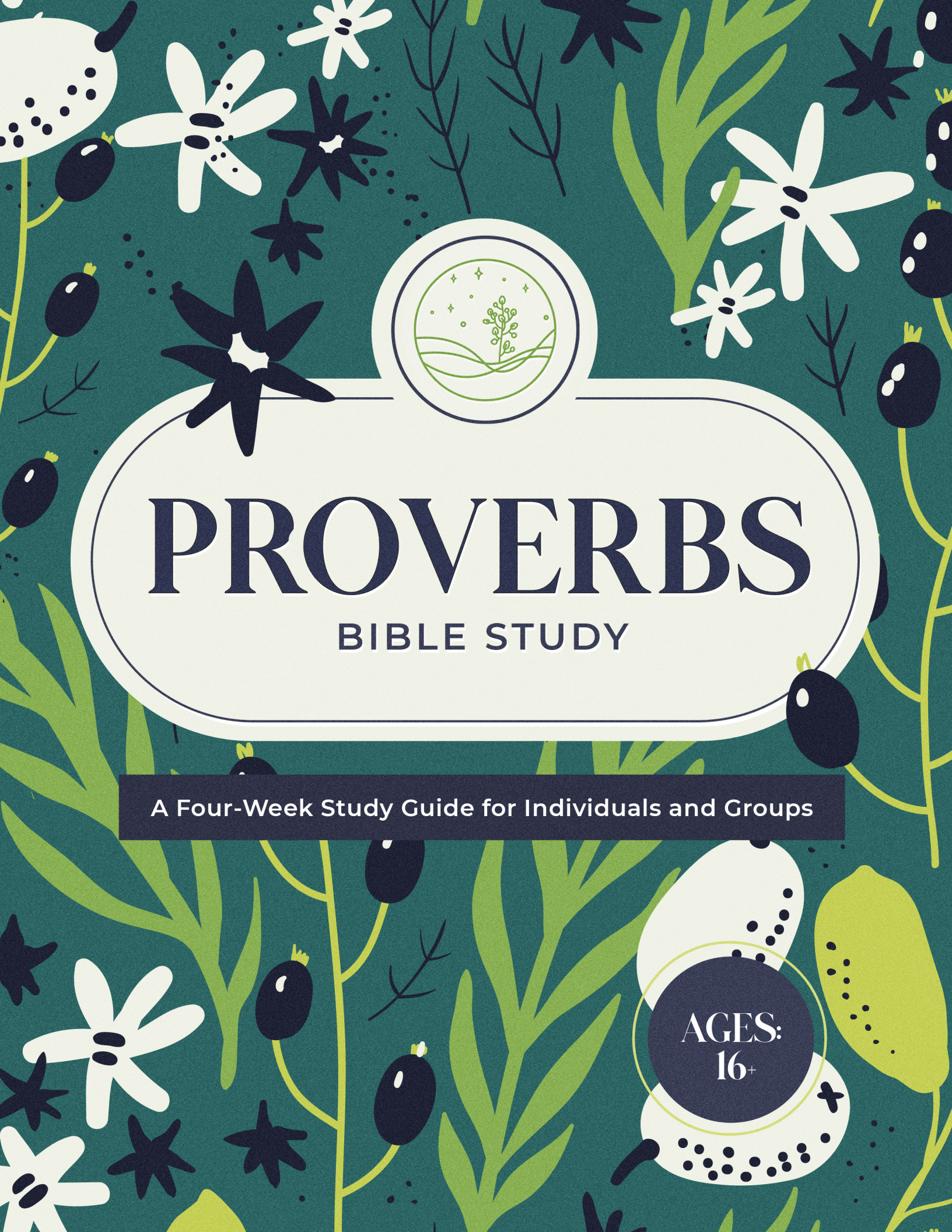




PROVERBS

BIBLE STUDY

A Four-Week Study Guide for Individuals and Groups

AGES:
16+

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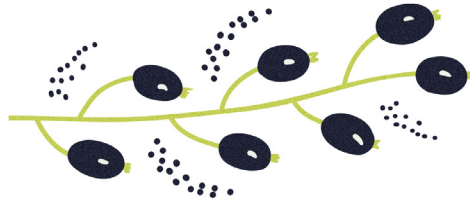
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INTRODUCTION



Background on the Book of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is also called “the wisdom book” and is searched, today as much as ever, for guidance and wisdom.

Solomon is the primary author of Proverbs, with others contributing. Like Psalms, Proverbs was written as a timeless book for all eras to enjoy. All of the proverbs were written during or after Solomon’s reign as the third King of Israel, between 970-675 BC.

These are the two most Googled proverbs:

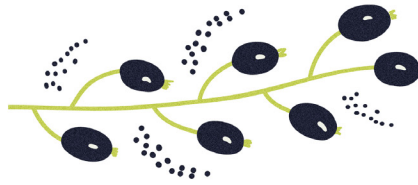
- “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”
–Proverbs 3:5
- “A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.”
–Proverbs 31:10

Why Proverbs is so important

Proverbs is known for its short instructions for living an effective life on earth. It contains no stories or theology, as many other Old Testament books do. It simply states wisdom for all to enjoy and use. Two strong principles emphasized in Proverbs include listening to those who have gone before us—such as parents, teachers, and older people in general—and having humility. We are encouraged not to speak rashly or without seeing the consequences of our arrogance.

Proverbs accomplishes something no other Bible book does: It compiles hundreds of short instructions for living. Other books may articulate profound truths, but the passages are lengthy enough to run the gamut of being intimidating or needing intense research to understand. The Proverbs lay wisdom out in a truly understandable way, with passages memorizable almost from first glance.

INTRODUCTION



In this study, the proverbs are ordered by THEME or SUBJECT

Instead of starting from one of the common academic approaches, we are starting this study of Proverbs as we did with Psalms—with the “people approach.” We start by considering why most people go to Proverbs. What are they looking for? What do they want or need? People delve into Proverbs for myriad reasons, obviously, but search studies imply that they often can be covered in the subjects akin to these below. Applying a beautiful, ancient book to people of today’s world, it is assured via footprints of online data that people look in Proverbs most often for these vital purposes:

1. Learning to live in moderation and avoid excess
2. Learning to control impulses that can get us in trouble or be a bad witness
3. Gaining wisdom to develop good relationships of varying kinds
4. Obtaining various virtues through wisdom and understanding

How this 4-week course is designed

Unlike our study of Psalms, which covered one whole Psalm or chapter in a day, the proverbs will be explored individually, with several presented on a single one-day subject.

- **Each of the four weekly studies contains five lessons**, and you can decide which two days each week to skip the individual study. Some people only want a Monday-through-Friday private plan, while others might want Sunday off, plus a day midweek.
- **Each study day is devoted to three proverbs** on one of the aforementioned topics with both practical and thought-provoking questions provided.
- **Also on each day, one or two further related proverbs** are presented under a “Further Reading Section.” These relate in theme to the featured proverbs.
- Finally, each week contains a **WEEK IN REVIEW** study, with five thought-provoking questions that can be discussed in a group or written about for reinforcement of a private study.

There are no quizzes, no demands—just a system for guidance that should shed great light on more than 100 proverbs over four weeks. At the close of the four weeks, your love for the proverbs should grow in many directions as you apply them.

PROVERBS

Daily Reading Assignments

WEEK 1

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6/7
Proverbs 6:32 Proverbs 22:14 Proverbs 2:16-19	Proverbs 20:1 Proverbs 21:17 Proverbs 23:31-32	Proverbs 25:16 Proverbs 25:28 Proverbs 28:7	Proverbs 20:4 Proverbs 13:4 Proverbs 24:30-34	Proverbs 28:22 Proverbs 11:4 Proverbs 16:16	Catch Up/ Weekly Discussion Question

WEEK 2

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6/7
Proverbs 15:1 Proverbs 29:11 Proverbs 16:32	Proverbs 10:2 Proverbs 20:17 Proverbs 30:7-9	Proverbs 12:22 Proverbs 12:19 Proverbs 6:16-20	Proverbs 16:28 Proverbs 20:19 Proverbs 26:22	Proverbs 11:2 Proverbs 16:5 Proverbs 8:13	Catch Up/ Weekly Discussion Question

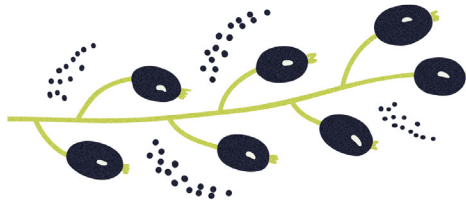
WEEK 3

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6/7
Proverbs 10:1 Proverbs 23:25 Proverbs 1:1-33	Proverbs 29:17 Proverbs 22:6 Proverbs 29:15	Proverbs 22:16 Proverbs 29:18 Proverbs 11:1	Proverbs 27:17 Proverbs 22:24-25 Proverbs 27:6-9	Proverbs 31	Catch Up/ Weekly Discussion Question

WEEK 4

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6/7
Proverbs 22:4 Proverbs 16:19 Proverbs 3:33-34	Proverbs 10:9 Proverbs 19:1 Proverbs 11:3	Proverbs 20:28 Proverbs 18:24 Proverbs 27:10	Proverbs 25:15 Proverbs 16:24 Proverbs 3:21-26	Proverbs 14:29 Proverbs 18:2 Proverbs 2:2-5	Catch Up/ Weekly Discussion Question

TABLE OF CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1: THE CONSEQUENCES OF EXCESS: LEARNING TO PRACTICE MODERATION

WEEK 1, DAY 1	8
WEEK 1, DAY 2	10
WEEK 1, DAY 3	12
WEEK 1, DAY 4	14
WEEK 1, DAY 5	16
WEEK 2 IN REVIEW	18

WEEK 2: LEARNING TO CONTROL OUR IMPULSES

WEEK 2, DAY 1	20
WEEK 2, DAY 2	22
WEEK 2, DAY 3	24
WEEK 2, DAY 4	26
WEEK 2, DAY 5	28
WEEK 2 IN REVIEW	30

WEEK 3: WISDOM FOR RELATIONSHIPS

WEEK 3, DAY 1	32
WEEK 3, DAY 2	34
WEEK 3, DAY 3	36
WEEK 3, DAY 4	38
WEEK 3, DAY 5	40
WEEK 3 IN REVIEW	42

WEEK 4: WISDOM IN OBTAINING VIRTUES

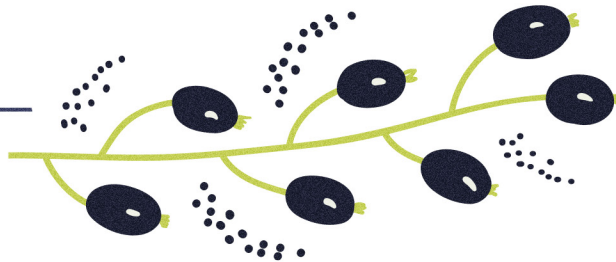
WEEK 4, DAY 1	44
WEEK 4, DAY 2	46
WEEK 4, DAY 3	48
WEEK 4, DAY 4	50
WEEK 4, DAY 5	52
WEEK 4 IN REVIEW	54

ANSWER KEY	55
------------	----



PROVERBS

Consequences of Excess



WEEK 1

Consequences of Excess LUST & ADULTERY

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

HE WHO
COMMITTS
ADULTERY
LACKS

_____;

HE WHO
DOES IT

HIMSELF OR
HIS SOUL.

PROVERBS 6:32

DEVOTION

It seems that there used to be more importance placed upon waiting until marriage for sex and looking for only one lifelong partner. These days, there seems to be a largely relaxed attitude about sex; the inference seems to be that any sexual impulse between any consenting adults should be accommodated. We Christians can see the loss of the sanctity of marriage and of sexual intimacy as an expression of love between people God put together. Let us thank God that He still sees marriage as sacred and will help us find monogamous, lifelong, meaningful relationships according to His Word.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 22:14

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Nearly all Bible translations use the term “destroys himself” at the end of the verse, but the King James translated that clause “destroyeth his own soul.” Use either concept or a combination to describe in your own words the destructiveness of infidelity.

02

Here Solomon uses the metaphor “deep pit” to sum up an adulterous relationship. What are some attributes of a deep pit that would make you want to stay clear of one?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 2:16-19:

This passage says the adulterous woman forgot the covenant she had with God. What covenants (promises) do we have with God as Christians, and how can we keep from forgetting them?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 7:1-27](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Rom. 13:13](#), [1 Cor. 6:9-10](#)



Consequences of Excess ALCOHOL & DRUGS

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

WINE IS A

STRONG
DRINK A
BRAWLER, AND
WHOEVER IS
LED ASTRAY
BY IT IS NOT
_____.

Proverbs 20:1

DEVOTION

Addiction has been a problem since the Fall of Man, but it has become an increasing struggle for many people. The ubiquity of readily-available alcohol and drugs, including the opioid crisis, has made it far too easy for people to fall prey to addictions of all types. Now, there's nothing wrong with using prescribed medication appropriately, or having a glass of wine with dinner. Many Christians drink wine while partaking in the Lord's Supper; it's not the alcohol that's the problem, it's when it becomes an idol or an addiction. The Bible may not speak directly of modern addiction issues, but the timelessness of Proverbs allows us insight into God's feelings about using these substances in excess.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 21:17

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Reflect on the ways an excess of alcohol or drugs can damage one's spiritual walk.

02

Reflect on the truth in this scripture and some of the reasons WHY fixating on pleasures of the flesh will make you poor/ never make you rich.

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 23:31-32:

Name some ways God can protect people from addiction. Name some places we might avoid if we struggle, or have struggled, with addiction of any type (alcohol, drugs, sex, gambling, porn, etc.). If you or someone you know is currently battling an addiction, say a prayer for God's intervention and healing.

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Prov. 23:20-21](#), [Prov. 23:29-35](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Luke 21:34-36](#)



Consequences of Excess

GLUTTONY

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

IF YOU FIND
HONEY,
HOW MUCH
SHOULD
YOU EAT?

PROVERBS 25:16

DEVOTION

God knew from the beginning that anything He gave us as gifts could be used to excess due to our sinful natures. Excessive eating or gluttony can be harder to control than alcohol or other excesses because we all have to eat. We can't avoid food altogether or "quit food" like we can quit smoking. Eating adequate amounts of healthy food is necessary; it's the extra and the unhealthy that's the problem. If overeating is a problem for you, you are not alone. And God has heard millions of prayers on this theme. He knows how to answer them. If you don't get a miracle, don't fret. God is most interested in His children developing the virtues and traits discussed in Romans 5:3-5, our selected scripture for further reading below.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 25:28

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

How can eating more slowly help us not to eat too much?

02

Gluttony is just one way we can lack self-control. Especially in American culture, fast food and oversized portions are prominent; it is very hard to avoid overeating or knowingly consuming food that is detrimental to our bodies. What are some ways we can prevent this excess in ourselves, our children, and even other loved ones, so that we can honor our bodies as God's temples?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 28:7:

According to the proverb above, what does the meaning of "glutton" appear to be?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 25:27](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Romans 5:3-5](#)



Consequences of Excess LAZINESS

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

IF THE
SLUGGARD
DOESN'T PLOW
IN _____, HE
WILL LOOK
FOR REWARDS
AT HARVEST
AND END UP
WITH _____.

PROVERBS 20:4

DEVOTION

To be clear, laziness is not the opposite of busy-ness. Resting is necessary, and we should not feel lazy simply because we're resting on the couch watching TV. Laziness tends to be defined more as the unwillingness to work, not the absence of work. When you are shunning a responsibility, it often pays to ask God to help you step back and reflect on "why" you are being lazy. Why are you unwilling to put in the work or energy for a specific task or occasion? Are you already exhausted from other tasks? Are you afraid of failure? Are you angry with the person who will benefit from your task's completion? Do you feel unappreciated? Jesus tells us to "ask and we shall receive." Sometimes the first part of shedding laziness is insight. Try starting there with prayer, rather than just pushing yourself to stay busy, or punishing yourself (or others) for laziness.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 13:4

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

Most of us do not have to work around a literal harvest time, but we all have responsibilities that need to be done by a certain time or there are consequences. What are some responsibilities that you'd like God to help you with?

02

This proverb seems very similar in format to Proverbs 20:4. But how are they different and how do they lean to two different points?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 24:30-34:

This particular proverb warns us not to rest when it is time to work or when a project is pressing, and people would be inconvenienced if we stopped for rest. What projects or chores in your life are like this? How can you find joy in or while doing them?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 20:13](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Col.3:23](#), [2 Thes. 3:10](#)



Consequences of Excess MATERIALISM

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

THE STINGY,
OR THOSE
THAT HASTEN
TO GET RICH,
DO NOT KNOW
THAT THIS
AWAITS THEM:

PROVERBS 28:22

DEVOTION

Our sinful natures often fill us with the desire to have more and more and more of everything. More stuff, more money, more than our neighbors and friends. We are a culture of consumers, and we often use stuff or shopping for stuff as stress relief, or 'therapy' to fill the gaping hole in our lives. Modern materialism is exacerbated by the ease of acquiring more things online... all you have to do is swipe a phone screen and you can instantly buy more. But all of the stuff we buy won't fulfill us, and it won't fill that hole. It's a distraction from the work Jesus gives us each day which begins with denying ourselves, taking up our cross daily, and following Him. Let's pray for stronger vision and a stronger heart, so that we can look back at the end of our lives on our work with satisfaction and not just have a mountain of dusty junk.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 11:4

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

It would seem that people who are greedy and materialistic would end up with lots of wealth. But what are some reasons this is not always true? Why do greedy, materialistic people sometimes end up in poverty?

02

Some people never pause and reflect on the possibility of a Day of Judgment. That doesn't mean they will not experience it. Describe how people who have spent their lives pursuing materials things will feel or what they will experience emotionally at the time of Judgment.

Write down two words from Proverbs 16:16 that stand out to you:

Reflect on a piece of wisdom you believe you got from God. What was it and how has it served you?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Prov. 22:1](#), [Prov. 13:11](#), and [Prov. 10:22](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Matthew 6:19-22](#)



WEEK 1 IN REVIEW

Use this Week in Review for group discussion or simply for reinforcement of the materials presented this week. Pick any 2 or 3 days (depending on the length of your study time) and discuss, reflect, or write about them in the suggested ways:

FROM DAY 1

As with Day 1's proverbs, sexual promiscuity is compared to a "deep pit" and a "means to destroy one's own soul." Use one of these comparisons and describe ways in which God helped you escape the ravages of promiscuity.

FROM DAY 2

How have drugs and alcohol become a detrimental plague? Make a list of the people you know who have suffered, firsthand or secondhand, due to addiction. Pray for them tonight and whenever possible in the future.

FROM DAY 3

Why is it generally thought to be easier to become a glutton than any other type of excessive binger?

FROM DAY 4

Being lazy generally means an unwillingness to put in effort. This often comes with an assumption that someone else will do whatever work you leave undone. Do you have any such person (enabler)? Are you an enabler for any such person? Describe what's happening.

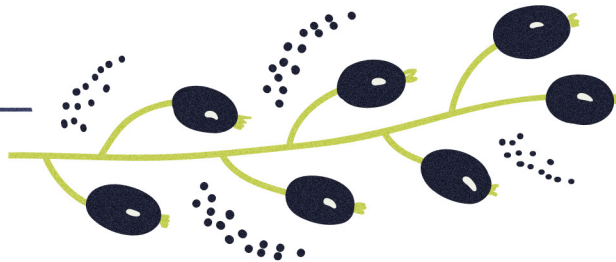
FROM DAY 5

Many people report online shopping as their latest addiction. What do you see that is so alluring about shopping, and what can shoppers replace their addiction with?



PROVERBS

Learning to Control our Impulses



WEEK 2

Consequences of Impulses

UNCHECKED ANGER

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

A SOFT OR
GENTLE
ANSWER
TURNS AWAY

BUT
HARSH OR
GRIEVOUS
WORDS
STIR UP

PROVERBS 15:1

DEVOTION

We are made in God's image. Even God gets angry sometimes, and it is okay for us to be angry. The Bible records many instances of God's righteous anger. Remember when Jesus flipped tables in the temple? Anger is a feeling that is not sinful in itself. However, we need to ensure two things before responding to our anger: (1) that our anger is justified and not narcissistic or selfish, and (2) that our anger is not excessive given the situation. These things are hard to fairly judge in the heat of an angry moment. That's why Proverbs says to provide a soft answer or one that quells or offers peace. This creates a safety zone that gives us time to go back and review the situation when we are calm and also to plan a response that is befitting to the situation. Let's pray for self-control to keep our anger in check, and to make sure that we're angry for appropriate reasons.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 29:11

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Have you ever calmed someone down by replying to their mounting anger with a soft answer? What happened?

02

Have you ever seen someone get very angry at work, school, or home? What kind of damage does it do the relationships surrounding him or her?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 16:32:

Think of a boss, teacher, or other authority figure you've encountered who was easily vexed or prone to anger. What can you learn from their leadership experience, especially if you are in a leadership position yourself?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 14:29, 12:16](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [James 1:19-20, Eph. 4:26](#)



Consequences of Impulses

VARIOUS FORMS OF

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

**ILL-GOTTEN
TREASURES
HAVE NO
LASTING
VALUE, BUT**

PROVERBS 10:2

DEVOTION

Of course, money and property are the first things we think of as items that can be stolen. But there are other forms of stealing too. You can steal a person's time when you chatter endlessly without stopping to think if they are interested or affected by your many words. You can steal a person's honor by crediting to yourself something they thought of, wrote, or invented. You can even steal from your own children when you spend time that should be theirs doing things for your own flesh or ego. Even if we don't steal money or property, we're all guilty of stealing in one of these ways. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit convicts us when we are about to steal in any sense of the word.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 20:17

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

Sometimes it takes quite a while for someone's theft to catch up to them. Think of a movie you saw or a book you read where the bad guys eventually got caught and punished. How long did it take to catch them, and what happened?

02

One's mouth being filled up with gravel is a metaphor meaning that one's theft may seem good at first, but eventually that changes. What kind of things go wrong if you steal, especially property or money, even if you don't get caught?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 30:7-9:

This very famous proverb tells us about how people's love for God can wax cold. What is it?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 6:30-31](#), [Proverbs 11:1](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [1 Timothy 6:10](#), [Rom. 13:9](#)



Consequences of Impulses

LYING

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

**THE LORD
HATES LYING
LIPS, BUT**

PROVERBS 12:22

DEVOTION

Lying is often a means to control a situation we either have no business trying to control or that doesn't really need our control. Sometimes we lie because we think that the truth would hurt someone else. Sometimes we lie in a moment of panic, and then we are too embarrassed to set the record straight. Sometimes we lie to make people like us or be impressed by us. Sometimes we may think that lying makes a situation easier...and perhaps it does in the moment, but it will come back to bite us later. Although telling the truth is sometimes painful and difficult, the truth will indeed set us free. Let's see what God brings our way in exchange for honesty.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 12:19

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Think of a time somebody lied and you found out the truth later. In the time between the telling and your knowing, what things happened that could have been avoided if the person only told the truth?

02

Think of a time you told the truth when it would have been easier to lie. What good has come of it, or if nothing so far, what would you like to see happen in the future?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 6:16-19:

It is likely you wrote down a phrase that either applies to you or someone around you. What does it mean to you?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 24:28](#), [Proverbs 19:9](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Col. 3:9-10](#), [Luke 8:17](#)



Consequences of Impulses

GOSSIP, SLANDER

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

A PERVERSE
OR FROWARD
PERSON
CAN STIR UP
CONFLICT
AND A
GOSSIP CAN
SEPARATE

PROVERBS 16:28

DEVOTION

It is often thought that the Ten Commandments say, “do not lie.” In actuality, the Ninth Commandment focuses on a particular type of lying called “bearing false witness.” God finds this type of lying more egregious than any other. Most of us have felt insecure at some point in our lives, and it made us want to bear false witness—whispering bad things about someone who made us feel threatened. This is extremely egregious to God when it isn’t just a bad witness but a false one—something you made up or exaggerated. We feel relieved when someone agrees or sympathizes; however, the relief is short-lived. We need to do the right thing eventually and work with God on our hearts. We need to identify some reasons why we respond to insecurities this way. Some people can make themselves feel better by tearing people down. Others feel better by building people up. That second behavior is far more beloved and reaps great rewards.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 20:19

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Reflect on Romans 12:19: "Do not take revenge...but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord." What are some reasons God would ask you to let him take revenge, instead of taking it yourself?

02

A wise employer once said, "When someone tells me secrets about another employee, it often tells me a lot more about the teller than it does the other employee." What does the employer mean by that?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 26:22:

Gossip can actually feel like delicious morsels going into us. But what generally happens with gossip as time wears on?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 26:20](#), [Proverbs 21:23](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [James 1:26](#), [Leviticus 19:16](#)



Consequences of Impulses

PRIDE & SELFISHNESS

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

FIRST COMES
PRIDE, AND
THEN COMES

_____;

BUT WITH

COMES
WISDOM.

PROVERBS 11:2

DEVOTION

God resists the proud but draws near to people who are humble. He tells us in the Bible that the proud will be humbled, and the humble will be exalted. The prouder a person is, the less teachable he is and the less spiritual growth he will achieve in his life. His rewards in heaven will be few. We should actually be thankful when God convicts us of our pride. Remember, in heaven the first will be last and the last will be first.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 16:5

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Think of someone, either a famous person or someone in your own life, who was humiliated after being too proud. What happened, and how do you see God's involvement?

02

What methods can help you keep your hatred and anger at bay toward people who seem to get away with everything? Remember, God is the only one who should exact revenge, and he will ensure those who are too proud will be humbled.

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 8:13:

Which areas or situations in your life do you need God's help in, to control your pride?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 16:18, 26:12](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Phili. 2:3, Gal. 6:3-4](#)



WEEK 2 IN REVIEW

Use this Week in Review for group discussion or simply for reinforcement of the materials presented this week. Pick any 2 or 3 days (depending on the length of your study time) and discuss, reflect, or write about them in the suggested ways:

FROM DAY 1

What happens to our witness when we respond to frustration without any self-restraint?

FROM DAY 2

Think of some examples that would apply to the stealing talked about in the devotion. What forms of stealing have you practiced, either inadvertently or through weakness?

FROM DAY 3

Have you ever lied about something only to find that the truth would have served you better? What happened, and what did you learn from it?

FROM DAY 4

One Christian says that she always finds something nice to say when a person's name comes up for gossip. She said it quells the gossip right down. What is something you can do to prevent gossip from overcoming your group?

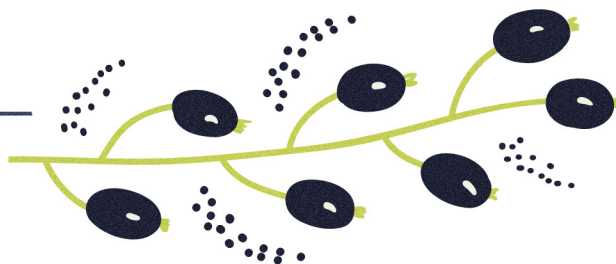
FROM DAY 5

Many evil people seem to get away with everything, but remember that God will be the one to judge them. How can you remind yourself of this when you feel frustrated about this?



PROVERBS

Wisdom for Relationships



WEEK 3

Wisdom for Relationships WITH PARENTS

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

**THIS
PROVERB
INVOLVES
THREE
PEOPLE.
WHO ARE
THEY?**

AND _____

PROVERBS 10:1

DEVOTION

Relationships with parents are complicated. Our relationships with our parents can be among the greatest rewards on earth, and they can also be the most heart-breaking and debilitating. The relationship changes as we grow from children, to teenagers, to adults who are possibly parents ourselves. When we are children, we may view our parents one way, and that view can change as we grow. Sometimes, we resist our parents' guidance in childhood, but grow up to realize they were truly loving, and the relationship is healed. Other times, we grow up to realize our parents are/were toxic and unloving, and we heal ourselves by distancing ourselves from an unhealthy relationship with our parents. Sometimes adoption, divorce, abuse, or abandonment can otherwise complicate parent/child relationships too. Parents can have a god-like status in the eyes of children, so their strengths seem immutable. Conversely, when parents make hurtful mistakes, or suffer from addictions or mental illnesses, this can have lifelong effects on the children. God designed parents to be a symbol of Himself. But the Bible tells us that if our earthly parents aren't up to the task, God will take on the role personally.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 23:25

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

This proverb implies that fathers and mothers (men and women) can have different responses to joy and heartache. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?

02

Have you caused your mother or any woman who raised you to rejoice? In what ways and with what God-given gifts?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 1:1-33:

How do the words you highlighted relate to your life: past, present and/or future?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 23:22](#), [Proverbs 19:20](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Hebrews 12:7-11](#)



Wisdom for Relationships WITH CHILDREN

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

**DISCIPLINE
YOUR
CHILDREN
AND THEY
WILL GIVE
YOU _____.
THEY WILL
BRING YOU
_____.**

PROVERBS 29:17

DEVOTION

Just like relationships with our parents are complicated, relationships with our children are also tricky. While the details of parenting have changed with each passing decade, the basics have stayed the same. Every parent just wants what's best for their child. With the exception of neglectful or abusive parents, mothers and fathers are trying their hardest to be "good" parents...whatever that means. There's no guidebook that comes with our children, whether they are ours biologically, through adoption or marriage, fostered, or any other arrangement. We need God's help as we strive to provide for our children physically, spiritually, financially, mentally, and emotionally. Whether you have a newborn or an adult child, ask God to show you the path to help your child(ren) grow in Him. If you do not have children for whatever reason, say a prayer for someone who does, and consider sharing today's readings with them.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 22:6

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

One great discipline that children thrive on is consistency. In what parts of their day and night can we create routine that they can rely on, no matter what harsh surprises the day brings?

02

This scripture is a principle, not a promise. We still have to pray for our children regularly and be courageous in trying to stay one step ahead of them. What could you pray for concerning your children right now?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 29:15:

How does a reprimand or discipline impart wisdom? When disciplining a child or standing firm regarding consequences, write out a sample explanation for your child so you can discuss the punishment's wisdom in the moment, instead of the ever-popular, "It's for your own good!"

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 2:1-5](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Romans 1:29-30](#)



Wisdom for Relationships

AUTHORITIES & SUBORDINATES

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

ONE WHO
OPPRESSES
THE _____ TO
INCREASE HIS
WEALTH AND
WHO GIVES GIFTS
TO THE _____,
THESE PEOPLE
WILL ONLY COME
TO _____.

PROVERBS 22:16

DEVOTION

Some people fail to have a healthy respect for authority figures. This may stem from a suspicion or distrust of authority based on past experiences, or egotism that convinces them they don't need the opinions or knowledge of experts. Relationships between authorities and subordinates can be complicated, whether it exists in the workplace, the home, a school, or the community. Sometimes it can be confusing to know which earthly authority we can trust. Let's ask God to put the right authorities in front of us each day, ones to trust and from which to learn. And let us pass wisdom on to those God puts us in charge of.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 29:18

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

How are the sins described in the proverb above the opposite of what God would want us to do?

02

Think of visions (alleged ultimate truths or prophecies) shared today, some of which are of God, and some are of the flesh. What questions can we ask ourselves to help the Holy Spirit remove false or fleshly visions from our path?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 11:1:

Dishonest scales can be symbolic for any type of financial deceit. What are some ways we can be tempted into dishonesty, and how can we prevent falling for it?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 22:7](#), [Proverbs 27:18](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [James 5:4](#), [Ephesians 6:9](#)



Wisdom for Relationships WITH FRIENDS

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

IRON
SHARPENS
_____, AS
ONE PERSON

ANOTHER.

PROVERBS 27:17

DEVOTION

God gives us many different types of people that surround us in life, and we are all intended to care for each other. Teachers are responsible for their students. Employers are responsible for creating a healthy work environment for their workers. Some of the closest people that surround us are our friends. While some friends come and go, others are lifelong companions. Friends are those we have fun with, laugh with, cry with, and generally enjoy spending time with. We have many other friends, family, and people we interact with each day in our community. Let's focus on these relationships with an attitude of service. Instead of just enjoying another person's company, look for ways to make their lives easier and see how much you can do without expecting anything in return.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 22:24-25

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

What does this proverb say about a friend? Should a friend always support you in everything you want to do?

02

Why is it so easy to pick up bad behavior and even deep sins from others? What are some sins you have wrestled with from bad influences, and what can we do to protect ourselves against ungodly friends?

Write down one or two phrases or words that strike you the most from Proverbs 27:6-9:

The first and last verses in this set of proverbs deal directly with friendship. Which speaks to you loudest and why?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 13:20](#), [Proverbs 17:9](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#)



Wisdom for Relationships

MOTHERS (PROVERBS 31)

WRITE OUT

PROVERBS 31:25

DEVOTION

Some Christians love Proverbs 31; others blanch at the idea of speaking to or about the genders differently. The “Woman Who Fears the Lord” is actually a passage meant for anyone to read, not just mothers or women. It can give a woman a clear picture of someone she’d love to have as a colleague. It can give a young man a picture of some things he’d like to look for in a potential wife. It can show a hurting man or woman a contrast to that mother who fell short. Children and adults can take away from it some character traits we’d love to have and which God may want to give us along our journey.

FILL IN THE BLANKS OF PROVERBS 31:13-16

- 01** She seeks wool and _____ (v. 13).
- 02** She is like this type of ship: _____ (v. 14).
- 03** She rises while it is still _____ (v. 15).
- 04** She considers a _____ and buys it (v. 16).
- 05** With the earnings, she plants a _____ (v. 16)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

Put this part of Proverbs 31 into your own words, inserting other examples of responsibilities you think are relevant to today.

02

Anxiety is a common mental illness. The woman of Proverbs 31 laughs at worrisome times...why do you think that is?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from the entire passage, verses 10-31:

Some people pick a verse that gives the big overview, such as verses 1 or 30; others pick a detail like verses 20 and 22. Why did you pick the verse you did, and what does it mean for your life?

Further Reading in Other Books: [Luke 10:38-42](#)



WEEK 3 IN REVIEW

Use this Week in Review for group discussion or simply for reinforcement of the materials presented this week. Pick any 2 or 3 days (depending on the length of your study time) and discuss, reflect, or write about them in the suggested ways:

FROM DAY 1

Write out a prayer thanking God for your parents. If that would be insincere, write out a prayer that He would heal any hurt caused, and take over their role.

FROM DAY 2

Write out a list of other parents and pray for them this week. Pray for parents who may feel judged or not supported enough. Pray for those who appear to be struggling, as well as those who don't...everyone is fighting their own battle that may not be visible.

FROM DAY 3

Focus on one group of authorities whom you feel deserves more respect. How can you help them or their cause?

FROM DAY 4

Why is it important to serve our friends as well as enjoy them? What is one thing you can do this week to help a friend out?

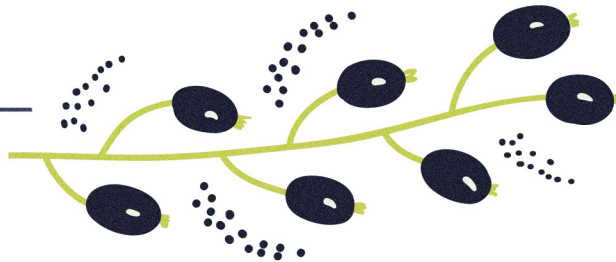
FROM DAY 5

Reread Proverbs 31:10-31. What line strikes your heart the most, and what does it have to do with your life?



PROVERBS

Wisdom for Obtaining Virtues



WEEK 4

Wisdom for Obtaining Virtues

HUMILITY

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

This proverb
likens humility
to fear of
the Lord and
brings these
three things:

_____,
_____, and
_____.

PROVERBS 22:4

DEVOTION

The Book of Proverbs extols many virtues. This week, we'll focus on five of the most popular virtues, beginning today with humility. Humility is a tough virtue to master because it is counterintuitive to our fallen natures. We instinctively want to be the center of attention or to be treated as being important, and our first instinct is not usually to practice humility. Jesus had a lot to say about the first being last and the last, first in the kingdom of heaven. Practicing humility allows us to better serve God on this earth, and He says we will be abundantly rewarded in heaven.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 16:19

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

What does “fear” mean in “fear of the Lord”?

02

It is often said that the poor are more charitable, more content with what they have, and more appreciative of things than those who may have material wealth. Why do you think this is?

Write down a couple words or phrases that strike you the most from Proverbs 3:33-34:

It's unusual to think of God being scornful or mocking. Write out a prayer asking God for strength to carry out His will so that God is pleased.

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 16:19](#), [Proverbs 27:2](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [1 Peter 5:5-6](#), [Luke 14:11](#)



Wisdom in Obtaining Virtues

HONESTY

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

**WHOEVER
WALKS IN
INTEGRITY
WALKS _____,
BUT HE WHOSE
PATHS ARE
CROOKED WILL
BE _____.**

PROVERBS 10:9

DEVOTION

The virtue of honesty is an important one; if people can't trust what we say, they're unlikely to trust anything else about us. Even children who are caught in lies are doubted after the lie is discovered. God calls us to put others before ourselves. We need people to trust us as God's servants. Therefore it's important not to say anything that could make people think, "They call themselves Christian, and here they told this huge lie!"

When tempted to lie, slam on the brakes, take a breath, and simply tell the truth. Often when we force an awkward truth out about something we did wrong or less than perfectly, we are surprised to see how merciful and kind others are.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 19:1

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Have you ever known a dishonest person who appeared to be getting away with their lies and deceit? God promises to expose their dishonesty; say a prayer to give you patience through the frustrating situation.

02

According to this verse, a poor but honest person is better off than a wise fool. What are some ways that honesty can make us rich, even without money or material things?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 11:3:

What do you think it means when the proverb says that duplicity will destroy the unfaithful?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 16:13](#), [Proverbs 12:17](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [1 Peter 3:10-12](#), [Luke 14:11](#)



Wisdom in Obtaining Virtues

LOYALTY

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

STEADFAST
LOVE AND
FAITHFULNESS
PRESERVE
THE_____,
AND THROUGH
_____HIS
THRONE IS
UPHELD.

PROVERBS 20:28

DEVOTION

Loyalty is a multifaceted virtue, and can mean different things to different people. It's virtuous to be loyal to God, our spouse, and our family and friends. Loyalty is not virtuous, however, if we are loyal to those who pull us away from God's desires. It's not virtuous to be loyal to someone who's committed a crime and we fear "ratting them out." Sometimes we fear that we are disloyal if we report a friend or family member for sinful behavior, but that's not the case. Loyalty is something that's only owed to God, and His will. It's not virtuous to be loyal to a lover instead of our spouse. Loyalty is instead owed to the spouse with whom we exchanged marriage vows. When in doubt, remember that we should strive to show loyalty to God, as well as those who are aligned with God's will.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 18:24

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

Reflect on how this proverb applies if the king is our beloved Jesus Christ. What are some details that tell us how to behave?

02

In the NIV, this verse begins, "One who has unreliable friends." What are some ways to draw reliable friends and not get involved with unreliable people?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 27:10:

This proverb implies that it is important to preserve friendships. Look up Proverbs 17:17 and revisit 18:24 to see why it is more expedient at times to call on a friend instead of a relative. Write the reason:

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 20:6](#), [Proverbs 24:21](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Ruth 1:16-17](#), [1 Sam. 24:6-10](#)



Wisdom in Obtaining Virtues

PEACEFULNESS

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

WITH
PATIENCE
A _____
MAY BE
PERSUADED,
AND A SOFT
TONGUE CAN
BREAK A

PROVERBS 25:15

DEVOTION

In our busy, noisy world, it can be hard to experience true peace. Between work, spending time with friends, taking our kids to activities, and interacting with all of the technology at our fingertips, we don't often have much time to sit in the silence with God. But like the Bible says, God speaks to us in the whisper, not in the noise. It's important, in a culture that values "busy-ness," to find a place and time to experience true peace each day. This may look different to each of us...one may find peace in a cup of coffee and time in the Bible each morning, another may find peace in a walk in the woods, and still another may find peace in a fishing boat. Find the experience that allows you to quiet your soul and receive God's peace.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 16:24

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**01**

What does “a soft tongue can break a bone” mean? How can this apply to your life?

02

Think of a time you did not use gracious words. Rewrite the situation using gracious words instead of angry or mean ones.

Write down a few phrases or words that strike you the most from Proverbs 3:21-26:

How can these words influence your life over the next few weeks?

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 26:17-20](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [Philippians 4:6-7](#)



Wisdom in Obtaining Virtue

UNDERSTANDING

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

WHOEVER

HAS GREAT
UNDERSTANDING,
BUT HE THAT
IS _____
DISPLAYS FOILY.

PROVERBS 14:29

DEVOTION

We tend to think that understanding is synonymous with education, or that understanding comes mainly through education. But education mainly involves intellectual understanding. There are many other types of understanding (such as emotional, instinctive, reflective, and comparative) that create comprehensive or spiritual understanding. Spiritual understanding precedes wisdom. Understanding information is a first step to becoming wise, but understanding how and when to apply information is more akin to wisdom. Let's pray to not only understand, but to apply that understanding with God's help.

WRITE OUT PROVERBS 18:2

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

01

Focus on an area where you need more patience. Name a few things you can do so that you will be patient rather than quick-tempered.

02

"A fool has said, 'I like the questions a lot more than the answers.'" What do you think this statement means, and how does the fool's foolishness relate to this proverb?

Write down one phrase or line that strikes you the most from Proverbs 2:2-5:

Sometimes phrases from Proverbs look interchangeable, but on deeper reflection, they are different. In verse five, how does "Understand the fear of the Lord" differ from "find the knowledge of God?"

Further Reading in Proverbs: [Proverbs 3:5-6](#), [Proverbs 2:11-16](#)

Further Reading in Other Books: [2 Tim. 3:1-17](#), [Eph. 4:17-24](#)



WEEK 4 IN REVIEW

Use this Week in Review for group discussion or simply for reinforcement of the materials presented this week. Pick any 2 or 3 days (depending on the length of your study time) and discuss, reflect, or write about them in the suggested ways:

FROM DAY 1

Some people say that when they obtained humility rather than feeling insecure, they mastered their circumstances. What is the difference between feeling humble and feeling insecure?

FROM DAY 2

Name some other ways that poor people might actually be wealthy in other ways, as discussed with Proverbs 19:1.

FROM DAY 3

Have you ever felt manipulated to remain silent when you knew that speaking up was the best thing? What happened?

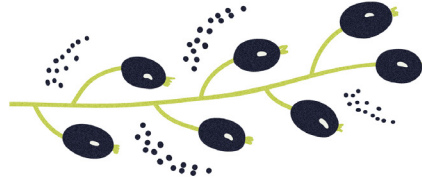
FROM DAY 4

It is hard to be peaceful in stressful situations, or even just amongst the chaos of everyday life. How do you think Jesus did it? How can you get better at finding peace?

FROM DAY 5

Understanding and education are often considered synonyms. How are the words alike, and how are they different?

ANSWER KEY



Week 1, Day 1
sense, destroys

Week 1, Day 2
mock, wise

Week 1, Day 3
Just enough

Week 1, Day 4
In season or in the cold, nothing

Week 1, Day 5
poverty

Week 2, Day 1
wrath, anger

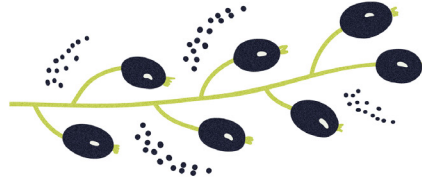
Week 2, Day 2
righteousness delivers from death

Week 2, Day 3
but he delights in people who are trustworthy, or, they that deal truly are his delight.

Week 2, Day 4
good friends or chief friends

Week 2, Day 5
shame or disgrace; humility or lowliness

ANSWER KEY



Week 3, Day 1

The father, mother, and the child

Week 3, Day 2

rest or peace; bring you the delights you desire, or will give delight to your heart.

Week 3, Day 3

poor, rich, poverty

Week 3, Day 4

Iron, sharpens

Week 3, Day 5

1. Flax, 2. Merchant, 3. Night, 4. Field, 5. Vineyard

Week 4, Day 1

riches, honor, and life

Week 4, Day 2

securely, found out

Week 4, Day 3

king, love

Week 4, Day 4

king, bone

Week 4, Day 5

is patient or is slow to wrath; one who is quick-tempered or is hasty of spirit