

Hear, My Son

Study Guide to Proverbs

Keith Sharp

**“Hear, my son, and be wise;
And guide your heart in the way” (Proverbs 23:19)**

To the Teacher

Study Guide to Proverbs is a Bible study guide for teenagers and adults to be used in Bible classes in local congregations. This workbook is not intended to replace the word of God as the class text. Nor is it a commentary. Rather, it consists of questions within the framework of an analytical outline designed to help the class study properly, so each can discover for himself what the Bible teaches.

My experience is that adult and teenage classes generally do not like graded lessons. Thus, this book has no grading system.

I have not attempted to divide the Proverbs into a set number of lessons so as not to disrupt the outline within the text itself. The teacher should be sensitive to the level and desire of the students in deciding how fast to proceed. It is crucial that each student study the lesson outside class.

Proverbs seem to be a haphazard collection of wise sayings, but actually there are loose groupings of general themes with specific proverbs within. We will try to follow these groupings in our study. I am primarily dependent on Waltke for identifying these sections.

At the end of the workbook I have placed an outline of the proverbs by specific subject matter. I was heavily influenced by F. Lagard Smith's **Daily Bible** in compiling this outline.

Each section does contain a list of key words to define. A glossary in the back of the work book contains the definitions of these words as used in context.

No work book can even begin to replace a competent teacher, with a good working knowledge of the Scriptures, an unswerving love of and loyalty to truth, a deep faith in God and His word, a pure life, an humble opinion of himself, an understanding of and love for his students, and the ability to communicate.

I hope and pray this volume is useful to you in learning and teaching more about the will of God and its application to us. May it deepen your faith and enliven your interest for deeper study and more diligent service to the Lord. - The Author



Lesson One Introduction

As the psalms of Israel reached their apex with David, the wisdom literature of the Hebrews ascended to its pinnacle with Solomon, the son of David.

When Solomon ascended the throne, the Lord appeared to him in a dream, telling him to ask what he would, and Solomon humbly requested the wisdom necessary to rule Israel (1 Kings 3:4-9). The Lord was pleased with Solomon's request, and granted him wisdom, prosperity, and honor (1 Kings 10:13). Solomon's rule was peaceful and prosperous, giving Solomon and others time to reflect upon the nature of things and the means with which to experiment (1 Kings 4:20-25). King Solomon was the wisest mere mortal who ever lived and the wealthiest person of his day (1 Kings 3:16-28; 4:29-34; 10:1-9,23-24).

One way Solomon demonstrated his wisdom was by writing proverbs (1 Kings 4:32). Most of his proverbs have not been preserved, but the book of Proverbs contains the height of the wisdom of the wisest man.

Proverbs is

the inspired production of Solomon. It is the first book of the Bible prefaced by the name of the author. The New Testament abounds with citations from the Proverbs... (Fausett).

Actually, although Solomon was the preeminent writer of proverbs, as his father David was the greatest psalmist, like Psalms, the book of Proverbs was arranged by a later author or authors (cf. Proverbs 25:1) and also contains proverbs from other authors (22:17; 24:23; 30:1; 31:1).

A proverb is a short, easily remembered sentence composed of two or more parallel lines concisely expressing an important principle of living. Some call a proverb "a short sentence based on a long experience" (Bland. 17).

*The **Hebrew** word for 'proverb' (**mashal**) means a 'comparison.'... Most of the proverbs are in couplets or triplets, or some modifications of them the members of which correspond in structure and length, as if arranged to be compared one with another (Ibid).*

"Hebrew poetry, like all poetry whatever the culture, tends to be more terse, more concise, than prose.... In Proverbs terseness becomes even more acute; it is the hallmark of its lines. The sage teaches truth through aphorisms (a terse formulation of truth) that are also epigrams (a terse, sage, witty, and often paradoxical saying). They concentrate or distill truth and so by their nature cannot express the whole truth about a topic.... The book assumes the youth's responsibility to accept the sage's teaching (see 1:4) and threatens apostates with death (e.g., 1:20-33; 2:12-15...)" (Waltke. 1:38)

Proverbs in the Bible are wise sayings gained by experience and confirmed and recorded by inspiration. The Proverbs are the height of human wisdom concerning every day life safe

guarded from error by divine inspiration.

The Proverbs have parallels and similarities in other ancient wisdom literature (cf. 1 Kings 4:29-31), especially Egyptian. There are striking parallels to Proverbs in more ancient Egyptian wisdom literature (Bland. 19). Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh of Egypt by marrying his daughter (1 Kings 3:1) and imported horses from Egypt (1 Kings 10:28). Solomon apparently adapted by inspiration (2:6) the wisdom of the ancients (22:17) to the unique thought of Israel.

“... Israel’s wisdom uniquely lays down the fear of the Lord as the foundation for acquiring wisdom (Job 28:28; Prov. 1:7; 9:10; cf. Eccl. 12:13-14), and it is this concept ... that represents the central religious principle in the wisdom literature” (Waltke. 1:52).

In Proverbs

God has condescended to become our teacher on the practical affairs belonging to all the relations of life. He has adapted His instruction to the plain and unlettered, and presented, in this striking and impressive method, the great principles of duty to Him and to our fellow men... (Ibid).

The purpose of the book of Proverbs is to teach wisdom (1:1-6). Wisdom is “insight into the underlying causes and significance or consequences of things, which insight enables one properly to apply to the best end the knowledge which he has” (Hailey). In brief, wisdom is the ability to properly use knowledge. We should pray for wisdom (James 1:5).

The book of Proverbs teaches the practical wisdom or prudence about daily affairs of this life. The principles are moral in nature.

“... it is addressed to gullible youths (1:4) and wise children (1:5,18) to enable them to attain wisdom and be safeguarded against the world-and-life views of the impious and unethical in any age” (Waltke. 1:37)

Since this wisdom came through experience, it is the advice of a father (1:8,10,15; 2:1; 3:1,11, 21; 4:10,20; 5:1,20; 6:1,3,20; 7:1; 19:27; 23:15,19,26; 24:13,21; 27:11) and of a mother (1:8; 6:20; 23:22; 30:17; 31:1, 26) to their son. Godly parents and grandparents are the primary source of wisdom for wise young people (cf. Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15). Young people should especially study Proverbs to learn practical wisdom to guide them through every day life. Proverbs primarily promises to the wise student success, happiness, and length of life but does not neglect the hope of eternal life (Proverbs 23:17-19).

The introduction to Proverbs (1:1-6) contains ten terms that together describe wisdom. “Ten” symbolized fullness or completeness to the Jews (ten fingers, ten toes). The terms are:

- (1) wisdom: the ability to properly apply knowledge,
- (2) instruction: “moral training” (Deane),
- (3) understanding: “the capability of discerning the true from the false, good from bad” (Ibid),
- (4) justice: “that which is in accord with the will and ordinances of God as Supreme

- Judge” (Ibid),
 (5) judgment: “right reason” (Ibid),
 (6) equity: “integrity” (Ibid),
 (7) prudence: “the capacity of escaping from the wiles of others” (Ibid),
 (8) knowledge: correct information,
 (9) discretion: “that which sets a man on his guard and prevents him from being duped by others” (Ibid), and
 (10) wise counsels: truths that help us live right.

Outline

Following the author’s introduction, the book itself is divided into seven sections. Of course, seven is the Hebrew number for perfection, coming from the seven days of creation week (Exodus 20:11; Psalm 12:6).

Title and Introduction - 1:1-7

- A. Purpose and Methods of the Book - 1:1-6
- B. Principle of True Wisdom - 1:7

I. Exhortations to Seek Wisdom and Avoid Foolishness - 1:8 - 9:18

- A. Lecture I: Father’s First Exhortation: Listen to Your Parents and Reject the Invitation of the Gang - 1:8-19
- B. Interlude I: First Address by Lady Wisdom, Rebuke of the Simple - 1:20-33
- C. Lecture II: Father’s Second Exhortation: Acquire Wisdom as a Safeguard against Evil - chapter 2
- D. Lecture III: Father’s Third Exhortation: Behavior Toward God - 3:1-12
- E. Interlude II: The Value of Wisdom - 3:13-20
- F. Lecture IV: Father’s Fourth Exhortation: Behavior Toward Neighbors - 3:21-35
- G. Lecture V: Father’s Fifth Exhortation: A Father’s Example - 4:1-9
- H. Lecture VI: Father’s Sixth Exhortation: Contrast Between the Wicked and the Righteous - 4:10-19
- I. Lecture VII: Father’s Seventh Instruction: Spiritual Health - 4:20-27
- J. Lecture VIII: Father’s Eighth Instruction: Warnings Against an Immoral Woman - chapter five
- K. Lecture IX: Father’s Ninth Instruction: Four Pieces of Practical Advice - 6:1-19
 - 1. The Danger of Being a Guarantor - 6:1-5
 - 2. The Danger of Laziness - 6:6-11
 - 3. Warning Against a Wicked Man - 6:12-15
 - 4. Things the Lord Hates - 6:16-19
- L. Lecture X: Father’s Tenth and Last Instruction: Warning Against the Immoral Woman (Fourth and Last Lecture to Safeguard the Son Against the Unfaithful Wife [cf. 2:16-19; 5:1-23; 6:20-33]) - chapter 7

M. Interlude III: Lady Wisdom’s Second Speech (Her Appeal to the Simple in Contrast with

- that of the Immoral Woman of Chapter Seven) - chapter 8.
- M. Interlude IV: Lady Wisdom's Third Speech (The Rival Invitations of Wisdom and Folly) - chapter 9
- II. Proverbs of Solomon in Two Line Parallelism - 10:1 - 22:16
 (This is the heart of the book, a collection of about 400 sayings primarily of two lines each in the Hebrew poetic form of "parallelism." In "parallelism" the second line is in some way parallel to the first.)
- A. Two Line, Primarily Antithetical (2nd line usually contrasts with the first, the Fundamentals of Wisdom) - 10:1 - 15:30
- B. Two Line, Primarily Complementary (2nd line usually completes the first, When Life Gets Complicated) - 15:31 - 22:16
- III. Thirty Sayings of the Wise - 22:17 - 24:22
- IV. Further Sayings of the Wise - 24:23-34
- V. Proverbs of Solomon Copied by the Men of Hezekiah - chapters 25 - 29
- A. Comparative - 25:1 - 27:27
- B. Sayings on the Righteous and the Wicked - 28:1 - 29:27.
- VI. The Words of Agur - chapter 30
- VII. The Words of King Lemuel That His Mother Taught Him - chapter 31

Works Consulted

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- Keil, C.F. and F. Delitzsch, **The Book of Proverbs.**
- Smith, F. LaGard, **The Daily Bible.**
- Mounce, William D., **Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.**
- Vine, W.E., **Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.**
- Waltke, Bruce K., **The Book of Proverbs.**
- www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary
- (I have depended heavily on Bland and Waltke in the workbook. - KS)

Questions

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. aphorism | 8. knowledge |
| 2. discretion | 9. proverb |
| 3. epigram | 10. subtlety |
| 4. equity | 11. understanding |
| 5. instruction | 12. wisdom |
| 6. judgment | 13. wise counsels |
| 7. justice | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Who was the greatest writer of proverbs?
2. How did Solomon acquire his great wisdom?
3. How wise and wealthy was he?
4. Who else had a part in writing, compiling, and arranging the proverbs?
5. Describe the proverbs as a literary form.
6. What is the source of the proverbs of the Scriptures?
7. What is the purpose of Proverbs?
8. How should young people acquire wisdom?

Exhortations

I. Title and Introduction

Please read Proverbs 1:1-7.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. simple | 4. fools |
| 2. enigma | 5. despise |
| 3. riddles | |

B. Discussion Question

What are the purposes of the Book of Proverbs? (Verses 1-6)

C. Thought Questions

1. Are the Proverbs only for the young, or may mature Christians profit from them? (Verse 5)
2. What is the basis of sound wisdom? (Verse 7)

D. Class Report: In the Proverbs, what are the characteristics of:

1. the simple (Proverbs 1:22, 32; 7:7; 9:4, 16; 14:15, 18; 19:25; 21:11; 22:3; 27:12)
2. the fool (Proverbs 1:7; 10:8, 10, 14, 21; 12:15, 16; 14:3, 9; 15:5; 16:22; 20:3; 24:7; 27:3, 22; 29:9)

II. Lecture I: Father's First Exhortation: Listen to Your Parents and Reject the Invitation of the Gang

Please read Proverbs 1:8-19.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. graceful ornament | 2. chains |
|----------------------|-----------|

B. Discussion Questions

1. To whom should a young person listen? (Verse 8)
2. What will be the result if he does? (Verse 9)
3. To whom should he refuse to listen? (Verse 10)
4. How will they entice him? (Verses 11-14)
5. Why should he refuse to listen to them? (Verses 15-18)

C. Thought Question

What is the principle underlying this advice? (Verse 19)

III. Interlude I: First Address by Lady Wisdom, Rebuke of the Simple

Please read Proverbs 1:20-33.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. scorners | 2. rebuke |
|-------------|-----------|

B. Discussion Questions

1. Is wisdom hidden or available to all? (Verses 20-21)
2. What will happen to those who refuse to heed wisdom? (Verses 22-27)
3. Is there a time when it is too late to learn wisdom? (Verses 27-28)
4. Why do those who reject wisdom receive destruction? (Verses 29-32)
5. What will those who listen to wisdom receive? (Verse 33)

C. Thought Questions

1. Why is Wisdom personified as a woman?
2. What are the characteristics of “scorners” (or “scoffers”)? (Proverbs 1:22; 9:7-8; 13:1; 14:6, 9; 15:12; 19:28-29; 21:24; 22:10; 24:9)

IV. Lecture II: Father’s Second Exhortation: Acquire Wisdom as a Safeguard against Evil

Please read Proverbs chapter 2.

The twenty-two verses of this chapter comprise one long sentence in Hebrew, a poem of twenty-two stanzas, and each stanza (verse) begins with a different Hebrew letter in alphabetic order (an acrostic). It has two halves. Verses one through eleven are to develop the son’s character whereas verses twelve through twenty-two state the protection that comes from this character.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. discernment | 5. devious |
| 2. upright | 6. immoral woman |
| 3. saints | 7. seductress |
| 4. perverse | 8. covenant |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What should the son do? (Verses 1-4)
2. What will be the result in relationship to the Lord? (Verse 5)

3. What does the Lord give His saints? (Verses 6-8)
4. What will wisdom do for the young man? (Verses 9-11)
5. How will it protect him from evil men? (Verses 12-15)
6. What kind of evil women does it protect the young man from? (Verses 16-17)
7. What are the results of following after the immoral woman? (Verses 18-19)
8. What are the rewards of heeding wisdom? (Verses 20-21)
9. What are the results of turning to wickedness? (Verse 22)

V. Lecture III: Father's Third Exhortation: Behavior Toward God

Please read Proverbs 3:1-20.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. mercy | 3. detest |
| 2. chastening | 4. correction |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What rewards will a young man receive if he follows the instruction of a godly father? (Verses 1-2)
2. What advantages will he gain from having mercy and truth in his heart and life? (Verses 3-4; cf. Luke 2:52)
3. How does one trust in the Lord with all his heart? (Verses 5-7)
4. What is the reward? (Verse 8)
5. How do we honor the Lord with our possessions? (Verse 9; cf. Acts 2:44-45; 4:32, 34-35; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16; James 1:27)
6. What is the result? (Proverbs 3:10)
7. What should be the son's attitude toward the Lord's correction? (Proverbs 3:11; cf. Hebrews 12:5)
8. Why? (Proverbs 3:11; Hebrews 12:6-13)

C. Praise of Wisdom

Please read Proverbs 3:13-20

1. Term to Define established
2. Thought Questions
 - a. How valuable is wisdom? (Verses 13-15)
 - b. What rewards does she give? (Verses 16-18)
 - c. Where was wisdom first found? (Verses 19-20)

VI. Lecture IV: Father's Fourth Exhortation: Behavior Toward Neighbors
Please read Proverbs 3:21-35.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1. grace | 2. abomination |
| 2. terror | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why should the son keep sound wisdom and discretion? (Verses 21-24)
2. Why should he not fear sudden terror? (Verses 25-26)
3. How should he treat those to whom he is in debt? (Verses 27-28)
4. How should he treat his neighbor? (Verses 29-30)
5. What should be his attitude toward wicked rich people? Why? (Verses 31-34)

VII. Lecture V: Father's Fifth Exhortation: A Father's Example

Please read Proverbs 4:1-9

("Israelite families believed that parents could not begin too early in instilling fundamental principles for successful living (e.g., Deut. 6:1-9)" (Bland. 76). cf. 1 Samuel 1:21-28; 2:11, 18, 26; 3:1)

A. Term to Define doctrine

B. Discussion Questions

1. What does the father exhort the sons to do? (Verses 1-2)
2. To whose example does he appeal? (Verses 3-4)
3. What did the grandfather exhort the father to do? (Verses 4-5)
4. What is the value of wisdom? (Verses 6, 8-9)

5. What is the most important thing for the young to acquire? (Verse 7)

VIII. Lecture VI: Father's Sixth Exhortation: Contrast Between the Wicked and the Righteous

Please read Proverbs 4:10-19.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the value of following the way of wisdom? (Verses 10-13)
2. What path should he avoid? (Verses 14-15)
3. Describe the way of the wicked. (Verses 16-17)
4. To what does the path of righteousness lead? (Verse 18)
5. To what does wickedness lead? (Verse 19)

IX. Lecture VII: Father's Seventh Instruction: Spiritual Health

Please read Proverbs 4:20-27.

A. Term to Define
heart

B. Discussion Questions

1. Where should the young person keep wise sayings? (Verses 20-21)
2. Why? (Verse 22)
3. How should he use his mouth? (Verse 24)
4. What about his eyes? (Verse 25)
5. His feet? (Verses 26-27)

C. Thought Questions

1. What is the most important part of our being to keep? (Verse 23)
2. Why?

X. Lecture VIII: Father's Eighth Instruction: Warnings Against an Immoral Woman

Please read Proverbs chapter five.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. wormwood | 3. enraptured |
| 2. hell | 4. folly |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Against what danger does the father now warn the son? (Verses 1-4)
2. Describe the path of life of the immoral woman. (Verses 5-6)
3. Therefore, how should the youth react to her? (Verses 7-8)
4. How would the youth later lament failure to heed? (Verses 12-13)
5. What is the end of the wicked? (Verses 22-23)

C. Thought Questions

1. What losses stem from sexual immorality? (Verses 9-11, 14)
2. How may sexual desires be legitimately satisfied? (Verses 15-19; cf. Hebrews 13:4)
3. What is the ultimate reason for the young man to heed? (Verses 20-21)

XI. Appendix: Three Inferior Types of Men

Please read Proverbs 6:1-19.

A. The Danger of Being a Guarantor

Please read Proverbs 6:1-5.

1. Terms to Define

a. surety

c. pledge

2. Discussion Questions

- a. Why is it unwise to guarantee a loan for another? (Verses 1-2; cf. 11:15; 17:18; 20:16; 22:26-27; 27:13)
- b. What should you do if you have done this? (Verses 3-5)

B. The Danger of Laziness

Please read Proverbs 6:6-11.

1. Term to Define

sluggard

2. Discussion Questions

- a. How is the ant an example to the sluggard? (Verses 6-8)
- b. What is a sluggard like? (Verses 9-10)
- c. What is the result? (Verse 11)

C. Warning Against a Wicked Man

Please read Proverbs 6:12-15.

Discussion Questions

1. What is a perverse person like? (Verses 12-14)
2. What will be his end? (Verse 15)

D. Things the Lord Hates

Please read Proverbs 6:16-19.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe the things the Lord hates.
2. How are they associated with part of the body?
3. What do they all have in common?

XII. Lecture X: Father's Ninth Instruction: The High Price of an Unchaste Wife

Please read Proverbs 6:20-35.

Discussion Questions

1. Why should a young person listen to his parents? (Verses 20-22)
2. From what danger will they protect him? (Verses 23-24)
3. Why is an unfaithful wife so dangerous? (Verses 25-35; cf. 27:4; Song of Solomon 8:6)

XIII. Lecture XI: Father's Tenth and Last Instruction: Warning Against the Immoral Woman

(Fourth and Last Lecture to Safeguard the Son Against the Unfaithful Wife [cf. 2:16-19; 5:1-23; 6:20-33])

Please read Proverbs chapter 7.

A. Discussion Questions

1. What should the young man do with his father's words? (Verses 1-3)
2. Why? (Verse 2)
3. What should he do with wisdom? (Verse 4)
4. Why? (Verse 5)
5. How does the immoral woman allure the simpleton? (Verses 5-21)
6. How does his encounter with her end? (Verses 22-23)
7. What warning does the father give? (Verses 24-27)

B. Thought Questions

Describe the immoral woman's attitude, clothing, speech, and actions.

XIV. Interlude II: Lady Wisdom's Second Speech (Her Appeal to the Simple in Contrast with that of the Immoral Woman of Chapter Seven)

Please read Proverbs chapter 8.

Discussion Questions

1. From where does Wisdom call? How does this contrast with the immoral woman? (Verses 1-3)
2. To whom does Wisdom call? (Verses 4-5)
3. What is the substance of her message? (Verses 6-8)
4. Are we capable of understanding and appreciating Wisdom? (Verse 9)
5. How valuable is Wisdom? (Verses 10-11)
6. What are the characteristics of Wisdom? (Verses 12-14)
7. What is the relationship between Wisdom and civil rule? (Verses 15-16)
8. Whom does Wisdom love? (Verse 17)
9. How valuable is Wisdom? (Verses 18-21)
10. What are the source and age of Wisdom? (Verses 22-29)
11. What is the relationship between Wisdom and the Lord and His creation? (Verses 30-31)
12. What should we therefore do? (Verses 32-33)
13. Why? (Verses 34-36)

XV. Interlude III: Lady Wisdom's Third Speech (The Rival Invitations of Wisdom and Folly)

Please read Proverbs chapter 9.

A. Term to Define
scoffer

B. Lady Wisdom's Invitation (Verses 1-6)

1. What preparations does Lady Wisdom make? (Verses 1-3)
2. Whom does she invite? (Verse 4)
3. What does she offer? (Verses 5-6)

C. Contrast between Trying to Teach a Scoffer and Teaching a Wise Person (Verses 7-12)

1. What does trying to teach a scoffer accomplish? (Verses 7-8)

2. What does teaching a wise person accomplish? (Verses 8-9)
3. Upon what principle is wisdom built? (Verse 10)
4. What are the primary rewards of wisdom and folly? (Verses 11-12)

D. The Foolish Woman's Invitation (Verses 13-18)

1. What is the foolish woman like? (Verses 13)
2. What preparation does she make? (Verse 14)
3. How public is her invitation? (Verses 14-15)
4. Whom does she invite? (Verses 16)
5. What does she offer? (Verse 17)
6. What is the result of accepting her invitation? (Verse 18)

The Proverbs of Solomon

(Part 1)

(This is the beginning of the proverbs proper. They consist of two line sayings teaching a basic ethical principle. The proverbs are like riddles (cf. Proverbs 1:6). You have to think about the relationship between the two lines, how each proverb fits into a larger pattern, and how the ancient sayings provide modern guidance. In Proverbs 10:1 - 15:30 the sayings are primarily antithetical, i.e., the second line contrasts the first. Each verse is an independent unit to be interpreted and applied by itself. But the proverbs are grouped by subject. There are repetitive sayings in different contexts. These chapters primarily contrast righteousness with wickedness and are meant to be the basic foundation of wisdom.)

I. Introduction

Please read Proverbs 10:1

Discussion Questions

Why should young people learn wisdom? (Verse 1)

II. The Wise and the Fool Distinguished by Their Behavior Toward Wealth and Speech

A. Wealth

Please read Proverbs 10:2-5

Discussion Question: for each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

B. Speech

Please read Proverbs 10:6-14.

1. Terms to Define

a. prating

b. integrity

2. Discussion Questions:

a. How many references to speech occur in chapter 10?

b. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

C. Wealth Again

Please read Proverbs 10:15-16.

Discussion Question:

For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

III. Results of Righteousness and Wickedness

Please read Proverbs 10:17 - 11:31.

A. Speech

Please read Proverbs 10:17-21.

Discussion Question:

For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

B. Speech and Expectations of the Righteous and of the Wicked

Please read Proverbs 10:22-32.

1. Term to Define

iniquity

2. Discussion Questions:

For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

3. Thought Questions

a. Contrast the results of living righteously and living wickedly.

b. How does our speech reveal whether we are righteous or wicked?

C. Security through Righteousness

Please read Proverbs 11:1-8.

Discussion Questions

1. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

2. Verse seven is an exception; the second line completes the first. Explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

D. How One's Life Influences Others

Please read Proverbs 11:9-16

1. Terms to Define

a. gracious

b. ruthless

2. Discussion Question

For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

E. The Consequences of Character

Please read Proverbs 11:17-26.

Discussion Questions

1. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
2. Verse 22 is an exception; it is a comparison (a very humorous one). Explain the comparison, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
3. Verse 25 is also an exception; the second line completes the first. Explain the proverb and suggestion an application to your life.

F. More Consequences of Character

Please read Proverbs 11:27-31.

Discussion Questions

1. Verses 27 and 28 involve contrast. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
2. In verses 29 - 31 the second line of each proverb completes the first. Explain each proverb and suggestion applications to your life.

IV. The Wise versus the Stupid

Please read Proverbs chapter 12:1-14.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. stupid | 3. frivolity |
| 2. excellent | 4. covet |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What is a primary difference between a wise person and a stupid one? (Verse 1)
2. What does the Lord do for each? (Verse 2)
3. What is the result for each? (Verse 3)
4. How important is a man's wife to his success? (Verse 4)
5. Why should we listen to the advice of a righteous man rather than a wicked one? For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 5 - 8)
6. How important is receiving honor? (Verse 9)
7. How do the righteous differ from the wicked? For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 10 - 13)

8. How are speech and action alike? (Verse 14; In this proverb, the second line adds to the first rather than contrasting it.)

V. The Use and Abuse of the Mouth

Please read Proverbs 12:15 - 28.

Discussion Questions

1. What is a primary difference between a fool and a wise person? (Verse 15)
2. Contrast the speech of a fool with that of the wise. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 16 - 23)
3. Contrast the lazy man with the diligent. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 24, 27)
4. What causes depression? What can help overcome it? (Verse 25)
5. How important is friendship? In this proverb the second line completes the first rather than contrasting with it. (Verse 26)
6. What is the reward for a righteous life? In this proverb the second line completes the first rather than contrasting with it. (Verse 28)

VI. The Wise Son vs. the Scoffer

Please read Proverbs 13:1-25.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. loathsome | 3. ambassador |
| 2. well-advised | 4. fallow |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between a wise son and a scoffer? (Verse 1; cf. 1:5; 10:1, 17; 12:1, 5)
2. Speech: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 2-3, 5)
3. Diligence: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 4)
4. Results: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 6)
5. Wealth: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 7-8, 11)

6. Results: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 9-10, 12-13)
7. Speech: In this proverb the second line completes the first rather than contrasting with it. Explain the proverb and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 14)
8. What is the difference in outcome between one with a good understanding and one who is unfaithful? (Verse 15)
9. Speech: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 16-17)
10. Outcome: For each proverb, explain the difference in outcome between the two clauses. Suggest a personal application for each. (Verses 18-22)
11. Outcome: In this proverb the second line completes the first rather than contrasting with it. How are laziness and injustice alike? (Verse 23)
12. Discipline of Children: Why should parents discipline their children? (Verse 24)
13. Result: What is a difference in results between righteousness and wickedness? (Verse 25)

VII. Living in Wisdom

Please read Proverbs 14:1-35.

A. Terms to Define

1. mirth
2. backslider

B. Discussion Questions: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two clauses. Suggest a personal application for each. (Exceptions are verses 7, 13, 19, 26, and 27 in which the second line completes the first.)

1. The Home: What is the difference between a wise woman and a foolish one? (Verse 1)
2. Morality: What is the difference between an upright person and a perverse one? (Verse 2)
3. Speech: Contrast the speech of a fool with that of one who is wise. (Verse 3)
4. Business: Is it better to invest in business or not? (Verse 4)
5. Character: How can you tell who to believe? (Verse 5)
6. Wisdom: Who will gain wisdom and knowledge and who will not? (Verse 6)
7. Company: How can we know whom to avoid? (Verse 7)
8. Wisdom and Folly: What is the difference between the wisdom of the prudent and the folly of fools? (Verse 8)

9. Fools vs. the Upright: Contrast fools with the upright. (Verse 9)
10. The Heart: Can anyone fully understand the grief or joy of another? (Verse 10)
11. Wicked vs. Upright: Who will endure - the wicked or the upright? (Verse 11)
12. The Way: Can we look within ourselves to find the right way to live? (Verse 12)
13. Appearances: Does outward merriment necessarily mean joy in the heart? (Verse 13)
14. Rewards: Contrast the reward of a backslider with that of a good man. (Verse 14)
15. Discernment: Should we believe everything we hear? (Verse 15)
16. Wisdom vs. Foolishness: Contrast the wise with the foolish. (Verse 16)
17. Two Errors: What is the difference between a quick-tempered man and a wicked schemer? (Verse 17)
18. Results: What is the difference in outcome between a simple person and a prudent one? (Verse 18)
19. Results: Contrast the end of evil people with the righteous? (Verse 19)
20. Friends: Contrast how people regard those who are poor with how they regard the rich. (Verse 20)
21. Attitude: What should my attitude be toward my neighbor? (Verse 21)
22. Plans: Contrast the end of those who devise evil with those who devise good. (Verse 22)
23. Success: Is it better to work or to talk? (Verse 23)
24. Success: How are the wise discerned from the foolish? (Verse 24)
25. Results: Contrast a truthful witness with a deceitful one. (Verse 25)
26. Fear of the Lord: What does the fear of the Lord yield? (Verses 26-27)
27. Rule: Is it better for a ruler to have many subjects or few? (Verse 28)
28. Self Discipline: Is it better to be slow to wrath or impulsive? (Verse 29)
29. Attitude: What is the difference in results between a sound heart and envy? (Verse 30)
30. The Poor: Should we look down on poor people? (Verse 31)

VIII. Walking in Wisdom

Please read Proverbs 15:1-29 (In verses 3, 10, 11, 12, 23, and 24 the second line completes the first rather than contrasting with it.)

A. Terms to Define

1. destruction
2. countenance

B. Discussion Questions

1. Speech: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 23, 26)
2. The Lord: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 9, 25, 29. In verses 3 and 11 the second line completes the first.)
3. Instruction: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 5)
4. Wealth: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 6, 16, 17, 27)
5. Worship: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 7, 8)
6. Correction: For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 10, 12)
7. Heart: For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 13, 14, 15, 28.)
8. Anger: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 18)
9. Diligence: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 19)
10. Parents: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 20)
11. Folly: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 21)
13. Counsel: Explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 22)
14. Way of Life: Explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 24)

The Proverbs of Solomon (Part 2)

Please read Proverbs 15:30 - 22:16.

(In Proverbs 15:30 - 22:16 there is a shift. He has presented the fundamentals of wisdom in chapters 10 - 15. In each proverb usually the second line contrasted with the first. Now things are more challenging: choices are not as clear; life gets complicated. In most of these proverbs the second line completes the first rather than contrasting with it.)

I. Introduction

Please read Proverbs 15:30-33

Discussion Question: How can we gain joy, wisdom, and honor? (15:30-33; Verse 31 is unique, a single sentence proverb. In verse 32 line two contrasts rather than completes.)

II. The Lord's Rule

Please read Proverbs 16:1-9

A. Term to Define

Atonement

B. Discussion Questions:

1. In verses 1, 2, 8, and 9 explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
2. In verses 3-7, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
3. How can we ensure that our words and works please the Lord?

III. The King

Please read Proverbs 16:10-15.

A. Term to Define

Divination

B. Discussion Questions

1. In verses 10-12, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
2. In verses 13-15, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

IV. Priorities

Please read Proverbs 16:16-17

Discussion Question

What should our priorities be in life?

V. Pride

Please read Proverbs 16:18-19

Discussion Question

Why is humility better than pride?

VI. Wise Speech

Please read Proverbs 16:20-24

Discussion Questions

1. How may we demonstrate wisdom by our speech?
2. What are the benefits of wise speech?

VII. Foolish Speech

Please read Proverbs 16:25-30

A. Term to Define

ungodly

B. Discussion Questions

1. What is the cause of foolish speech? (Verse 25; cf. 14:12)
2. How does verse 26 tie into this theme?
3. What kind of people employ foolish speech?
4. What are the characteristics of such speech?
5. What are its results?

VIII. The Splendid Crown of Righteousness through Old Age

Please read Proverbs 16:31 - 17:6

A. Term to Define

lot

B. Discussion Question

For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

IX. A Further Catalog of Fools

Please read Proverbs 17:7-28.

(The term “fool” is found seven times in this section [verses 7, 10, 12, 16, 21, 24, 28].)

A. Term to Define

present

B. Discussion Question

1. For each of the following proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life (verses 7-8, 11-21, 23, 25-28).
2. For each of the following proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life (verses 9-10, 22, 24).

X. The Speech of Fools versus the Speech of the Wise

Please read Proverbs 18:1-21.

A. The Antisocial Speech of Fools

Please read Proverbs 18:1-11.

Discussion Question: For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

B. Transition to Wise Behavior

Please read Proverbs 18:12; cf. 15:33.

Discussion Question

Contrast the results of pride with the reward of humility.

C. The Unteachable Fool vs. the Teachable Wise

Please read Proverbs 18:13-15.

Discussion Question: For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

D. Justice and Conflicts

Please read Proverbs 18:16-19.

Discussion Question: For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

E. The Power of Speech

Please read Proverbs 18:20-21.

Discussion Question: For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

XI. Wealth and Wisdom in the Court and in the Home

Please read Proverbs 18:22 - 19:23.

A. Poverty, Wealth, and Companions

Please read Proverbs 18:22 - 19:7.

1. Term to Define nobility

2. Discussion Questions

a. For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (18:22, 24; 19:2-6)

b. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (18:23; 19:4)

c. Proverbs 19:1 is one of twenty “better than” statements in Proverbs (Proverbs 3:13-14; 8:11, 19; 12:9; 15:16, 17; 16:8, 16, 19, 32; 17:1; 19:22; 21:9, 19; 25:7, 24; 27:5, 10; 28:6). Explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

d. Proverbs 19:7 is the only three line proverb in 10:1 - 22:16. Explain what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

B. Wisdom in the Court and in the Home

Please read Proverbs 19:8-15.

C. Educating the Son to Show Kindness to the Needy

Please read Proverbs 19:16-23

XII. The Teacher and the Punishment of Fools

Please read Proverbs 19:23 - 20:11.

A. Introduction

Please read Proverbs 19:23.

Discussion Question

What is the reward for fearing the Lord?

B. Fools and Their Punishment

Please read Proverbs 19:24 - 20:1.

1. Discussion Questions

a. For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (19:24, 26, 27, 28, 29; 20:1)

b. For this proverb, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (19:25)

3. Thought Question

Explain the harm done by various kinds of fools.

C. The Righteous King and Fools

Please read Proverbs 20:2-11.

1. The Righteous Kings Roots Out All Evil.

Please read Proverbs 20:2-8.

Discussion Questions

a. For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (20:2, 3, 7, 8)

b. For each proverb, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (20:5, 6)

D. Justice and Human Action

Please read Proverbs 20:9-11.

Discussion Questions

1. Is anyone sinless under the law? (Verse 9; cf. 1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10, 20, 23; 5:12; Galatians 3:22; James 3:2; 1 John 1:8, 10)

2. What is the Lord's attitude toward sin and evil? (Verse 10)

3. How do we know a person's character? (Verse 11)

XIII. Speech and Business

Please read Proverbs 20:12-19

Discussion Questions

- A. For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (20:12, 13, 16, 18, 19)

- B. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (20:14, 15, 17)

XIV. Trusting the Lord to Avenge Wrong Through His Wise King

Please read Proverbs 20:20-28.

A. Terms to Define

1. devote
2. threshing wheel

B. Discussion Questions

For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

XV. Doing Righteousness and Justice

Please read Proverbs 20:29 - 21:31.

A. Introduction

Please read Proverbs 20:29 - 21:3

Discussion Questions

1. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (20:29, 21:2)

2. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (20:30; 21:1, 3)

B. Doing Righteousness and Justice

Please read Proverbs 21:4-29.

1. The Wicked's Pursuit of Wealth

Please read Proverb 21:4-8.

a. Term to Define

hasty

b. Discussion Questions

- (1) For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:4, 6, 7)

- (2) For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:5, 8)

2. The Righteous Triumph Over the Wicked

Please read Proverbs 21:9-19.

Discussion Questions

- a. Proverbs 21:9 is another of twenty “better than” statements in Proverbs (Proverbs 3:13-14; 8:11, 19; 12:9; 15:16, 17; 16:8, 16, 19, 32; 17:1; 19:1, 22; 21:9, 19; 25:7, 24; 27:5, 10; 28:6). Explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
- b. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18)
- c. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:11, 15).

3. Endurance of Righteous Vs. Death of Wicked

Please read Proverbs 21:20-29.

a. Term to Define

covets greedily

b. Discussion Questions

- (1) For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:20, 26, 28, 29)
- (2) For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27)

4. The Lord’s Rule Over People and Nations

Please read Proverbs 21:30-31.

Discussion Questions

- a. In this proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:30)
- b. In this proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (21:31)

XVI. Wealth and Moral Instruction

Please read Proverbs 22:1-16.

Discussion Questions

1. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (22:1 - 2, 4, 6 - 11, 13 - 16)
2. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line contrasts with the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (22:3, 5, 12)

Thirty Sayings of the Wise

(These thirty sayings are a distinct collection of wisdom parallel to but not the same as the Egyptian **Instruction of Amenemope** (ca. 1186 - 1069 B.C.). Thirty symbolizes maturity. Joseph was thirty years old when he appeared before Pharaoh [Genesis 41:46]. Levites had to be thirty to enter active service [Numbers 4:46-48]. David was thirty years old when he began to reign [2 Samuel 5:4], and Jesus was thirty when he began His ministry [Luke 3:23]. The sayings are now in the form of instruction poems longer than the two lines each of Proverbs 10:1 - 22:16. These sayings serve as a guidebook to ethics for public service.)

Please read Proverbs 22:17 - 24:22.

I. Saying One: Prologue

Please read Proverbs 22:17 - 21.

Discussion Question

Why should the youth hear the words of the wise?

II. Ten Sayings about Wealth

Please read Proverbs 22:22 - 23:11.

A. Saying Two: Do not oppress the poor and afflicted.

Please read Proverb 22:22-23.

Discussion Question

Why should we not oppress the poor and afflicted?

B. Saying Three: Do not become friends with an angry man.

Please read Proverbs 22:24-25.

Discussion Question:

Why shouldn't you be befriend a hothead?

C. Saying Four: Do not be a loan guarantor.

Please read Proverbs 22:26-27.

Discussion Question

Why shouldn't you guarantee a loan for someone else?

D. Saying Five: Do not move the ancient landmark.

Please read Proverbs 22:28.

1. Term to Define landmark

2. Discussion Question

Why was moving the "ancient landmark" wrong?

E. Saying Six: One who excels in his work will be rewarded.

Please read Proverbs 22:29.

Discussion Question

What is the value of being good at what you do?

F. Saying Seven: Do not desire the delicacies of the ruler.

Please read Proverbs 23:1-3.

Discussion Question

Why should you restrain your appetite if eating with a ruler?

G. Saying Eight (Theme of the Section): Do not set your heart on riches.
Please read Proverbs 23:4-5.

Discussion Question

Why is working too hard for riches a mistake?

H. Saying Nine: Do not eat with a miser.

Please read Proverbs 23:6-8.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it a mistake to receive the hospitality of a miser?

2. Do a person's words always reveal his heart?

I. Saying Ten: Don't try to reason with a fool.

Please read Proverbs 23:9.

Discussion Question

Why shouldn't we try to speak with a fool?

J. Saying Eleven: Don't Oppress the Fatherless

Please read Proverbs 23:10-11.

Discussion Questions

Why should we not oppress the fatherless?

III. An Obedient Son

Please read Proverbs 23:12 - 24:2.

A. Saying Twelve: Apply your heart to instruction.

Please read Proverbs 23:12.

Discussion Question

What is the tie between the heart and the ears?

B. Saying Thirteen: Do not withhold correction from a child.

Please read Proverbs 23:13-14.

Discussion Questions

1. Is punishment necessary to the instruction of young people?

2. What can of death does the wise man consider?

C. Saying Fourteen: My heart is tied to your heart and mouth.

Please read Proverbs 23:15-16.

Discussion Question

How do the heart and lips of the youth affect the heart of his parents?

D. Saying Fifteen: Do not envy sinners but fear the Lord.

Please read Proverbs 23:17-18

1. Discussion Questions

a. What two paths does the wise man contrast?

b. Why should the youth heed his advice?

2. Thought Question

Does Proverbs address life after death or does it just pertain to this life?

E. Saying Sixteen: Listen, Son - Stay away from drinkers and gluttons!

Please read Proverbs 23:19-21.

1. Term to Define

winebibbers

2. Discussion Question

Why should the youth not associate with winebibbers and “gluttonous eaters of meat”?

F. Saying Seventeen: Listen to Your Parents!

Please read Proverbs 23:22-25.

Discussion Questions

1. Where can a young person learn truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding?

2. How valuable is this education?

3. If he listens, how will it affect his parents?

G. Saying Eighteen: Don't be victim to seduction.

Please read Proverbs 23:26-28.

Discussion Questions

1. Where is defense against seduction? (Verse 26)

2. How dangerous is illicit sex? (Verses 27-28)

H. Saying Nineteen: Do not look on the wine.

Please read Proverbs 23:29-35.

Discussion Questions

1. Who brings sorrow upon himself? (Verses 29-30)

2. What is the allure of wine? (Verse 31)

3. To what does it lead? (Verses 32-35)

I. Saying Twenty: Do not be envious of evil men

Please read Proverbs 24:1-2.

Discussion Question

Why not be envious of evil men? (cf. Proverbs 3:31; 23:17; 24:19)

IV. Strength in Distress

Please read Proverbs 24:3-12.

A. Saying Twenty-one: By wisdom a house is built.

Please read Proverbs 24:3-4.

Discussion Questions

1. How can you build your house?

2. How is the wise man using the terms “build” and “house”?

- B. Saying Twenty-two: A wise man is strong.
Please read Proverbs 24:5-6.
Discussion Question
What is the source of strength in conflict?
- C. Saying Twenty-three: Wisdom is too lofty for a fool.
Please read Proverbs 24:7.
Discussion Question
Why should a fool not discuss public policy?
- D. Saying Twenty-four: He who plots to do evil Will be called a schemer.
Please read Proverbs 24:8-9.
Discussion Questions
1. What kind of person does this proverb discuss?
2. What will happen to him?
- E. Saying Twenty-five: If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.
Please read Proverbs 24:10-12.
Discussion Questions
1. What does it say about us if we fail in our duty because of adversity? (Verse 10)
2. What is our duty toward the dying? (Verse 11)
3. Is there any acceptable excuse for failing in this? (Verse 12)
- V. Prohibitions Against Involvement with the Wicked
Please read Proverbs 24:13-22.
- A. Saying Twenty-six: Wisdom is sweetness to the soul.
Please read Proverbs 24:13-14.
1. Term to Define
prospect
2. Discussion Questions
a. How are wisdom and honey alike?
b. What is the benefit of wisdom?
- B. Saying Twenty-seven: Do not lie in wait against the dwelling place of the righteous.
Please read Proverbs 24:15-16.
Discussion Questions
1. What does it mean to lie in wait against the dwelling place of the righteous?
2. Why should we not do this?
- C. Saying Twenty-eight: Do not rejoice when your enemy falls.
Please read Proverbs 24:17-18.
Discussion Question
Why should we not rejoice when our enemy falls?

D. Saying Twenty-nine: Do not fret because of evil doers.
Please read Proverbs 24:19-20.

1. Term to Define
fret

2. Discussion Question

Why should we not fret over or be envious of the wicked?

E. Saying Thirty: Fear the Lord and the king.
Please read Proverbs 24:21-22

Discussion Questions

1. Why should we “fear the Lord and the king”?

2. Who are “those given to change”?

Further Sayings of the Wise

Please read Proverbs 24:23-34.

I. It is not good to show partiality in judgment.

Please read Proverbs 24:23-26.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it not good to show partiality in judgment? (Verses 23-25)
2. Why is a right answer like kissing the lips? (Verse 26)

II. First prepare your work.

Please read Proverbs 24:27.

Discussion Question

Why should we prepare for our work before our house?

III. Do not be a false witness.

Please read Proverbs 24:28-29.

Discussion Question

Why should we not be a false witness?

IV. Don't be lazy.

Please read Proverbs 24:30-34.

Discussion Question

Why should we not be lazy?

Proverbs of Solomon Copied by the Men of Hezekiah

Please read Proverbs chapters 25 - 29

I. Title

Please read Proverbs 25:1.

A. Person to Identify

Hezekiah

B. Discussion Questions

1. Who wrote the following proverbs?
2. Who collected and arranged them?

II. Comparative Proverbs

Please read Proverbs 25:1 - 27:22

(Usually line one has a comparison, and line two has the object or point of the comparison.)

A. The Court of the King and the Conflict between Good and Evil

Please read Proverbs 25:2-27.

1. God and Rulers

Please read Proverbs 25:2-3.

a. Term to Define

glory

b. Discussion Questions

(1) How do the glory of God and the glory of rulers contrast?

(2) What is the heart of the ruler like?

2. Silver and the King

Please read Proverbs 25:4-5.

Discussion Question

How is the rule of the king established?

3. Admonitions for Court Officials

Please read Proverbs 25:6-10.

a. Humility

Please read Proverbs 25:6-7.

Discussion Question

Is it better to promote yourself or to abase yourself? Why? (cf. Luke 14:7-11)

b. Lawsuits

Please read Proverbs 25:8-10.

Discussion Question

Why is it better to settle a dispute privately rather than publicly? (cf. Matthew 18:15-17)

4. Proper Court Behavior
 - Please read Proverbs 25:11-15.
 - a. Appropriate Speech
 - Please read Proverbs 25:11-12
 - Discussion Question
 - How important is proper speech?
 - b. Faithful Speech
 - Please read Proverbs 25:13.
 - Discussion Question
 - (1) What is a faithful messenger?
 - (2) How refreshing is he to those who send him?
 - c. Unfaithful Speech
 - Please read Proverbs 25:14
 - What is one who makes false promises like?
 - d. Forbearance and Gentleness
 - Please read Proverbs 25:15.
 - (1) Term to Define
 - forbearance
 - (2) Discussion Question
 - How can a ruler be persuaded?
5. Resolving Conflicts
 - Please read Proverbs 25:16-22.
 - a. Moderation
 - Please read Proverbs 25:16.
 - Discussion Question
 - What principle does this proverb illustrate?
 - c. Consideration
 - Please read Proverbs 25:17.
 - Discussion Question
 - What principle does this proverb illustrate?
 - d. Neighbors
 - Please read Proverbs 25:18-22.
 - (Each of these proverbs teaches a principle about relations with neighbors. What principle does each illustrate? [cf. Romans 12:19-21])
6. Unexpected Conflicts
 - Please read Proverbs 25:23-26.
 - What principle does each of these proverbs advocate?
7. Conclusion:
 - Please read Proverbs 25:27.
 - Discussion Question
 - How does the figure of eating honey differ in application in this proverb from verse 16?

B. Warnings Against Seven Kinds of Morally Defective People (Seven represents perfection
- cf. Psalm 12:6; 119:164; Proverbs 6:16; 9:1; 24:16; 26:16, 25)

Please read Proverbs 25:28 - 26:28.

1. One Lacking Self Discipline

Please read Proverbs 25:28. (cf. 16:32)

Discussion Question

How is an undisciplined person like an unwalled city?

2. The Fool

Please read Proverbs 26:1-12.

Discussion Questions

a. Should we give honor to a fool? (Verses 1, 8)

b. Conversely, will a curse harm one who has done no wrong? (Verse 2)

c. What does a fool deserve? (Verse 3)

d. How should you answer a fool? (Verses 4-5)

e. Should you trust a fool with an important message? (Verse 6)

f. Do fools speak wisely? (Verses 7, 9)

g. Who will reward the fool and the transgressor? (Verse 10)

h. Do fools learn from their mistakes? (Verse 11)

i. Who is more hopeless than a fool? (Verse 12)

3. The Lazy Person

Please read Proverbs 26:13-16.

Discussion Questions

a. How does a lazy person justify his laziness? (Verse 13)

b. What is he like? (Verses 14-15)

c. Why can he not be corrected? (Verse 16, cf. Verse 12)

4. Four Kinds of Troublemakers

Please read Proverbs 26:17-28.

a. The Busybody

Please read Proverbs 26:17

Discussion Question

What is a busybody like?

b. The Joker

Please read Proverbs 26:18-19.

Discussion Question

What is a joker like?

c. The Talebearer

Please read Proverbs 26:20-22

Discussion Questions

(1) What is the relationship between gossip and strife? (Verses 20-21)

(2) How does gossip affect the one who listens to it? (Verse 22)

d. The Hateful Enemy

Please read Proverbs 26:23-28.

(1) Terms to Define

(a) burning lips

(b) dross

(2) Discussion Questions

(a) What is loving speech like from a spiteful heart? (Verses 23-25, 28)

(b) How will his deception be uncovered? (Verse 26)

(c) What will be the ultimate result of his hypocrisy? (Verse 27)

C. About Friends and Friendship

Please read Proverbs 27:1-22.

(Chapter 27 is composed of 22 sayings. Each saying begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in alphabetic order, through the entire Hebrew alphabet. Thus, it is called “alphabetic.” Proverbs 31:10-31 follows the same form. Waltke calls this chapter “A Manual on Friendship.”)

1. Terms to Define

a. mortar

b. pestle

2. Discussion Questions

a. Why not boast about tomorrow? (Verse 1)

b. Which praise is valuable and which is not? Why? (Verse 2)

c. What is the heaviest burden to bear? (Verse 3)

d. What is the most destructive emotion? (Verse 4; cf. 6:32-35)

e. Explain how a friend’s wounds help while an enemy’s apparent love hurts. (Verses 5-6)

f. Can we have too much of a good thing? (Verse 7)

g. Why is it good to have a home? (Verse 8)

h. What is the value of a good friend and neighbor? (Verses 9-10)

i. How do children affect the esteem with which others hold their parents? (Verse 11)

- j. Verse 12 (cf. 22:3)
- l. Verse 13; cf. 6:1-5; 11:15; 17:18; 20:16; 22:26
- m. How can a blessing become a curse? (Verse 14)
- n. How does a quarrelsome wife affect her husband? (Verses 15-16)
- o. How can friends help each other spiritually and mentally? (Verse 17)
- p. Does being a good employee benefit the worker? (Verse 18)
- q. How can we know others? (Verse 19)
- r. Are greedy people ever satisfied? (Verse 20)
- s. How does public opinion reflect a man's worth? (Verse 21)
- t. Can you get the foolishness out of a fool? (Verse 22)

D. Instruction Poem: Know Your Business

Please read Proverbs 27:23-27.

Discussion Question

Why is it important to know your business?

III. Sayings on the Righteous and the Wicked

Please read Proverbs 28:1 - 29:27.

(In chapters 28 - 29, revert to a predominance of contrasting proverbs. Line one contrasts with line two.)

A. Divine Law, Human Rule, and Wealth

Please read Proverbs 28:1-11.

Discussion Questions

- a. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verse 10 is a three line proverb.)
- b. Verses 3, 8, and 9 are exceptions; the second line complete the first. For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
- c. Verse six is the last of the twenty "better/than" proverbs (Proverbs 3:14; 8:11, 19; 12:9; 15:16, 17; 16:8, 16, 19, 32; 17:1; 19:1, 22; 21:9, 19; 25:7, 24; 27:5, 10). Explain what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

B. Relationship to the Lord, Rule, and Wealth

Please read Proverbs 28:12-27.

1. Terms to Define

- a. reverent
- b. covetousness
- c. evil eye

2. Discussion Questions

- a. For each proverb, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.
- b. Verses 15, 17, 21, 22, and 24 are exceptions; the second line complete the first. For each proverb, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.

C. Rule of People and Raising Children

Please read Proverbs 29:1-15.

Discussion Questions

- a. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.(Verses 1, 5, 9, 12-14)
- b. For each of these proverbs, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 2-4, 6-8, 10-11, 15)

D. Raising Children and Relationship with God

Please read Proverbs 29:16-26.

1. Term to Define
revelation

2. Discussion Questions

- a. For each of these proverbs, explain the contrast between the two lines, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life. (Verses 16, 18, 23, 25-27)
- b. For each of these proverbs, explain how the second line completes the first, tell what the proverb means, and suggest an application to your own life.(Verses 17, 19-22, 24)

The Words of Agur the Son of Jakeh

Please read Proverbs chapter 30.

I. Introduction:

Please read verses 1-9.

A. Terms to Define

1. utterance
2. profane

B. Discussion Questions

1. Where did Agur get his sayings? (Verse 1)
2. Why did he call himself stupid? (Verses 2-3)

C. Thought Questions

1. Can we attain the knowledge of God by human wisdom? (Verses 2-4; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)
2. What should be our attitude toward His word? (Verses 5-6; cf. Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19)
3. What should be our attitude toward wealth? (Verses 7-9)

D. Two Requests

Please read Proverbs 30:7-9

Discussion Questions

1. What requests did Agur make of God? (Verses 7-8)
2. Why did he request moderate wealth? (Verse 9)

II. Numerical Sayings

Please read Proverbs 30:10-33

A. Terms to Define

1. malign
2. generation

B. The Slandered Slave's Curse

Please read Proverbs 30:10.

Discussion Question

Why should we not malign a servant to his master?

C. A Filthy Generation

Please read Proverbs 30:11-14.

1. Discussion Question

How does Agur describe the generation of which he speaks?

2. Thought Question

Can certain sins characterize a whole generation?

D. Insatiable Things

Please read Proverbs 30:15-16.

Discussion Question

How are each of the things listed insatiable?

Thought Question

What is the lesson we should learn?

E. A Disrespectful Child

Please read Proverbs 30:17

Discussion Question

What does a child who is disrespectful of his parents bring on himself?

F. Four Mysterious Things

Please read Proverbs 30:18-19.

Discussion Question

How are each of the mentioned things mysterious?

G. The Way of an Adulteress

Please read Proverbs 30:20

Discussion Question

How does the way of an adulteress contrast with the way of a man with a virgin?

H. Four Upside Down Social Situations

Please read Proverbs 30:21-23.

Discussion Question

Why do these four things perturb the earth?

I. Four Small, Wise Creatures

Please read Proverbs 30:24-28.

Discussion Question

How does each of these small creatures use wisdom to offset its weakness?

J. Four Stately Things

Please read Proverbs 30:29-31.

Discussion Question

Why are each of the things mentioned in this proverb stately?

K. Put Your Hand on Your Mouth

Please read Proverbs 30:32-33.

Discussion Question

Why should the troublemaker keep silent?

The Words of King Lemuel That His Mother Taught Him

Please read Proverbs chapter 31.

I. Introduction

Please read Proverbs 31:1.

A. Discussion Question

1. What is the source of the advice in this chapter?

II. Advice to the King from the Queen Mother

Please read Proverbs 31:2-9.

A. Discussion Questions

1. What gave her the right to advise the king? (Verse 2)
2. What was her advice concerning women? (Verse3)
3. What did she recommend about intoxicating drink? (Verses 4-7)
4. What advice did she give about justice for the poor? (Verses 8-9)

III. A Virtuous (Valiant) Woman

Please read Proverbs 31:10-31.

A. Overview

This remarkable description of the ideal wife forms the conclusion to Proverbs, the book of wisdom. It is remarkable for the lofty view it gives of womanhood at a time when women generally were degraded as the property of their husbands or fathers and considered to be fit only for menial labor, even as women are still considered and treated in pagan and Muslim lands. The thoughtful reader discerns the mind of God in this poem which elevates woman to the lofty plain of the divine intention for her stated at creation and restored in Christ. This is not a man's view of womanhood. This is the kind of wife the mother of King Lemuel instructed her son to seek.

The twenty-two verses of the text are an acrostic poem; each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet in alphabetical order. The Hebrew alphabet has twenty-two letters, all consonants. The vowels are determined by vowel points beneath the letters. Verse one begins with the Hebrew letter *aleph*, verse two with *beth*, and so on through the alphabet.

Psalms 119 is another striking example of a Hebrew acrostic poem. It is composed of 22 stanzas with eight verses to each stanza. Each stanza begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in alphabetic order through the entire Hebrew alphabet. Each verse of each stanza begins with the Hebrew letter of that stanza. You can look at the headings of Psalm 119 to see the letters of the Hebrew alphabet and how to pronounce them.

This passage, Proverbs 31:10-31, is also in the form of a Hebrew heroic hymn, meant to celebrate a great hero (cf. Judges 5, which was also composed by a woman and contains praise of women - verses 1, 7, 12, 15, 24-27).

Acrostic poems were popular with the Jews, since the Jews placed great emphasis upon memorizing scripture, and the acrostic form made memorizing easier. Proverbs 31:10-31 was meant to be memorized (as was Psalm 119, although it is 176 verses long).

The virtuous wife is a living embodiment and practical application of Lady Wisdom (cf. Proverbs 1:20; 3:13-20; chapters 8-9).

B. Outline (adapted from Waltke)

1. Her Value - verses 10-12
2. Her Work - verses 13-27
3. Her Praise - verses 28-31
 - a. by her family - verses 28-29
 - b. by all - verses 30-31

A. Term to Define

virtuous

B. Discussion Questions

1. Who is the author of Proverbs 31:10-31?
2. What kind of literature is this passage?
3. Why did the Hebrews write acrostic poems?
4. What are the three sections of this poem?
5. How valuable is a virtuous woman?
6. In what ways is the virtuous woman trustworthy?
7. How lasting is the value of a virtuous woman to her husband?

C. Thought Questions

1. Should women today try to duplicate every specific activity of this virtuous woman?
2. What qualities of character does she exemplify that women should strive to have?
3. How could you use this passage to:
 - a. train your daughters?
 - b. train your sons?
 - c. teach your sons the kind of wife they should seek?

Glossary

A

abomination - disgusting thing
ambassador - messenger, envoy
aphorism - a concise statement of a broad truth
Atonement - covering, purging

B

backslider - one who turns away from God
burning lips - lips glowing with, affection, uttering warm words of love

C

chains - necklace, symbol of attractiveness
chastening - discipline, correction
correction - rebuke, reproof
covenant - marriage contract (cf. Malachi 2:14)
covet - desire
covetousness - unjust gain
covets greedily - continues to crave
countenance - look of the face

D

despise - hold in contempt
destruction - abyss (cf. Revelation 9:11)
detest - loathe, abhor
devious - crooked, twisted
devote - promise to give to the Lord
discernment - understanding
discretion - that which sets a man on his guard and prevents him from being duped by others
Divination - message from God
doctrine - teaching
dross - glaze, veneer

E

enigma - figurative saying
enraptured - intoxicated, exhilarated
epigram - a concise, sage, witty, and often seemingly self-contradictory saying
equity - integrity
established - made firm, made stable
evil eye - jealous, envious, grudging, greedy
excellent - virtuous, morally strong (Ruth 3:11; Proverbs 31:10)

F

fallow - untilled, unused

folly - foolishness

fools - those who are stubborn, ungodly, immoral, arrogant, willfully ignorant, and have made folly a way of life

forbearance - slowness to anger

fret - burn with anger

frivolity - worthless pursuits

G

generation - those living during the same period

glory - that which brings honor

grace - adornment, favor

graceful ornament - attractive wreath, symbolic of victory

gracious - having noble character

H

hasty - one who acts with impatience and inconsiderate rashness

heart - mind

hell - "*sheol*," the realm of the dead

Hezekiah - righteous king of Judah, contemporary of and coworker with Isaiah in restoring Judah to the Lord, restoring the worship of the Lord in the Temple, restoring the Passover, and successfully resisting the Assyrians

I

immoral woman - literally strange woman, either the wife of another man or a prostitute

iniquity - deviation, injustice, sin

instruction - moral training

integrity - openness, concealing nothing, blamelessness

J

judgment - right reason

justice - that which is in accord with the will and ordinances of God as Supreme Judge

K

knowledge - correct information

L

landmark - boundary marker for family land established when Joshua allotted the land to Israel by tribe and family

loathsome - disgusting

lot - pebbles used for systematically making decisions

M

malign - slander
mercy - kindness
mirth - joy, gladness, gaiety, pleasure
mortar - a sturdy vessel in which material is pounded or rubbed with a pestle

N-O

nobility - generous, noble in mind and character

P

perverse - distorted, crooked, devious, the wilful misrepresentation of that which is good and true
pestle - a usually club-shaped implement for pounding or grinding substances in a mortar
pledge - promise to pay
prating - babbling
present - bribe
profane - blaspheme
prospect - future, hope
proverb - a short, easily remembered sentence composed of two or more parallel lines
 concisely expressing an important principle of living; biblically, a wise saying gained by
 experience and confirmed and recorded by inspiration
prudence - the capacity of escaping from the wiles of others

Q-R

rebuke - reproof, verbal chastisement
revelation - prophetic vision (cf. 1 Samuel 3:1; 1 Chronicles 17:15; Psalm 89:18; Isaiah 1:1;
 Lamentations 2:9; Ezekiel 7:26; Daniel 1:17; 9:24; 10:14; Hosea 12:10; Micah 3:6;
 Nahum 1:1; Habakkuk 2:2-3)
reverent - anxious concern, dread, fear
riddles - dark, perplexing sayings
ruthless - violent, terrifying

S

saints - holy ones
scoffer - same as scorers
scorners - hardened sinners who mock at right, think they know everything, and are too proud
 to hear wisdom
seductress - adulteress
simple - naive, inexperienced, easily swayed, gullible
sluggard - lazy person
stupid - like a brute beast
surety - guarantee of a loan

T

threshing wheel - wheel of a cart driven over the unwinnowed grain, to separate the chaff from the grain, symbol of judgment between good and wicked
terror - disaster

U-V

understanding - the capability of discerning the true from the false, good from bad
ungodly - worthless, good for nothing
upright - one who lives a life regulated by right principles for the right purpose
utterance - oracle, burden, prophecy, a message from God
virtuous - excellent, worthy, strong, valiant, cf. Proverbs 12:4; Ruth 3:11

W-X-Y-Z

well-advised - those who take advice
winebibbers - heavy drinkers
wisdom - the ability to properly use knowledge
wise counsels - truths that help us live right
wormwood - bitter plant, considered poisonous (**KJV** - *hemlock*)

Proverbs Arranged Topically
(adapted from **The Daily Bible**, by F. LaGard Smith)

Purpose of Proverbs

1:1-6

The Call of Wisdom (Personified as a Woman)

8:1 - 9:6

Benefits of Following Wisdom

2:1-22

3:13-24

Dangers of Rejecting Wisdom

1:20-33

9:13-18

Solomon's Personal Plea

4:1-27

Value of Words of Wise

22:17-21

Fear of the Lord

1:7

14:2

19:23

9:10-12

14:26-27

28:14

10:27

15:33

The Word of God

30:5-6

Trust in God or Self

3:5-8

18:2

21:22

14:12

18:4

26:12

16:25

18:10

28:25-26

16:3

19:3

29:25

16:20

20:24

Divine Providence

15:3

16:9

21:30-31

16:1

16:33

22:12

16:4

19:21

27:1

Wisdom and Folly

13:14

16:22

24:7

14:24

17:12

24:13-14

15:24

Dealing with Fools

26:4-11

27:22

29:9

Discernment and Understanding

10:13	14:15	17:24
10:23	14:33	19:8
13:15	15:21	20:5
14:6	16:16	20:12
14:8		

Knowledge

10:14	18:15	21:11
13:16	19:2	23:12
14:18	20:15	24:3-4
15:14		

Advice and Rebuke

3:1-2	15:31	23:9
9:7-9	17:10	25:12
10:8	19:16	27:5-6
12:15	19:20	27:17
13:1	19:25	29:1
13:13	19:27	

Value of Advisors

11:14	20:18	24:5-6
15:22		

Discipline

3:11-12	15:10	20:30
10:17	15:12	29:19
12:1	15:32	29:21
13:18		

Lawkeeping

28:4	28:9	29:18
28:7		

Repentance

14:9	28:13	
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Righteousness and Wickedness

10:6-7	12:21	15:9
10:16	12:28	20:7
10:28-30	13:9	21:18
11:5-10	13:21	24:15-16
11:18-20	13:25	28:12
11:23	14:11	28:28
12:2-3	14:19	29:2
12:5-8	14:34	29:16
12:12	15:6	29:27

Integrity and Deviousness

10:9	21:8	28:18
13:6	24:8-9	29:10
15:26		

Appropriate Consequences

3:33-35	14:14	21:16
10:3	14:22	21:21
10:22	16:7	22:8
10:24-25	17:13	26:1
11:21	18:3	26:3
11:27	19:29	26:27
11:30-31	21:12	

Motive and the Heart

15:11	20:11	21:2
16:2	20:27	27:19
17:3		

False Worship

15:8	21:3	21:27
15:29		

Duplicity

6:12-15	16:30	23:6-8
10:10-11	20:14	26:23-26
11:3		

Love and Faithfulness

3:3-4	20:6	25:19
16:6		

Love, Hatred, and Compassion

10:12	17:5	25:21-22
15:17	24:17-18	

Kindness and Mercy

11:16-17	12:25	21:10
12:10		

Overstaying Welcome

25:16-17

Pride and Humility

11:2	18:12	26:16
12:9	19:10	27:2
13:7	20:9	27:21
13:10	21:4	28:25
15:25	21:24	29:23
16:5	22:4	30:1-4
16:18-19	25:27	30:11-14

Selfishness			
18:1			
Jealousy			
27:4			
Envy			
14:30			24:19-20
Greed			
30:15-16			
Self-Control			
25:28			29:11
Rashness			
20:25	25:8		29:20
21:5			
Temper and Patience			
12:16	16:32		22:24-25
14:16-17	19:11		29:8
14:29	19:19		29:22
15:18			
Drinking and Gluttony			
20:1	23:29-35		31:1-7
23:19-21			
Adultery			
5:1-23	7:14-27		30:20
6:20 - 7:13	22:14		
Prostitution			
23:26-28			29:3
Wise and Foolish Talk			
14:3	16:23		19:1
15:2	18:6-7		23:15-16
15:7			
Righteous and Wicked Talk			
10:20-21	12:13-14		15:28
10:31-32	13:2		17:4
11:11			
Appropriate Speech			
15:23	16:24		27:14
16:21	25:11		
Maintaining Silence			
10:19	17:28		21:23
12:23	18:13		30:32-33
13:3			

Controlled Speech			
15:1	17:27		25:15
Flattery			
26:28	28:23		29:5
Slander and Gossip			
10:18	17:9		20:19
11:13	18:8		26:20
16:28	26:22		30:10
Hurtful Talk			
11:12	15:4		25:23
12:18	16:27		26:2
Quarreling			
17:14	20:3		26:21
17:19	22:10		
Lying			
12:19	17:20		19:22
12:22	19:5		21:6
Power of the Tongue			
18:20-21			
Solicitation to Evil			
1:10-19 (Evil Companions, Gangs)	25:26		28:10
16:29	27:3		
Violence			
3:31-32	21:7		21:29
Murder			
28:17			
Causing Others Harm			
3:29-30			
Revenge			
20:22		24:28-29	
Dissension and Strife			
6:16-19	17:1		18:18-19
Meddling			
26:17			
Truthfulness			
12:20	24:26		26:18-19
13:5			
Accurate Weights			
11:1	20:10		20:23
16:11			

Boundaries		
22:28		23:10-11
Wrongfully Made Profit		
10:2	20:17	20:21
13:11		
Bribery		
15:27	17:23	21:14
17:8		
False Witnesses		
12:17	19:9	21:28
14:5	19:28	25:18
14:25		
Open-Mindedness		
18:17		
Judicial Justice		
17:15	21:15	28:5
17:26	24:11-12	29:26
18:5	24:23-25	31:8-9
Wealth and Poverty		
3:9-10	17:16	23:4-5
10:15	18:11	27:7
11:4	18:23	28:6
11:28	19:4	28:8
13:8	19:6-7	28:11
14:20	22:2	28:20-22
15:16	22:7	30:7-9
Benevolence and Generosity		
3:27-28	18:16	22:9
11:24-26	19:17	25:14
13:22	21:13	28:27
14:21		
Oppression of the Poor		
13:23	16:8	29:7
14:31	22:16	29:13
15:15	22:22-23	

Industriousness

6:6-8	14:23	21:17
6:9-11	15:19	21:25-26
10:4-5	16:26	22:29
10:26	18:9	24:27
12:11	19:15	24:30-34
12:24	19:24	26:14
12:27	26:15	27:18
13:4	20:4	27:23-27
14:4	20:13	28:19

Saving

21:20

Surety for Another (Guaranteeing a Loan for Another)

6:1-5	17:18	27:13
11:15	20:16	22:26-27

Courting (Dating)

30:18-19

Children

1:8-9	17:2	20:20
10:1	17:6	23:22-25
11:29	17:21	28:24
15:5	17:25	30:17
15:20	19:26	

Women and Wives

11:22	19:13-14	21:19
12:4	21:9	27:15-16
14:1	25:24	31:10-31 (an alphabetic poem)
18:22		

Parents

13:24	22:15	29:15
19:18	23:13-14	29:17
22:6		

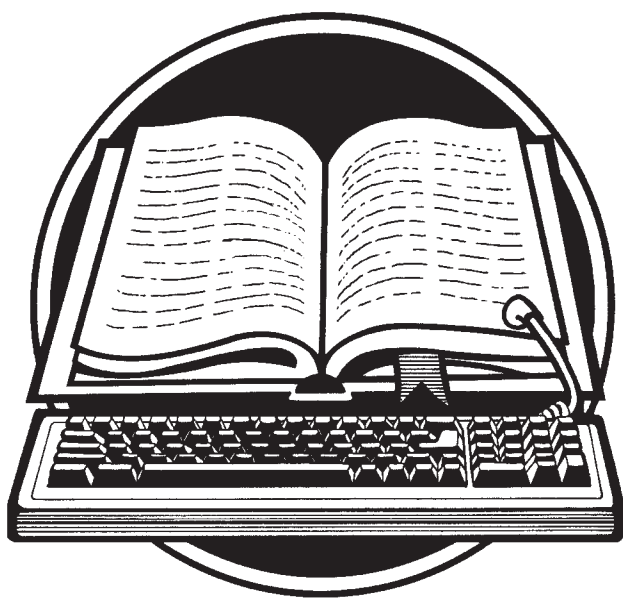
Age

13:17		20:29
16:31		25:13

Rulers

14:28	20:2	24:21-22
14:35	20:8	25:1-7
16:10	20:26	28:2-3
16:12-15	20:28	28:15-16 29:4
17:7	21:1	29:12
17:11	22:11	29:14
19:12	23:1-3	30:29-31

Companions		
12:26	17:17	27:8-10
13:20	18:24	29:24
14:7	24:1-2	
Caution		
16:17	27:12	22:5
22:3		
Reputation		
22:1		25:9-10
Courage		
3:25-26	22:13	24:10
14:32	26:13	28:1
Hope		
13:12	13:19	23:17-18
Joy and Grief		
14:10	17:22	27:11
14:13	18:14	29:6
15:13	25:20	
Good News		
15:30		25:25
Curiosity		
27:20		
Inappropriate Social Positions		
30:21-23		
Lessons from Little Animals		
30:24-28		



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