

Proverbs

A collection of sayings and adages written to help people make wise decisions in life.

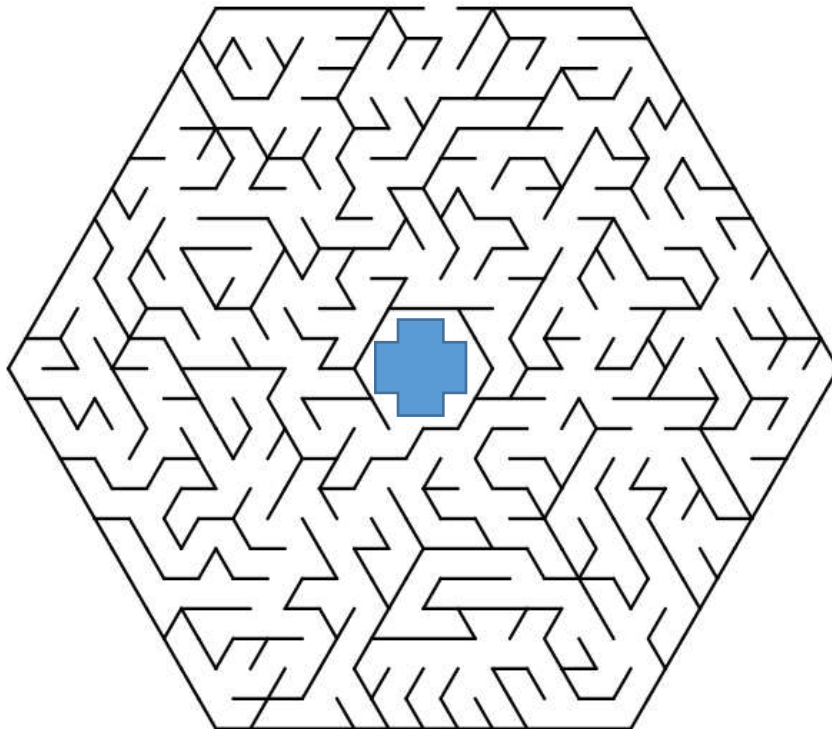
Author: Solomon, Agur, King Lemuel.

In Proverbs – Jesus is our Wisdom

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

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*"Seek His will in all you do,
and He will show you which path to take."*
Proverbs 3:6



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TEACHER: 31 CHAPTERS

The book of Proverbs was written primarily by King Solomon. Solomon was the 2nd child of King David and Bathsheba. He was the Great grandson of Ruth. Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived. As we studied in 1 Kings chapter 3, Solomon asks God for wisdom. God is pleased because most people would have asked for power or wealth, fame or other temporal concerns. God replies to his request "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have

been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.” God continues by granting him wealth and honor as well. He was not only the smartest man in the world, but the smartest that ever was, or will be. He was, and still is the smartest man ever. You must note, that God accomplishes this not by increasing his I.Q. He accomplished this by giving him a wise and discerning heart. Think about that for a second. The heart plays the greater role in wisdom. In 1st Kings 4 the testimony of Solomon’s wisdom is, “And God gave Solomon wisdom, exceedingly deep insight, and understanding beyond measure, like the sand on the seashore. Solomon’s wisdom was greater than that of all the men of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than all men—wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and wiser than Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread throughout the surrounding nations....” 31 Chapters, let’s dive in.

CH. 1

STUDENT:

The Proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

²to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

³to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity;

⁴to give subtlety to the simple, and to the young man knowledge and discretion.

⁵A wise man will hear and will increase learning, and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel

⁶to understand a proverb and the interpretation, the words of the wise and their dark sayings.

⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (KJ21 21st Century King James Version)

TEACHER:

In sales we discuss a technique known as F.B.I. Describe the Features, Benefits and Impacts of an object you are selling, or an idea you would like to spread. Solomon closely follows this in the 1st few lines of Proverbs. The features are “proverbs on wisdom, instruction, and understanding.” The benefit is to “receive instruction on wisdom, justice, judgement and equality.” The impact “for the simple is subtlety, a young person knowledge and discretion, and make the wise man wiser so he can then counsel others.” All these attributes, for all these categories of people begin with “The fear of the Lord” The fool will not benefit, in fact the fool will despise it. Solomon starts his instruction with his son. He points out the 1st source for people to learn. Their parents.

STUDENT:

⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother;

⁹for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

¹⁰My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. (KJ21)

TEACHER:

Down to verse 22 the Lord laments, through Solomon, the reprobate that will not listen.

STUDENT:

²²“How long, ye simple ones, will ye love to be simple, and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

²³Turn you at my reproof: Behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you; I will make known my words unto you.

²⁴“Because I have called and ye refused, I have stretched out my hand and no man heeded,



²⁵ but ye have set at nought all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,
²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh,
²⁷ when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish cometh upon you.
²⁸ Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me,
²⁹ because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD.
³⁰ They would have none of my counsel, and they despised all my reproof:....
³² For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them;
³³ but whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall have quiet from fear of evil." (KJ21)

TEACHER:

Perhaps knowing that his own son Rehoboam is going to lose the kingdom, King Solomon pleads with him.

STUDENT:

My child, learn what I teach you and never forget what I tell you to do. ² Listen to what is wise and try to understand it. ³ Yes, beg for knowledge; plead for insight. ⁴ Look for it as hard as you would for silver or some hidden treasure. ⁵ If you do, you will know what it means to fear the LORD and you will succeed in learning about God. (GNT)

TEACHER:

He continues by repeating the source of all wisdom.

STUDENT:

⁶ It is the LORD who gives wisdom; from him come knowledge and understanding. ⁷ He provides help and protection for those who are righteous and honest. ⁸ He protects those who treat others fairly, and guards those who are devoted to him.

⁹ If you listen to me, you will know what is right, just, and fair. You will know what you should do. ¹⁰ You will become wise, and your knowledge will give you pleasure. (GNT)

TEACHER:

He is trying to convince him that he isn't trying to keep him from having fun, he's telling him that pleasure comes from the knowledge of God. This knowledge will protect him from falling into some common traps.

STUDENT:

They will keep you away from people who stir up trouble by what they say— ¹³ those who have abandoned a righteous life to live in the darkness of sin.....¹⁶ You will be able to resist any immoral woman who tries to seduce you with her smooth talk, ¹⁷ who is faithless to her own husband and forgets her sacred vows.

¹⁸ If you go to her house, you are traveling the road to death.....¹⁹ No one who visits her ever comes back. He never returns to the road to life. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Now comes the 1st real lesson on wisdom. We will read it edited as a list with my own headings, to help us keep track and remember it.

CH. 3

STUDENT: 1st trust and acknowledge God.

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (NKJV)

STUDENT: 2nd be humble. It is healthier than being proud.

⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

⁸ It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. (GNT)

STUDENT: 3rd Tithes and offerings.

⁹ Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. (GNT)

STUDENT: 4th submit to God's correction, correction is a sign He loves you.

¹¹ My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;

¹² For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights. (GNT)

STUDENT: 5th help whenever you can.

²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.

²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give *it*," When you have it with you. (GNT)

STUDENT: 6th don't plan evil against someone.

²⁹ Do not devise evil against your neighbor, for he dwells by you for safety's sake. (GNT)

STUDENT: 7th don't get in stupid arguments.

³⁰ Do not strive with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm. (GNT)

STUDENT: 8th do not envy someone who oppresses someone. He will get what's coming to him.

³¹ Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways; ³² For the perverse *person is* an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel *is* with the upright.

³³ The curse of the LORD *is* on the house of the wicked.....

³⁵ The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 4 Solomon encourages the reader to get knowledge and understanding. To seek wisdom. This is a refrain we see almost everywhere in the Bible. But we see in chapter 4 that it must be combined with discretion.

CH. 4

STUDENT:

¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.
¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.
¹⁶ For they do not sleep unless they have done evil;.....
¹⁸ But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
¹⁹ The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.
²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.
²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart;
²² For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.
²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

How do we do this? How do we stay focused? By self-control. And we start with our mouth.

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STUDENT:

²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.
²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.
²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.
²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 5 draws our attention to the reason for our need to have discretion. Lust.

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CH. 5

STUDENT:

My son, attend unto my wisdom and bow thine ear to my understanding,
² that thou mayest have regard for discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.
³ For the lips of a strange woman drip as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil;
⁴ but her end is as bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. (KJ21)

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TEACHER:

The purpose of this instruction, we will see, is to prevent regrets.

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STUDENT:

⁷ Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.
⁸ Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house,
⁹ lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel,
¹⁰ lest strangers be filled with thy wealth and thy labors be in the house of a stranger,
¹¹ and thou mourn at the last when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,
¹² and thou sayest, "How have I hated instruction and my heart despised reproof; (KJ21)

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Teacher:

The end of chapter 5 holds the same instruction regarding liability as James 1. "¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man.

¹⁴ But every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed.” ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. ¹⁶ Do not err, my beloved brethren. (KJ21)

STUDENT:

²⁰ And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

²¹ For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He pondereth all his doings.

²² His own iniquities shall entrap the wicked himself, and he shall be held by the cords of his sins.

²³ He shall die without instruction, and in the greatness of his folly shall he go astray. (KJ21)

TEACHER:

Jesus said it this way, “You shall reap what you sow.”
Chapter 6 starts with a warning not to co-sign a loan.



STUDENT:

My child, have you promised to be responsible for someone else's debts? ² Have you been caught by your own words, trapped by your own promises? ³ Well then, my child, you are in that person's power, but this is how to get out of it: hurry to him, and beg him to release you. ⁴ Don't let yourself go to sleep or even stop to rest. ⁵ Get out of the trap like a bird or a deer escaping from a hunter. (GNT)

TEACHER:

As we dive deeper into Proverbs, we have already learned to

1. seek instruction in the things of God,
2. to be sexually pure,
3. not to run with, or associate with foolish and/or violent persons,
4. not to argue with divisive people. Now we see some of the warnings coming to a head.

STUDENT:

⁶ Lazy people should learn a lesson from the way ants live. ⁷ They have no leader, chief, or ruler, ⁸ but they store up their food during the summer, getting ready for winter. ⁹ How long is the lazy man going to lie around? When is he ever going to get up? ¹⁰ “I'll just take a short nap,” he says; “I'll fold my hands and rest a while.” ¹¹ But while he sleeps, poverty will attack him like an armed robber. (GNT)

TEACHER:

We add to the last list laziness, and next liars.

STUDENT:

¹² Worthless, wicked people go around telling lies. ¹³ They wink and make gestures to deceive you, ¹⁴ all the while planning evil in their perverted minds, stirring up trouble everywhere. ¹⁵ Because of this, disaster will strike them without warning, and they will be fatally wounded. (GNT)

TEACHER:

"Fatally wounded" Fatally meaning as you know, ending in death. A fatal wound. From lies. Starting with verse 16 God draws a line in the sand so to speak, where His patience has its limits.

STUDENT

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ There are seven things that the LORD hates and cannot tolerate:

1. A proud look,
2. A lying tongue,
3. Hands that kill innocent people,
4. A mind that thinks up wicked plans,
5. Feet that hurry off to do evil,
6. A witness who tells one lie after another,
7. And someone who stirs up trouble among friends. (GNT edited into a list by the Author)

TEACHER:

Study that list. The looks, the words, the hands, the mind, the feet, the heart, the intent. The church must stop comparing itself to the world when we are self-assessing our lives, and legacies. We must start comparing ourselves to Christ. The idea of all this instruction is the preservation of our testimony, as we will see in the next segment. In the next segment God says "it will cost him everything."

"Stop comparing yourself to the world, compare yourself to Christ. He is the standard." DH

STUDENT:

²⁰ Son, do what your father tells you and never forget what your mother taught you. ²¹ Keep their words with you always, locked in your heart. ²² Their teaching will lead you when you travel, protect you at night, and advise you during the day. ²³ Their instructions are a shining light; their correction can teach you how to live. ²⁴ It can keep you away from bad women, from the seductive words of other men's wives. ²⁵ Don't be tempted by their beauty; don't be trapped by their flirting eyes. ²⁶ A man can hire a prostitute for the price of a loaf of bread, but adultery will cost him all he has. (GNT)

TEACHER:

God next shows us how adultery is a much more serious sin than the others.

STUDENT:

²⁷ Can you carry fire against your chest without burning your clothes? ²⁸ Can you walk on hot coals without burning your feet? ²⁹ It is just as dangerous to sleep with another man's wife. Whoever does it will suffer. ³⁰ People don't despise a thief if he steals food when he is hungry; ³¹ yet if he is caught, he must pay back seven times more—he must give up everything he has. ³² But a man who commits adultery doesn't have any sense. He is just destroying himself. ³³ He will be dishonored and beaten up; he will be permanently disgraced. ³⁴ A husband is never angrier than when he is jealous; his revenge knows no limits. ³⁵ He will not accept any payment; no amount of gifts will satisfy his anger. (GNT)

TEACHER:

It's almost amusing as Solomon teaches sexual purity, when he himself had 1,000 wives. It was needed, and affected his own life greatly. He was the product of a marriage that began in adultery. His own marriages although legal according to the king's laws, were not legal according to Levitical law. He married foreign women, against God's law, and they turned his heart away from following the Lord. He is hoping that his son will not be so easily seduced.

STUDENT:

CH. 7

⁶ Once I was looking out the window of my house, ⁷ and I saw many inexperienced young men, but noticed one foolish fellow in particular. ⁸ He was walking along the street near the corner where a certain woman lived. He was passing near her house ⁹ in the evening after it was dark. ¹⁰ And then she met him; she was dressed like a prostitute and was making plans. ¹¹ She was a bold and shameless woman who always walked the streets ¹² or stood waiting at a corner, sometimes in the streets, sometimes in the marketplace. ¹³ She threw her arms around the young man, kissed him, looked him straight in the eye, and said, ¹⁴ "I made my offerings today and have the meat from the sacrifices. (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹⁵ So I came out looking for you. I wanted to find you, and here you are! ¹⁶ I've covered my bed with sheets of colored linen from Egypt. ¹⁷ I've perfumed it with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. ¹⁸ Come on! Let's make love all night long. We'll be happy in each other's arms. ¹⁹ My husband isn't at home. He's on a long trip. ²⁰ He took plenty of money with him and won't be back for two weeks." ²¹ So she tempted him with her charms, and he gave in to her smooth talk. ²² Suddenly he was going with her like an ox on the way to be slaughtered, like a deer prancing into a trap ²³ where an arrow would pierce its heart. He was like a bird going into a net—he did not know that his life was in danger. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Closing his story, he makes a sharp point.

STUDENT:

²⁴ Now then, sons, listen to me. Pay attention to what I say. ²⁵ Do not let such a woman win your heart; don't go wandering after her. ²⁶ She has been the ruin of many men and caused the death of too many to count. ²⁷ If you go to her house, you are on the way to the world of the dead. It is a shortcut to death. (GNT)

TEACHER:

I'm thinking about Samson. Can you think of any others? Chapter 8 is a song lauding the attributes of wisdom. It's value, its complexity, its simplicity, its benefits. Also the cost of ignoring it. Speak out after every segment if you have anything to add.

STUDENT:

CH. 8

Listen! Wisdom is calling out. Reason is making herself heard. ² On the hilltops near the road and at the crossroads she stands. ³ At the entrance to the city, beside the gates, she calls: ⁴ "I appeal to all of you; I call to everyone on earth. ⁵ Are you immature? Learn to be mature. (GNT)

STUDENT:

Are you foolish? Learn to have sense. ⁶ Listen to my excellent words;
all I tell you is right. ⁷ What I say is the truth; lies are hateful to me.

⁸ Everything I say is true; nothing is false or misleading.

⁹ To those with insight, it is all clear; to the well-informed, it is all plain.

¹⁰ Choose my instruction instead of silver; Choose knowledge rather than the finest gold.

¹¹ "I am Wisdom, I am better than jewels; nothing you want can compare with me.

¹² I am Wisdom, and I have insight; I have knowledge and sound judgment. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹³ To honor the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance,
evil ways and false words. ¹⁴ I make plans and carry them out.

I have understanding, and I am strong. ¹⁵ I help kings to govern and rulers to make good laws.

¹⁶ Every ruler on earth governs with my help, officials and nobles alike.

¹⁷ I love those who love me; whoever looks for me can find me.

¹⁸ I have riches and honor to give, prosperity and success.

¹⁹ What you get from me is better than the finest gold, better than the purest silver. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

²⁰ I walk the way of righteousness; I follow the paths of justice,

²¹ giving wealth to those who love me, filling their houses with treasures.

²² "The LORD created me first of all, the first of his works, long ago.

²³ I was made in the very beginning, at the first, before the world began.

²⁴ I was born before the oceans, when there were no springs of water.

²⁵ I was born before the mountains, before the hills were set in place, (GNT)

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STUDENT:

²⁶ before God made the earth and its fields or even the first handful of soil.

²⁷ I was there when he set the sky in place, when he stretched the horizon across the ocean,

²⁸ when he placed the clouds in the sky, when he opened the springs of the ocean

²⁹ and ordered the waters of the sea to rise no further than he said.

I was there when he laid the earth's foundations.

³⁰ I was beside him like an architect, I was his daily source of joy, always happy in his presence ³¹ happy with the
world and pleased with the human race. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

³² "Now, young people, listen to me. Do as I say, and you will be happy.

³³ Listen to what you are taught. Be wise; do not neglect it.

³⁴ Those who listen to me will be happy those who stay at my door every day,
waiting at the entrance to my home.

³⁵ Those who find me find life, and the LORD will be pleased with them.

³⁶ Those who do not find me hurt themselves; anyone who hates me loves death." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 9 talks of the futility of correcting fools. Wisdom prepares and raises standards for itself, and spreads where desired. Conceitedness rejects wisdom. We are instructed to ignore and not engage ignorant people.

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STUDENT:

CH. 9 Wisdom has built her house and made seven columns for it. ² She has had an animal killed for a feast, mixed spices in the wine, and set the table. ³ She has sent her servant women to call out from the highest place in town: ⁴ “Come in, ignorant people!” And to the foolish she says, ⁵ “Come, eat my food and drink the wine that I have mixed. ⁶ Leave the company of ignorant people, and live. Follow the way of knowledge.” (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Next we have the admonition to ignore the foolish.

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STUDENT:

⁷ If you correct conceited people, you will only be insulted. If you reprimand evil people, you will only get hurt. ⁸ Never correct conceited people; they will hate you for it. But if you correct the wise, they will respect you. ⁹ Anything you say to the wise will make them wiser. Whatever you tell the righteous will add to their knowledge. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In verse 10 once again we see the initial quality required for faith. Reverence for the Lord. If you have Him, you have wisdom.

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ To be wise you must first have reverence for the LORD. If you know the Holy One, you have understanding. ¹¹ Wisdom will add years to your life. ¹² You are the one who will profit if you have wisdom, and if you reject it, you are the one who will suffer. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

We end the chapter with the attributes of stupidity, and its end result.

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STUDENT:

¹³ Stupidity is like a loud, ignorant, shameless woman. ¹⁴ She sits at the door of her house or on a seat in the highest part of town, ¹⁵ and calls out to people passing by, who are minding their own business: ¹⁶ “Come in, ignorant people!” To the foolish she says, ¹⁷ “Stolen water is sweeter. Stolen bread tastes better.” ¹⁸ Her victims do not know that the people die who go to her house, that those who have already entered are now deep in the world of the dead. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 10 holds 32 different proverbs. Let’s each read one, in rapid succession, each of us taking 1.

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CH. 10

STUDENTS taking turns reading 1 proverb each:

¹Wise children make their fathers proud of them; foolish ones bring their mothers grief.

²Wealth you get by dishonesty will do you no good, but honesty can save your life.

³The LORD will not let good people go hungry, but he will keep the wicked from getting what they want.

⁴Being lazy will make you poor, but hard work will make you rich. ⁵A sensible person gathers the crops when they are ready; it is a disgrace to sleep through the time of harvest.

⁶Good people will receive blessings. The words of the wicked hide a violent nature.

⁷Good people will be remembered as a blessing, but the wicked will soon be forgotten.

⁸Sensible people accept good advice. People who talk foolishly will come to ruin.

⁹Honest people are safe and secure, but the dishonest will be caught.

¹⁰Someone who holds back the truth causes trouble, but one who openly criticizes works for peace.

¹¹A good person's words are a fountain of life, but a wicked person's words hide a violent nature.

¹²Hate stirs up trouble, but love forgives all offenses.

¹³Intelligent people talk sense, but stupid people need to be punished.

¹⁴The wise get all the knowledge they can, but when fools speak, trouble is not far off.

¹⁵Wealth protects the rich; poverty destroys the poor.

¹⁶The reward for doing good is life, but sin leads only to more sin.

¹⁷People who listen when they are corrected will live, but those who will not admit that they are wrong are in danger.

¹⁸Anyone who hides hatred is a liar. Anyone who spreads gossip is a fool.

¹⁹The more you talk, the more likely you are to sin. If you are wise, you will keep quiet.

²⁰A good person's words are like pure silver; a wicked person's ideas are worthless.

²¹A good person's words will benefit many people, but you can kill yourself with stupidity.

²²It is the LORD's blessing that makes you wealthy. Hard work can make you no richer.

²³ It is foolish to enjoy doing wrong. Intelligent people take pleasure in wisdom.

²⁴ The righteous get what they want, but the wicked will get what they fear most.

²⁵ Storms come, and the wicked are blown away, but honest people are always safe.

²⁶ Never get a lazy person to do something for you; he will be as irritating as vinegar on your teeth or smoke in your eyes.

²⁷ Obey the LORD, and you will live longer. The wicked die before their time.

²⁸ The hopes of good people lead to joy, but wicked people can look forward to nothing.

²⁹ The LORD protects honest people, but destroys those who do wrong.

³⁰ Righteous people will always have security, but the wicked will not survive in the land.

³¹ Righteous people speak wisdom, but the tongue that speaks evil will be stopped.

³² Righteous people know the kind thing to say, but the wicked are always saying things that hurt. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 11 is much the same, 1 great proverb after another.

We will take my top 10.

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STUDENT:

The LORD hates people who use dishonest scales.

He is happy with honest weights.

Riches will do you no good on the day you face death, but honesty can save your life. When the wicked die, their hope dies with them. Confidence placed in riches comes to nothing.

You can be ruined by the talk of godless people, but the wisdom of the righteous can save you.

It is foolish to speak scornfully of others. If you are smart, you will keep quiet.

A gracious woman is respected, but a woman without virtue is a disgrace.

Lazy people will never have money, but aggressive people will get rich.

Anyone who is determined to do right will live, but anyone who insists on doing wrong will die.



Beauty in a woman without good judgment is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

Some people spend their money freely and still grow richer. Others are cautious, and yet grow poorer. Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others, and you will be helped.

If your goals are good, you will be respected, but if you are looking for trouble that is what you will get.

Those who bring trouble on their families will have nothing at the end. Foolish people will always be servants to the wise. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 12 we find an alarming quality of the intelligent.

STUDENT:

Any who love knowledge want to be told when they are wrong.
It is stupid to hate being corrected.

²The LORD is pleased with good people, but condemns those who plan evil. ³Wickedness does not give security, but righteous people stand firm. (GNT)

TEACHER:

So much of Leviticus that we studied in earlier lessons, dealt with marriage and sexual purity. Who you marry matters. You are choosing a life partner, and the father/mother of your children. In chapter 12 we have a progression of the verses we just read involving loving knowledge. Then marriage which we will read in a moment. Then the words we use. That progression of logic from the smartest man to ever live, is not by accident, it's on purpose. Let's listen as its read.

STUDENT:

A good wife is her husband's pride and joy; but a wife who brings shame on her husband is like a cancer in his bones.

⁵Honest people will treat you fairly; the wicked only want to deceive you.

⁶The words of the wicked are murderous, but the words of the righteous rescue those who are threatened.

⁷The wicked meet their downfall and leave no descendants, but the families of the righteous live on.

⁸If you are intelligent, you will be praised; if you are stupid, people will look down on you. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The next group of proverbs seem by many to be a change of subject. They are not. The progression continues into marital finances, and attitudes toward money, which is the #1 cause for divorce, and then lying, and mean words, all top reasons for divorce. As the next segment is read, think of it in the context of marriage.



STUDENT:

⁹ It is better to be an ordinary person working for a living than to play the part of someone great but go hungry.

¹⁰ Good people take care of their animals, but wicked people are cruel to theirs.

¹¹ A hard-working farmer has plenty to eat, but it is stupid to waste time on useless projects.

¹² All that wicked people want is to find evil things to do, but the righteous stand firm.

¹⁵ Stupid people always think they are right. Wise people listen to advice. (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹⁶ When a fool is annoyed, he quickly lets it be known. Smart people will ignore an insult.

Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.

²² The LORD hates liars, but is pleased with those who keep their word.

²⁵ Worry can rob you of happiness, but kind words will cheer you up.

²⁷ If you are lazy, you will never get what you are after, but if you work hard, you will get a fortune. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The theme for the next chapter is children as you might assume. The 1st several chapters dealt with wisdom and self-improvement, being an honest and upright person. Being mentally pure, spiritually pure, and sexually pure. Then with marriage, finances and marital fidelity. Now the progression continues with children.

CH. 13

STUDENT:

Wise children pay attention when their parents correct them, but arrogant people never admit they are wrong.

⁴ No matter how much a lazy person may want something, he will never get it. A hard worker will get everything he wants. ⁵ Honest people hate lies, but the words of wicked people are shameful and disgraceful.

⁶ Righteousness protects the innocent; wickedness is the downfall of sinners. ⁹ The righteous are like a light shining brightly; the wicked are like a lamp flickering out. (GNT)

STUDENT;

¹⁰ Arrogance causes nothing but trouble. It is wiser to ask for advice.

¹¹ The more easily you get your wealth, the sooner you will lose it.

The harder it is to earn, the more you will have.

¹³ If you refuse good advice, you are asking for trouble; follow it and you

are safe. ¹⁴ The teachings of the wise are a fountain of life;

they will help you escape when your life is in danger. ¹⁵ Intelligence wins respect. Someone who will not learn will be poor and disgraced.

Anyone who listens to correction is respected. ²² Good people will have wealth to leave to their grandchildren, but the wealth of sinners will go to the righteous. ²⁴ If you don't punish your children, you don't love them. If you do love them, you will correct them.

²⁵ The righteous have enough to eat, but the wicked are always hungry. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 14 takes the family unit as a whole.



CH. 14

STUDENT:

Homes are made by the wisdom of women, but are destroyed by foolishness.

² Be honest and you show that you have reverence for the LORD; be dishonest and you show that you do not.

³ Proud fools talk too much; the words of the wise protect them. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The chapter continues...

#4 invest in what you need, prioritize what you spend.

#5 be honest with each other.

#6 don't be conceited.

#7 stay away from fools.

#8 think before you act.

#9 stay pure, when you err, seek forgiveness.

#10 you are responsible for your own happiness.

#11 be good, and your house will stay together.

Jumping to verse #15 don't believe everything you hear.

#16 be careful.

#17 control your temper.

Jumping to verse #21 be kind

#23 work hard.

#26 be reverent to the Lord.

In verse 34 we see the result if families are built on these truth's.

Righteousness makes a nation great; sin is a disgrace to any nation.

Chapter 15 deals with the power of the tongue.



CH. 15

STUDENT:

A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up.

² When wise people speak, they make knowledge attractive, but stupid people spout nonsense.

³ The LORD sees what happens everywhere; he is watching us, whether we do good or evil.

⁴ Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit.

⁵ It is foolish to ignore what your parents taught you; it is wise to accept their correction. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Verse 8 says "the Lord loves when good people pray."

Verse 16 says "better to be poor and fear the Lord than to be rich and in trouble."

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



THE SPIRIT OF SOFTBALL

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger. Proverbs 15:1

STUDENT:

- ²⁴ Wise people walk the road that leads upward to life, not the road that leads downward to death.
²⁵ The LORD will destroy the homes of arrogant men, but he will protect a widow's property.
²⁶ The LORD hates evil thoughts, but he is pleased with friendly words.
²⁸ Good people think before they answer. Evil people have a quick reply, but it causes trouble.
²⁹ When good people pray, the LORD listens, but he ignores those who are evil.
³² If you refuse to learn, you are hurting yourself. If you accept correction, you will become wiser.
³³ Reverence for the LORD is an education in itself. You must be humble before you can ever receive honors.
(GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 16 we see a view of life from God's position, and the role He plays.

CH. 16

STUDENT:

- We may make our plans, but God has the last word. ² You may think everything you do is right, but the LORD judges your motives. ³ Ask the LORD to bless your plans, and you will be successful in carrying them out.
⁴ Everything the LORD has made has its destiny; and the destiny of the wicked is destruction.
⁵ The LORD hates everyone who is arrogant; he will never let them escape punishment.
⁶ Be loyal and faithful, and God will forgive your sin. Obey the LORD and nothing evil will happen to you.
⁷ When you please the LORD, you can make your enemies into friends.
⁸ It is better to have a little, honestly earned, than to have a large income, dishonestly gained. ⁹ You may make your plans, but God directs your actions. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Solomon continues by encouraging us to PLAN to stay on the right side of the tracks.

STUDENT:

- ¹⁶ It is better—much better—to have wisdom and knowledge than gold and silver.
¹⁷ Those who are good travel a road that avoids evil; so watch where you are going—it may save your life.
¹⁸ Pride leads to destruction, and arrogance to downfall.
¹⁹ It is better to be humble and stay poor than to be one of the arrogant and get a share of their loot.
²¹ A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is. ²² Wisdom is a fountain of life to the wise, but trying to educate stupid people is a waste of time. (GNT)

STUDENT:

- ²³ Intelligent people think before they speak; what they say is then more persuasive.
²⁴ Kind words are like honey—sweet to the taste and good for your health.
²⁸ Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and break up friendships.
³¹ Long life is the reward of the righteous; gray hair is a glorious crown.
³² It is better to be patient than powerful. It is better to win control over yourself than over whole cities. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 17 the divide between wisdom's effects and the consequences of foolishness grow deeper.

CH. 17

STUDENT:

Better to eat a dry crust of bread with peace of mind than have a banquet in a house full of trouble.

² A shrewd servant will gain authority over a master's worthless son and receive a part of the inheritance.

³ Gold and silver are tested by fire, and a person's heart is tested by the LORD.

⁴ Evil people listen to evil ideas, and liars listen to lies. ⁵ If you make fun of poor people, you insult the God who made them. You will be punished if you take pleasure in someone's misfortune. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁹ If you want people to like you, forgive them when they wrong you. Remembering wrongs can break up a friendship. ¹⁰ An intelligent person learns more from one rebuke than a fool learns from being beaten a hundred times. ¹¹ Death will come like a cruel messenger to wicked people who are always stirring up trouble. ¹² It is better to meet a mother bear robbed of her cubs than to meet some fool busy with a stupid project. (GNT)

TEACHER:

We are encouraged as we continue to strike quickly and appropriately in running our homes and our lives. "the Lord loves when good people pray."

STUDENT:

¹⁴ The start of an argument is like the first break in a dam; stop it before it goes any further. ¹⁵ Condemning the innocent or letting the wicked go—both are hateful to the LORD. ¹⁶ It does a fool no good to spend money on an education, because he has no common sense.

Only someone with no sense would promise to be responsible for someone else's debts. ²¹ There is nothing but sadness and sorrow for parents whose children do foolish things. (GNT)

STUDENT:

²² Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time. ²⁴ An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions.

²⁵ Foolish children bring grief to their fathers and bitter regrets to their mothers. ²⁷ Those who are sure of themselves do not talk all the time. People who stay calm have real insight. ²⁸ After all, even fools may be thought wise and intelligent if they stay quiet and keep their mouths shut. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 18 teaches the difference between how the wise behave, as opposed to the fool.

1st the fool.

STUDENT:

People who do not get along with others are interested only in themselves; they will disagree with what everyone else knows is right. ² A fool does not care whether he understands a thing or not; all he wants to do is show how smart he is. ⁴ A person's words can be a source of wisdom, deep as the ocean, fresh as a flowing stream. ⁶ When some fool starts an argument, he is asking for a beating.

⁷ When a fool speaks, he is ruining himself; he gets caught in the trap of his own words.

⁸ Gossip is so tasty—how we love to swallow it! (GNT)



CH. 18

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TEACHER:

Then the wise.

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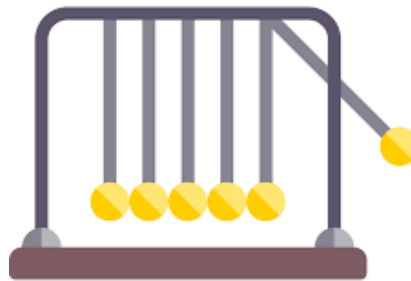
STUDENT:

¹⁰ The LORD is like a strong tower, where the righteous can go and be safe. ¹³ Listen before you answer. If you don't, you are being stupid and insulting. ¹⁵ Intelligent people are always eager and ready to learn. ²⁰ You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. ²¹ What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words. ²² Find a wife and you find a good thing; it shows that the LORD is good to you. ²⁴ Some friendships do not last, but some friends are more loyal than brothers. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Here we see in chapter 19 how actions have cause and effect. I think of a Newton's cradle in someone's brain.



CH. 19

STUDENT:

It is better to be poor but honest than to be a lying fool.

² Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good; impatience will get you into trouble.

³ Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the LORD.

⁴ Rich people are always finding new friends, but the poor cannot keep the few they have.

⁸ Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper. ¹¹ If you are sensible, you will control your temper. When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it. ¹³ Stupid children can bring their parents to ruin. A nagging wife is like water going drip-drip-drip. (GNT)

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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

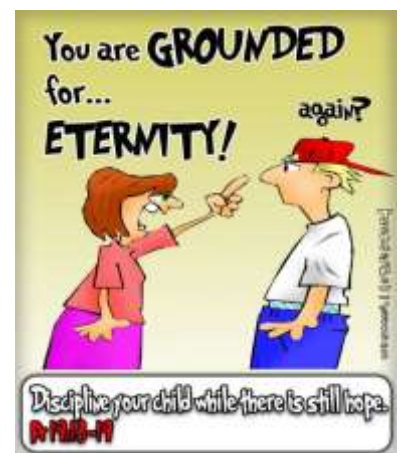


He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord. She who finds a man who can do LAUNDRY right finds something better. Pr 18:22

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Despite a low credit score, and no job.. Phil decided to negotiate a loan with his banker.. with scripture.



STUDENT:

¹⁴ A man can inherit a house and money from his parents, but only the LORD can give him a sensible wife.

¹⁷ When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the LORD, and the LORD will pay you back.

¹⁸ Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don't, you are helping them destroy themselves. ¹⁹ If someone has a hot temper, let him take the consequences. If you get him out of trouble once, you will have to do it again. ²⁰ If you listen to advice and are willing to learn, one day you will be wise.

²¹ People may plan all kinds of things, but the LORD's will is going to be done. ²² It is a disgrace to be greedy; poor people are better off than liars. ²³ Obey the LORD and you will live a long life, content and safe from harm.

²⁶ Only a shameful, disgraceful person would mistreat his father or turn his mother away from his home. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 20 deals with wise behavior and self-control.

CH. 20

STUDENT:

Wine and beer make people lose control; they get loud and stumble around.

And that is foolish. ³ People who refuse to argue deserve respect. Any fool can start an argument. ⁵ Getting information from someone can be like getting water from a deep well. If you are smart, you will draw it out.

⁷ When people live good, honest lives, their children are blessed. ⁹ Can anyone say their heart is pure? Who can say, "I am free from sin"?

STUDENT:

¹¹ Even children show what they are like by the things they do.

You can see if their actions are pure and right.

¹⁵ The right knowledge can bring you gold, pearls, and other expensive things.

¹⁹ You cannot trust someone who would talk about things told in private. So don't be friends with someone who talks too much. ²⁰ Those who would curse their father or mother are like a lamp that goes out on the darkest night. ²⁴ The LORD guides our steps, and we never know where he will lead us. (ERV)

TEACHER:

Listen to this next verse, can anybody remember the Judge who made this mistake?

STUDENT:

²⁵ Think carefully before you promise to give something to God. Later, you might wish you had not made that promise. (ERV)

TEACHER:

Who was the Judge? Jephthah in Judges 11. He promised the Lord he would sacrifice the 1st thing to walk through the door, and his wonderful daughter came through the door to greet him.

STUDENT:

²⁷ Your spirit is like a lamp to the LORD. He is able to see into your deepest parts..... ²⁹ We admire a young man for his strength, but we respect an old man for his gray hair. (GNT)



TEACHER:

The Blue letter Bible titles this chapter Peace in the Home,
Prosperity in Life, and Preparation for Battle.

STUDENT:

CH. 21

To the LORD, a king's mind is like a ditch used to water the fields. He can lead the king wherever he wants him to go. ² People think that whatever they do is right, but the LORD judges the reasons for everything they do.

³ Do what is right and fair. The LORD loves that more than sacrifices.

⁴ Proud looks and proud thoughts are sins. They show a person is evil.

⁵ Careful planning leads to profit. Acting too quickly leads to poverty.(ERV)

STUDENT:

⁹ It is better to live in a small corner on the roof than to share the house with a woman who is always arguing. ¹⁰ Evil people always want to do more evil, and they show no mercy to people around them. ¹¹ When you punish a proud person who laughs at what is right, even fools will learn something. But a little instruction is enough for the wise to learn what they should. ¹² God is good. He knows what the wicked are doing, and he will punish them. ¹³ Those who refuse to help the poor will not receive help when they need it themselves.

STUDENT:

¹⁶ Whoever leaves the path of wisdom will be on their way to an early death. ¹⁷ Loving pleasure leads to poverty. Wine and luxury will never make you wealthy. ¹⁹ It is better to live alone in the desert than with a quick-tempered wife who loves to argue.

²⁰ Wise people save the nice things they have. Fools use up everything as soon as they get it. ²¹ People who try hard to do good and be faithful will find life, goodness, and honor. ²⁹ Good people know they are right, but the wicked have to pretend. ³⁰ There is no one wise enough to make a plan that can succeed if the LORD is against it. ³¹ You can prepare your horses for battle, but only the LORD can give you the victory. (ERV)

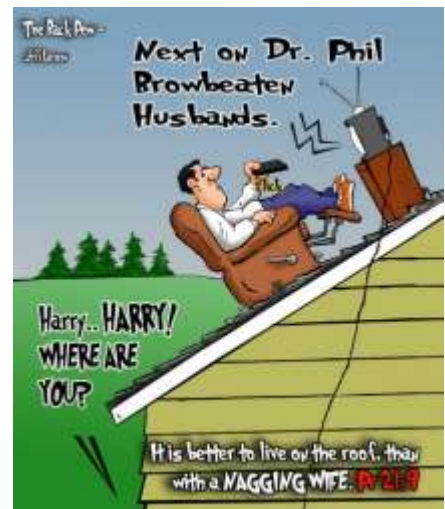
TEACHER:

Chapter 22 shows wealth and poverty in the context of a Godly world view.

STUDENT:

CH. 22

It is better to be respected than to be rich. A good name is worth more than silver or gold. ² The rich and the poor are the same. The LORD made them all. ³ Wise people see trouble coming and get out of its way, but fools go straight to it and suffer for it. ⁴ Respect the LORD and be humble. Then you will have wealth, honor, and true life. ⁶ Teach children in a way that fits their needs, and even when they are old, they will not leave the right path. ⁷ The rich rule over the poor. The one who borrows is a slave to the one who lends. (GNT)



STUDENT:

⁹ Generous people will be blessed, because they share their food with the poor. ¹⁴ The sin of adultery is a trap, and the LORD gets very angry with those who fall into it. ¹⁵ Children do foolish things, but if you punish them, they will learn not to do them. ¹⁶ These two things will make you poor: hurting the poor to make yourself rich and giving gifts to the rich. (ERV)

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TEACHER:

The rest of this chapter was added later than what we have studied so far. This portion of chapter 22 along with the next few chapters are titled in the most ancient manuscripts as 30 wise sayings. They are always a separate skin, woven together leaving many to believe they are different in authorship or time. They are all listed here in the ERV, or the Easy to Read Version. We will skip around them for time, study them deeper at home.

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STUDENT:

— 1 —

²² It is easy to steal from the poor, but don't do it. And don't take advantage of them in court. ²³ The LORD is on their side. He supports the poor, and he will take from those who take from them.

— 2 —

²⁴ Don't be friends with people who become angry easily. Don't stay around quick-tempered people. ²⁵ If you do, you may learn to be like them. Then you will have the same problems they do.

— 3 —

²⁶ Don't promise to pay someone else's debt. ²⁷ If you cannot pay, you will lose everything you have. So why should you lose the bed you sleep on?

— 4 —

²⁸ Never move an old property line that was marked long ago by your ancestors.

— 5 —

²⁹ Skilled workers will always serve kings. They will never have to work for less important people. (ERV eba)

=====

CH. 23

STUDENT:

— 6 —

When you sit and eat with an important person, remember who you are with. ² Never eat too much, even if you are very hungry. ³ Don't eat too much of his fine food. It might be a trick.

— 7 —

⁴ Don't ruin your health trying to get rich. If you are smart, you will give it up. ⁵ In the blink of an eye, money can disappear, as if it grew wings and flew away like a bird.

— 8 —

⁶ Don't eat with selfish people. Control any desire you have for their finest foods. ⁷ They might tell you to eat and drink all you want, but they don't really mean it. They are the kind of people who are only thinking about the cost. ⁸ And if you eat their food, you will get sick and be embarrassed.

— 9 —

⁹ Don't try to teach fools. They will make fun of your wise words.

— 10 —

¹⁰ Never move an old property line, and don't take land that belongs to orphans. ¹¹ The Lord will be against you. He is powerful and protects orphans. (ERV edited by Author)

=====

STUDENT:

— 11 —

¹² Listen to your teacher and learn all you can.

— 12 —

¹³ Always correct children when they need it. If you spank them, it will not kill them. ¹⁴ In fact, you might save their lives.

— 13 —

¹⁵ My son, it makes me happy when you make a wise decision. ¹⁶ It makes me feel good inside when you say the right things.

— 14 —

¹⁷ Never envy evil people, but always respect the LORD. ¹⁸ This will give you something to hope for that will not disappoint you.

— 15 —

¹⁹ So listen, my son, and be wise. Always be careful to follow the right path. ²⁰ Don't make friends with people who drink too much wine and eat too much food. ²¹ Those who eat and drink too much become poor. They sleep too much and end up wearing rags. (ERV edited by Author)

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STUDENT:

— 16 —

²² Listen to your father. Without him, you would never have been born. Respect your mother, even when she is old. ²³ Truth, wisdom, learning, and understanding are worth paying money for. They are worth far too much to ever sell. ²⁴ The father of a good person is very happy. A wise child brings him joy. ²⁵ Make both of your parents happy. Give your mother that same joy.

— 17 —

²⁶ My son, listen closely to what I am saying. Let my life be your example. ²⁷ Prostitutes and bad women are a trap. They are like a deep well that you cannot escape. ²⁸ A bad woman waits for you like a thief, and she causes many men to be unfaithful to their wives.

— 18 —

²⁹⁻³⁰ Who gets into fights and arguments? Who gets hurt for no reason and has red, bloodshot eyes? People who stay out too late drinking wine, staring into their strong drinks. (ERV edited by the author)

=====

STUDENT:

³¹ So be careful with wine. It is pretty and red as it sparkles in the cup. And it goes down so smoothly when you drink it. ³² But in the end, it will bite like a snake.

³³ Wine will cause you to see strange things and to say things that make no sense. ³⁴ When you lie down, you will think you are on a rough sea and feel like you are at the top of the mast. ³⁵ You will say, "They hit me, but I never felt it. They beat me, but I don't remember it. Now I can't wake up. I need another drink."

— 19 —

Don't be jealous of evil people. Have no desire to be around them. ² In their hearts they plan to do evil. All they talk about is making trouble.

— 20 —

³ Good homes are built on wisdom and understanding. ⁴ Knowledge fills the rooms with rare and beautiful treasures. (ERV edited by Author)

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STUDENT:

— 21 —

⁵ Wisdom makes a man more powerful. Knowledge gives a man strength. ⁶ Get good advice before you start a war. To win, you must have many good advisors.

— 22 —

⁷ Fools cannot understand wisdom. They have nothing to say when people are discussing important things.

— 23 —

⁸ If you start planning ways to do wrong, people will learn that you are a troublemaker. ⁹ Such foolish plans are wrong, and people have no respect for someone who laughs at what is right.

— 24 —

¹⁰ If you are weak in times of trouble, that is real weakness.

— 25 —

¹¹ If you see someone on their way to death or in danger of being killed, you must do something to save them. ¹² You cannot say, "It's none of my business." The Lord knows everything, and he knows why you do things. He watches you, and he will pay you back for what you do. (ERV edited by Author)

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STUDENT:

— 26 —

¹³ My son, eat honey; it is good. Honey straight from the honeycomb is the sweetest. ¹⁴ In the same way, know that wisdom is good for you. Wisdom will give you something to hope for that will not disappoint you.

— 27 —

¹⁵ Don't be like a criminal who makes plans to rob those who are good or take away their homes. ¹⁶ Good people might fall again and again, but they always get up. It is the wicked who are defeated by their troubles.

— 28 —

Don't be happy when your enemy has troubles. Don't be glad when they fall. ¹⁸ The LORD will see this, and he might be upset with you and decide not to punish your enemy.

— 29 —

¹⁹ Don't let those who are evil upset you, and don't be jealous of them.

²⁰ They have no hope. Their light will burn out.

— 30 —

²¹ Son, respect the LORD and the king, and don't join with those who are against them, ²² because people like that can quickly be destroyed. You have no idea how much trouble God and the king can make for their enemies. (ERV edited by Author)

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TEACHER:

The chapter ends with more parables from an unnamed author. Most credit Solomon. They are written after Solomon's style, and cover a fair judiciary, honesty, and sound financial planning.

Proverbs chapter 25 lists Solomon's proverbs re-copied by servants of Hezekiah during his reign in Judah sometime from 715-686 BC. They were kept separate until this time, and connected along with the 30 wise sayings we just read, and the rest of the Book of Proverbs.

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STUDENT:

² We honor God for the things he keeps secret. But we honor kings for the things they can discover.

³ We cannot discover how high the sky is above us or how deep the earth is below. The same is true with the minds of kings. We cannot understand them.

⁴ Remove the worthless things from silver to make it pure, and a worker can make something beautiful. ⁵ Take the evil advisors away from a king, and goodness will make his kingdom strong. (ERV)

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CH. 25

STUDENT:

¹¹ Saying the right thing at the right time is like a golden apple in a silver setting. ¹² Wise advice to a listening ear is like gold earrings or fine jewelry. ¹⁵ With patience, you can make anyone change their thinking, even a ruler. Gentle speech is very powerful.

¹⁶ Honey is good, but don't eat too much of it, or you will be sick. ¹⁷ And don't visit your neighbors' homes too often, or they will begin to hate you. ²¹ If your enemies are hungry, give them something to eat. If they are thirsty, give them some water. ²² This will make them feel the burning pain of shame,^[b] and the LORD will reward you for being good to them. ²⁴ It is better to live in a small corner of the roof than to share the house with a woman who is always arguing. ²⁶ Good people who don't stand strong against evil are like springs that have been polluted or pools that have turned dirty and muddy. (ERV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 26 is a group of wise sayings exposing fools and how they should be regarded.

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CH. 26

STUDENT:

Just as snow should not fall in summer, nor rain at harvest time, so people should not honor a fool.

² Don't worry when someone curses you for no reason. Nothing bad will happen. Such words are like birds that fly past and never stop. ³ You have to whip a horse, you have to put a bridle on a mule, and you have to beat a fool. ⁴⁻⁵ There is no good way to answer fools when they say something stupid. If you answer them, then you, too, will look like a fool. If you don't answer them, they will think they are smart. ⁶ Never let a fool carry your message. If you do, it will be like cutting off your own feet. You are only asking for trouble. ⁷ A fool trying to say something wise is like a crippled person trying to walk. (ERV)

=====

STUDENT:

⁹ A fool trying to say something wise is like a drunk trying to pick a thorn out of his hand.

¹⁰ Hiring a fool or a stranger who is just passing by is dangerous—you don't know who might get hurt.

¹¹ Like a dog that returns to its vomit, a fool does the same foolish things again and again.

¹² People who think they are wise when they are not are worse than fools. ¹⁶ Lazy people think they are seven times smarter than the people who really have good sense. (ERV)

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STUDENT:

¹⁷ To step between two people arguing is as foolish as going out into the street and grabbing a stray dog by the ears. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Anyone who would trick someone and then say, "I was only joking" is like a fool who shoots flaming arrows into the air and accidentally kills someone.

²⁰ Without wood, a fire goes out. Without gossip, arguments stop. ²¹ Charcoal keeps the coals glowing, wood keeps the fire burning, and troublemakers keep arguments alive. (ERV)

=====

STUDENT:

²³ Good words that hide an evil heart are like silver paint over a cheap, clay pot. ²⁴ Evil people say things to make themselves look good, but they keep their evil plans a secret. ²⁵ What they say sounds good, but don't trust them. They are full of evil ideas. ²⁶ They hide their evil plans with nice words, but in the end, everyone will see the evil they do. ²⁷ Whoever digs a pit can fall into it. Whoever rolls a large stone can be crushed by it. ²⁸ Liars hate the people they hurt, and false praise can hurt people. (ERV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 27 is an admonition for the mindset we need, to plan wise, and react wisely, on a daily basis.

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CH. 27

STUDENT:

Never brag about what you will do in the future; you have no idea what tomorrow will bring. ² Never praise yourself. Let others do it. ⁴ Anger is cruel and can destroy like a flood, but jealousy is much worse. ⁵ Open criticism is better than hidden love. ⁶ You can trust what your friend says, even when it hurts. But your enemies want to hurt you, even when they act nice. ⁸ A man away from home is like a bird away from its nest. (ERV)

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STUDENT:

⁹ Perfume and incense make you feel good, and so does good advice from a friend. ¹⁰ Don't forget your own friends or your father's friends. If you have a problem, go to your neighbor for help. It is better to ask a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away. ¹² Wise people see trouble coming and get out of its way, but fools go straight to the trouble and suffer for it. ¹³ When you make a deal with a stranger, get something from him and any other foreigners with him to make sure he will pay you. (ERV)

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STUDENT:

¹⁵ A complaining wife is like water that never stops dripping on a rainy day. ¹⁶ Stopping her is like trying to stop the wind or trying to hold oil in your hand. ¹⁷ As one piece of iron sharpens another, so friends keep each other sharp. ¹⁸ People who take care of fig trees are allowed to eat the fruit. In the same way, people who take care of their masters will be rewarded. ¹⁹ Just as you can see your own face reflected in water, so your heart reflects the kind of person you are. ²⁰ Just as the place of death and destruction is never full, people always want more and more. ²¹ People use fire to purify gold and silver. In the same way, you are tested by the praise people give you. (ERV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 28 focuses on the blessings and courage it takes to maintain wisdom.

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CH. 28

STUDENT:

The wicked are afraid of everything, but those who live right are as brave as lions. ⁴ Those who refuse to obey the law promote evil. Those who obey the law oppose evil. ⁵ The wicked don't understand justice, but those who love the LORD understand it completely. ⁶ It is better to be poor and honest than rich and evil. ⁷ A smart son obeys the laws, but a son who spends time with worthless people brings shame to his father. ⁹ When people do not listen to God's teachings, he does not listen to their prayers. (ERV)

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STUDENT:

¹³ Whoever hides their sins will not be successful, but whoever confesses their sins and stops doing wrong will receive mercy. ¹⁴ People who respect others will be blessed, but stubborn people will have plenty of troubles.

¹⁷ A murderer will never have peace. Don't support such a person.

¹⁸ Honest people will be safe, but dishonest people will be ruined. ¹⁹ Whoever works hard will have plenty to eat, but whoever wastes their time with dreams will always be poor. (ERV)

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STUDENT:

²⁰ People who can be trusted will have many blessings, but those who are just trying to get rich in a hurry will be punished. ²² Selfish people only want to get rich. They do not realize that they are very close to being poor.

²³ Correct someone, and later they will thank you. That is much better than just saying something to be nice.

²⁵ Greedy people might sue you in court, but those who trust the LORD are rewarded.

²⁶ It is foolish to be too confident. Those who ask for advice are wise and will escape disaster.

²⁷ Whoever gives to the poor will have plenty. Whoever refuses to help them will get nothing but curses. (ERV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 29 deals mostly with life under a monarchy, but we will glean some great words of wisdom from it as we near the end of the Book of Proverbs.

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CH. 29

STUDENT:

Some people refuse to bend when someone corrects them. Eventually they will break, and there will be no one to repair the damage. ² When the rulers are good, the people are happy. When the rulers are evil, the people complain. ³ A son who loves wisdom makes his father happy. One who wastes his money on prostitutes will lose his wealth. ⁵ If you give false praise to others in order to get what you want, you are only setting a trap for yourself. ⁶ Evil people are defeated by their sin, but good people will sing and be happy. ⁷ Good people want to do what is right for the poor, but the wicked don't care. (ERV)

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STUDENT:

¹¹ Fools are quick to express their anger, but wise people are patient and control themselves. ¹⁵ Punishment and discipline can make children wise, but children who are never corrected will bring shame to their mother.

¹⁷ Correct your children whenever they are wrong. Then you will always be proud of them. They will never make you ashamed. ²² An angry person causes arguments, and someone who is quick-tempered is guilty of many sins.

²³ Your pride can bring you down. Humility will bring you honor. (ERV)

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CH. 30

TEACHER:

The next chapter is titled The Wise Sayings of Agur Son of Jakeh. It will chaff those you who love the feel good gospel of high self-esteem. Let's read and discuss.

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STUDENT:

I am stupid. I am not as smart as other people are. ³ I have not learned to be wise. I know nothing about the Holy One. ⁴ Who has ever gone up to heaven and come back down? Who gathered the winds in his hand? Who can gather up all the water in his lap? Who set the limits for the world? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Do you know? ⁵ You can trust this: Every word that God speaks is true. God is a safe place for those who go to him. ⁶ So don't try to change what God says. If you do, he will punish you and prove that you are a liar. (ERV)

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TEACHER:

Then he prays.

STUDENT:

⁷ God, I ask you to do two things for me before I die. ⁸ Don't let me tell lies. And don't make me too rich or too poor—give me only enough food for each day. ⁹ If I have too much, I might deny that I need you, LORD. But if I am too poor, I might steal and bring shame to the name of my God. (ERV)

TEACHER:

He then turns to the 1st commandment with promise, do you know it? Honor thy father and thy mother.

STUDENT:

¹¹ Some people curse their fathers and refuse to bless their mothers.

¹² Some people think they are pure, but they have done nothing to remove the filth of their sin.

¹³ Some people are so proud of themselves, and they look down on everyone else. ¹⁷ People who make fun of their father or refuse to obey their mother should have their eyes plucked out by wild birds and be eaten by vultures.

¹⁸ There are three things that are hard for me to understand—really, four things that I don't understand: ¹⁹ an eagle flying in the sky, a snake moving on a rock, a ship moving across the ocean, and a man in love with a woman.

²⁰ A woman who is not faithful to her husband acts innocent. She eats, wipes her mouth, and says she has done nothing wrong. (ERV)

TEACHER:

He closes chapter 30 with lessons from nature.

STUDENT:

²⁴ There are four things on the earth that are small but very wise: ²⁵ Ants are small and weak, but they save their food all summer; ²⁶ badgers are small animals, but they make their homes in the rocks; ²⁷ locusts have no king, but they are able to work together; ²⁸ lizards are small enough to catch with your hands, but you can find them living in kings' palaces. (ERV)

STUDENT:

²⁹ There are three things that act important when they walk—really, there are four: ³⁰ a lion—he is the warrior of the animals and runs from nothing, ³¹ a rooster walking proudly, a goat, and a king among his people. ³² If you have been foolish enough to become proud and make plans against other people, stop and think about what you are doing. (ERV)

TEACHER:

Last chapter. The opening line credits King Lemuel, who learned these sayings from his mother. Most scholars interpret this line to mean Bathsheba has taught this passage to Solomon. Lemuel means “belonging to God.” Since there is no historic person/king named Lemuel, it is assumed perhaps that Solomon used a pseudonym so the works would be saved. Solomon's mother was Bathsheba, who had an affair with King David, resulting in the death of her husband Uriah the Hittite. Uriah was a most honorable warrior for King David, and a national hero who owned a home near the castle. Bathsheba's silence in scripture may have been due to the circumstances that brought her to the throne. She probably wasn't very popular. The pseudonym would protect the lesson that Solomon wanted shared.

CH. 31

STUDENT:

These are the wise sayings that King Lemuel's mother taught him:

² I prayed for a son, and you are the son I gave birth to. ³ Don't waste your strength on women. Women destroy kings, so don't waste yourself on them. ⁴ Lemuel, it is not wise for kings to drink wine. It is not wise for rulers to want beer. (ERV)

STUDENT:

⁵ They may drink too much and forget what the law says. Then they might take away the rights of the poor. ⁶ Give beer to people without hope. Give wine to those who are in trouble. ⁷ Let them drink to forget their troubles. Let them forget they are poor. ⁸ Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Help people who are in trouble. ⁹ Stand up for what you know is right, and judge all people fairly. Protect the rights of the poor and those who need help. (ERV)

TEACHER:

The rest of the chapter closes with the "Proverbs 31 Woman"

STUDENT:

- ¹⁰ How hard it is to find the perfect wife.
She is worth far more than jewels.
- ¹¹ Her husband depends on her.
He will never be poor.
- ¹² She does good for her husband all her life.
She never causes him trouble.
- ¹³ She is always gathering wool and flax
and enjoys making things with her hands.
- ¹⁴ She is like a ship from a faraway place.
She brings home food from everywhere.
- ¹⁵ She wakes up early in the morning,
cooks food for her family, and gives the servants their share. (ERV)



STUDENT:

- ¹⁶ She looks at land and buys it.
She uses the money she has earned and plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷ She works very hard.
She is strong and able to do all her work.
- ¹⁸ She works late into the night
to make sure her business earns a profit.
- ¹⁹ She makes her own thread and weaves her own cloth.
- ²⁰ She always gives to the poor and helps those who need it.
- ²¹ She does not worry about her family when it snows.
She has given them all good, warm clothes. ²² She makes sheets and spreads for the beds,
and she wears clothes of fine linen.
- ²³ Her husband is a respected member of the city council, where he meets with the other leaders. (ERV)

STUDENT:

- ²⁴ She makes clothes and belts
and sells them to the merchants.
- ²⁵ She is a strong person, and people respect her.
She looks to the future with confidence.
- ²⁶ She speaks with wisdom
and teaches others to be loving and kind.
- ²⁷ She oversees the care of her house.
She is never lazy.
- ²⁸ Her children say good things about her.
Her husband brags about her and says,
- ²⁹ "There are many good women,
but you are the best."
- ³⁰ Grace and beauty can fool you,
but a woman who respects the LORD should be praised.
- ³¹ Give her the reward she deserves.
Praise her in public for what she has done. (ERV)

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NEXT LESSON ECCLESIASTES

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One last Proverb from my Proverbs 31 wife Stacey:

"Jesus took naps, be like Jesus."

Mark 4:38 (NOT AN EXACT TRANSLATION ;)

"The Lord loves when good people pray."

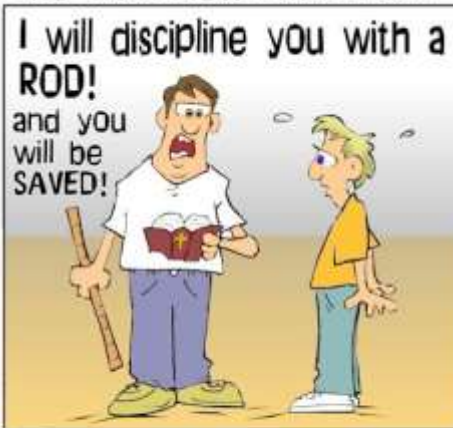
Proverbs 15:8

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



It is better to live on the roof than with a nagging wife.. AND it is better to live on the roof than with a MAN WHO SNORES.
Proverbs 21:9

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Do not withhold discipline from a child if you punish him with a rod.. he will not DIE. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death. **Pr 23**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them. **Pr 3:21**

