# Bible Study Guide: Proverbs 21 – Righteous Living and God's Sovereignty

## Overview

**Author:** Solomon
**Theme:** God's control over life, the importance of righteousness, and the consequences of our choices

**Big Idea:**
*True wisdom is seen in righteous living, disciplined choices, and trusting that God is ultimately in control.*

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## Section 1: God Is in Control (Proverbs 21:1)

### Scripture (Key Verse)

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases."

### Main Point

God is sovereign over all people and situations.

### Explanation

Even those in positions of great power are under God's authority. Nothing happens outside His control. This truth brings both confidence and humility.

## Application

- Trust God even when circumstances feel uncertain
- Pray for leaders and those in authority
- Rest in God's ultimate control

## Discussion Questions

- How does knowing God is in control affect your perspective?
- Where do you need to trust Him more?

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## Section 2: Righteousness Over Religion (Proverbs 21:2–3)

## Scripture (Key Verse)

"To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." (v.3)

## Main Point

God values righteous living more than religious activity.

## Explanation

People often justify their actions, but God sees the heart. Obedience and justice matter more than outward rituals.

## Application

- Focus on living right, not just looking right
- Examine your motives regularly
- Align your actions with God's truth

### Discussion Questions

- Are there areas where your actions don't match your beliefs?
- What does true righteousness look like in daily life?

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## Section 3: Pride and Self-Reliance (Proverbs 21:4–7)

### Scripture (Key Verse)

"Haughty eyes and a proud heart—the unplowed field of the wicked—produce sin." (v.4)

### Main Point

Pride leads to sin and destruction.

### Explanation

Pride causes people to rely on themselves rather than God. It distorts judgment and leads to harmful choices.

### Application

- Stay humble and dependent on God
- Recognize pride quickly and address it

- Seek God’s guidance instead of trusting your own understanding

**Discussion Questions**

- Where does pride show up in your life?
- How can you cultivate humility?

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## Section 4: Diligence vs. Laziness (Proverbs 21:5, 25–26)

### Scripture (Key Verse)

“The plans of the diligent lead to profit…” (v.5)

### Main Point

Hard work and discipline lead to success; laziness leads to lack.

### Explanation

Diligence is not just about effort—it’s about consistency and planning. The lazy person desires but does not act.

### Application

- Develop consistent work habits
- Set clear goals and pursue them
- Avoid procrastination

## Discussion Questions

- Are you living with diligence or drifting into laziness?
- What practical steps can you take to grow in discipline?

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## Section 5: The Power of Words and Choices (Proverbs 21:6, 23)

### Scripture (Key Verse)

"Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity." (v.23)

### Main Point

Wise speech protects your life.

### Explanation

Words can create trouble or prevent it. Self-control in speech is a key mark of wisdom.

### Application

- Think before you speak
- Avoid gossip and harmful words
- Use your words to build, not destroy

## Discussion Questions

- How have your words impacted others recently?
- What would change if you guarded your speech more carefully?

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## Section 6: Justice, Generosity, and Obedience (Proverbs 21:13, 15, 21)

### Scripture (Key Verse)

"Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor." (v.21)

### Main Point

Living with justice and compassion leads to blessing.

### Explanation

God honors those who care for others and live with integrity. Ignoring the needs of others reveals a hardened heart.

### Application

- Be attentive to the needs around you
- Practice generosity and kindness
- Pursue righteousness in daily life

## Discussion Questions

- How can you actively pursue righteousness this week?
- Where can you show compassion in a practical way?

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## Section 7: Trusting God Over Human Strength (Proverbs 21:30–31)

### Scripture (Key Verse)

"There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord." (v.30)

### Main Point

God's purposes will always prevail.

### Explanation

Human effort is important, but ultimate success comes from God. We prepare and work, but we must trust Him for the outcome.

### Application

- Do your part, but trust God with the results
- Surrender control to God
- Seek His will in every decision

## Discussion Questions

- Do you rely more on your effort or God's guidance?
- What area of your life needs to be surrendered to Him?

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## Key Takeaways from Proverbs 21

- God is sovereign over all things
- Righteous living matters more than religious activity
- Pride leads to destruction—humility leads to life
- Diligence produces results; laziness leads to lack
- Words have power—use them wisely
- God's purposes will always prevail

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## Life Application Challenge

This week:

- Trust God in one area where you've been holding control
- Practice disciplined work in a specific area
- Guard your speech intentionally
- Show kindness to someone in need

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## Closing Prayer

“Lord, help me to live with righteousness, humility, and discipline. Teach me to trust Your plan above my own and to walk in wisdom in every area of my life. Guard my heart and my words, and lead me in Your truth. Amen.”