

# **Bible Study Guide: Proverbs 18 – Words, Wisdom, and Relationships**

## **Overview**

**Author:** Solomon

**Theme:** The power of words, humility, relationships, and seeking wisdom

### **Big Idea:**

*Wisdom is revealed in how we speak, how we listen, and how we build relationships.*

---

## **Section 1: Isolation vs. Community (Proverbs 18:1)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.”

### **Main Point**

Isolation leads to poor judgment; community fosters wisdom.

### **Explanation**

God designed us for relationship. When we isolate ourselves, we often lose perspective and become self-

focused. Wise living involves **seeking counsel and connection**.

## **Application**

- Stay connected to godly community
- Seek wise counsel before making decisions
- Avoid withdrawing during difficult times

## **Discussion Questions**

- Do you tend to isolate or seek support?
  - Who are trusted voices in your life?
- 

## **Section 2: The Power of Words (Proverbs 18:2–8, 20–21)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“The tongue has the power of life and death...” (v.21)

### **Main Point**

Words carry the power to build or destroy.

### **Explanation**

Solomon emphasizes that speech reflects the heart. Foolish talk creates conflict, while wise words bring life, healing, and understanding.

## Application

- Speak intentionally and thoughtfully
- Avoid gossip and harmful speech
- Use your words to encourage and uplift

## Discussion Questions

- Are your words bringing life or causing harm?
  - What habits can help you control your speech?
- 

## Section 3: Listening and Understanding (Proverbs 18:13, 15)

### Scripture (Key Verse)

“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.”  
(v.13)

### Main Point

Wise people listen before they speak.

### Explanation

Jumping to conclusions or responding too quickly leads to misunderstanding. Wisdom requires **patience, listening, and discernment.**

### Application

- Practice active listening
- Pause before responding
- Seek to understand, not just to reply

## **Discussion Questions**

- Do you listen to understand or to respond?
  - How can you improve your listening skills?
- 

## **Section 4: Pride vs. Humility (Proverbs 18:10–12)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.” (v.12)

### **Main Point**

Pride leads to downfall; humility leads to security and honor.

### **Explanation**

Pride creates false confidence, while humility recognizes dependence on God. The Lord is described as a **strong tower**—a place of refuge for the humble.

### **Application**

- Stay humble in success and failure

- Rely on God, not your own strength
- Seek refuge in Him during challenges

## **Discussion Questions**

- Where might pride be affecting your life?
  - What does it look like to truly depend on God?
- 

## **Section 5: The Value of Wisdom and Counsel (Proverbs 18:4, 16–19)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge...”  
(v.15)

### **Main Point**

Wisdom grows through learning, counsel, and discernment.

### **Explanation**

Wise people seek understanding and value wise counsel. Decisions made without guidance often lead to conflict or poor outcomes.

### **Application**

- Seek advice from wise, godly people

- Be open to learning and growth
- Don't make major decisions alone

## **Discussion Questions**

- Who do you turn to for wisdom?
  - How can you become more teachable?
- 

## **Section 6: The Strength of Relationships (Proverbs 18:19, 24)**

### **Scripture (Key Verse)**

“One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” (v.24)

### **Main Point**

Healthy relationships require wisdom, loyalty, and intentionality.

### **Explanation**

Conflict can damage relationships deeply, but true friendships are marked by loyalty and consistency. Some see a reflection here of Jesus Christ as the ultimate faithful friend.

### **Application**

- Invest in meaningful, trustworthy relationships
- Be a loyal and dependable friend
- Handle conflict with wisdom and grace

## **Discussion Questions**

- What kind of friend are you to others?
  - How can you strengthen your relationships?
- 

## **Key Takeaways from Proverbs 18**

- Isolation leads to poor judgment—community brings wisdom
  - Words have the power of life and death
  - Listening is essential to wisdom
  - Humility leads to honor; pride leads to downfall
  - Wise counsel strengthens decisions
  - Strong relationships require loyalty and wisdom
- 

## **Life Application Challenge**

This week:

- Be intentional about speaking life-giving words
- Practice listening before responding
- Seek counsel in one decision you're facing
- Strengthen one key relationship

---

## **Closing Prayer**

“Lord, help me to speak with wisdom, listen with understanding, and live with humility. Guide my relationships and teach me to walk in Your truth. Shape my heart so that my words and actions reflect Your love and wisdom. Amen.”