

<h1>LESSONS FOR LIVING FROM THE PROVERBS</h1>		
<h2>Session Four</h2>		

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<h3>Recap Session Three</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all have a CONSCIENCE that is aware of God’s Law even before we come to know God. • After becoming a believer, our lives are gradually transformed by God’s Spirit to conformance with His Word and Will. • Our eyes are “windows to the soul,” and we are to take care in what we permit ourselves to see and observe. • Persistent and prolonged sinful behavior will deaden the conscience and render it useless. • God’s Word is our lamp and light to illuminate the paths of our lives. Reading, memorizing and meditating on God’s Word is our constant goal so that we can live a God-pleasing life. 	<p>Prov. 20:27 <i>The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.</i></p> <p>Prov. 4:23,25-27 ²³ <i>Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.</i> ²⁵ <i>Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.</i> ²⁶ <i>Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.</i> ²⁷ <i>Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.</i></p> <p>Psalm 119:105 <i>Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.</i></p>
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	<h1>THE SPOKEN WORD</h1>	
	Topic 7	3

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Intro passage ...	<p>James 3:3-10</p> <p><i>Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
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	<h1>POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD</h1>	
	<p>Topic 7a</p>	<p>5</p>

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	<h1>POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD</h1>	<p>Prov. 18:4 <i>The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.</i></p> <p>Prov. 18:21 <i>Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.</i></p>
		<p>Prov. 12:18 <i>There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>

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	<h1>TRUTH</h1>	
	Topic 4	7

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	<h1>TRUTH</h1>	<p>Prov. 22:19b-21</p> <p><i>I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge, That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you?</i></p>
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<p>Quotes from Winston Churchill:</p>	<p>Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.</p> <p>A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to gets its pants on.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;">Truth verses from Proverbs</p>									
	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>									

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<p>Prov. 23:23 <i>Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.</i></p>	<p>John 14:6a <i>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. ..."</i></p> <p>John 8:31-32 <i>Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."</i></p>
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	<p>LYING</p>	
	Topic 7b	12

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	LYING	<p>Prov. 12:22 <i>Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.</i></p> <p>Prov. 10:18 <i>Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.</i></p> <p>Prov. 19:5 <i>A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who speaks lies will not escape.</i></p>
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	DECEITFUL WORDS	
	Topic 7c	14

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		<p>Prov. 11:9 (NIV) <i>With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape.</i></p>
	<p>DECEITFUL WORDS</p>	<p>Prov. 16:27-28 <i>An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.</i></p>
		<p>Prov. 20:3 <i>It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>

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<p>DECEITFUL WORDS continued ...</p>	<p>Psalm 52:1-4 <i>Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually. Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>
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	GOSSIP	
	Topic 7d	17

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	GOSSIP	<p>Prov. 18:8 <i>The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.</i></p> <p>Prov. 11:13 <i>A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.</i></p>
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	<h1>TALKING TOO MUCH</h1>	
	Topic 7e	19

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	<h1>TALKING TOO MUCH</h1>	<p>Prov. 10:19 <i>In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.</i></p> <p>Prov. 13:3 <i>He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.</i></p>
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	<h1>RIGHTEOUS WORDS</h1>	
	Topic 7f	21

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	<h2>Righteous Words ...</h2>													
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	<h1>TEACHING WORDS</h1>	
	Topic 7g	23

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	<h1>TEACHING WORDS</h1>	<p>Prov. 15:2 <i>The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.</i></p> <p>Prov. 16:23 <i>The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips.</i></p>
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	<h1>WHOLESOME WORDS</h1>	
	Topic 7h	25

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	<h1>WHOLESOME WORDS</h1>	<p>Prov. 15:4 <i>A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.</i></p> <p>Prov. 22:11 <i>He who loves purity of heart And has grace on his lips, The king will be his friend.</i></p>
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<p>Prov. 16:24 <i>Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.</i></p>	<p>Prov. 13:2 <i>A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.</i></p>
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	<p>Prov. 25:11 <i>A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.</i></p>
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<h2>Summary ...</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our words are powerful, for both good or evil. • The opposite of truth-telling is lying; Satan is the father of lies. • Just as our eyes take in food for our souls, our mouths emit words that reveal the essence of our character. • Gossip and excessive talking are the result of sin and are to be avoided. • Our tongues are trained by our hearts to speak the right words at the right time. • The proper use of wholesome words brings life and health to those who hear them. 	<p>Colossians 4:6 <i>Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.</i></p> <p>1 Samuel 3:19 <i>So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.</i></p>
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	<h3>QUESTIONS?</h3>	
		<h3>Favorite Proverb?</h3>
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<h2>Tool to Interpret</h2>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the central concepts or persons being compared or contrasted? 2. Identify figures of speech and rephrase without the figure (ex. “put a knife to your throat” from Prov. 23:1-3) 3. Summarize the lesson or principle of the proverb in a few words. 4. Describe the behavior that is being taught or encouraged. 5. Can you identify examples elsewhere in Scripture that illustrates the truth of that proverb? 6. How can you apply this lesson or principle to your own life? <p style="text-align: right;">31</p>
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<h2>If time permits ...</h2>	<p>Prov. 23:1-3 <i>When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you; And put a knife to your throat If you are a man given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, For they are deceptive food.</i></p> <p>Prov. 21:1 <i>The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.</i></p> <p>Prov. 14:10 <i>The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy.</i></p> <p>Prov. 21:31 <i>The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the Lord.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">32</p>
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<h2>Class Assignment</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a goal to read through the Book of Proverbs at least once throughout this class semester. • Bring your questions for proverbs you have trouble understanding, or a favorite proverb that you would like to share with the class. 	
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<h2>Possible Future Topics</h2>				
	Teaching sons and daughters	Choice of Companions	Trusting God	Righteousness vs. Wickedness
	Integrity	Guard Your Mind	Discipline	Shine the Light of Christ
	Sexual Purity	Deceitful Tongue	Diligent Worker	Leave a Legacy
	Money Management	Love Your Neighbor	God's Protection	Virtuous Woman
	Avoid the World's Distractions	Truth	Types of Fools	Seeking Counsel
	God Hides Himself	Sin of Pride	Discernment	Anger / Temper
	Honor Your Parents	Revenge	Conscience	Repentance
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