

How do these passages in the New Testament affirm the things that Proverbs says characterize an excellent woman? Where can we find the power to live in this exceptional way?

Romans 12:1-21

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 1:9-14



**Notes:**

## Suggestions for Further Study:

- *The ESV Study Bible* notes on Proverbs
- *Kidner Classic Commentaries: Proverbs* by Derek Kidner
- *Proverbs: Wisdom that Works* by Raymond C. Ortlund Jr.
- *The Bible Project Proverbs* video (8 minutes)  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=AzmYV8GNAIM>)
- *How to Study the Bible* by Ellen McAree  
([https://www.metbiblechurch.ca/images/uploads/How\\_to\\_Study\\_the\\_Bible\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.metbiblechurch.ca/images/uploads/How_to_Study_the_Bible_Guide.pdf))

**Prayer Requests:**

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