

# **Bible Study Guide: Proverbs 12 – The Marks of a Wise Life**

## **Overview**

**Author:** Solomon

**Theme:** Righteousness, integrity, discipline, and the power of words

### **Big Idea:**

*A wise life is marked by teachability, integrity, diligence, and speech that brings life.*

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## **Section 1: Teachability vs. Rejection of Correction (Proverbs 12:1)**

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

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.”

### **Main Point**

Wisdom begins with a willingness to be corrected.

### **Explanation**

This verse sets the tone for the entire chapter—**teachability is the foundation of wisdom**. A wise person

embraces correction because it leads to growth, while a foolish person resists it and remains stagnant.

## **Application**

- Be open to feedback and correction
- View discipline as growth, not punishment
- Seek accountability in your life

## **Discussion Questions**

- How do you respond when corrected?
  - Who has permission to speak truth into your life?
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## **Section 2: Integrity and Character (Proverbs 12:2–7)**

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

“The Lord approves of those whose hearts are good...”  
(v.2)

### **Main Point**

Character determines stability and favor.

### **Explanation**

The righteous are described as secure and established, while the wicked are unstable and eventually fall. God sees and rewards integrity.

## **Application**

- Build your life on honesty and righteousness
- Focus on who you are, not just what you do
- Trust God to honor integrity

## **Discussion Questions**

- What areas of your character need strengthening?
  - How does integrity affect your daily decisions?
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## **Section 3: The Power of Words (Proverbs 12:13–19, 22, 25)**

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

“The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (v.18)

### **Main Point**

Words can wound deeply or bring healing.

### **Explanation**

Speech reveals the heart. Careless words cause damage, while wise words restore and encourage. Truthfulness is highly valued by God.

### **Application**

- Speak thoughtfully and truthfully
- Avoid gossip, lies, and harsh speech
- Use your words to encourage and uplift

## **Discussion Questions**

- Do your words tend to heal or hurt?
  - What changes can you make in your communication?
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## **Section 4: Diligence vs. Laziness (Proverbs 12:11, 24, 27)**

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

“Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labor.” (v.24)

### **Main Point**

Hard work leads to opportunity; laziness leads to limitation.

### **Explanation**

Solomon emphasizes that diligence produces results, while laziness leads to missed opportunities and hardship.

### **Application**

- Develop consistent work habits

- Take responsibility for your tasks
- Avoid procrastination

## **Discussion Questions**

- Where do you need more discipline in your life?
  - What habits are holding you back from growth?
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## **Section 5: The Heart of the Righteous (Proverbs 12:10, 26)**

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

“The righteous choose their friends carefully...” (v.26)

### **Main Point**

Wise people show compassion and choose relationships wisely.

### **Explanation**

The righteous care for others—even animals—and are intentional about their relationships. The people you surround yourself with influence your direction.

### **Application**

- Be compassionate and considerate
- Choose friendships that encourage growth

- Evaluate the influence of your circle

## **Discussion Questions**

- Who influences your life the most?
  - Are your relationships helping or hindering your walk with God?
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## **Section 6: Truth vs. Deception (Proverbs 12:17–22)**

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

“The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy.” (v.22)

### **Main Point**

Truthfulness reflects God’s character.

### **Explanation**

Honesty builds trust and reflects righteousness, while deception leads to broken relationships and loss of credibility.

### **Application**

- Commit to honesty in all situations
- Build a reputation of trustworthiness
- Speak truth with grace

## **Discussion Questions**

- Why is honesty sometimes difficult?
  - How can you grow in being more trustworthy?
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## **Key Takeaways from Proverbs 12**

- Teachability is essential for growth
  - Integrity leads to stability and favor
  - Words have the power to heal or harm
  - Diligence produces opportunity
  - Relationships influence your direction
  - Truthfulness reflects God's character
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## **Life Application Challenge**

This week:

- Ask for feedback in one area of your life
  - Be intentional about speaking encouraging words
  - Practice diligence in a task you've been avoiding
  - Strengthen or reevaluate one key relationship
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## **Closing Prayer**

“Lord, help me to be teachable and to grow in wisdom. Shape my character, guide my words, and strengthen my discipline. Teach me to walk in truth, build healthy relationships, and live a life that honors You. Amen.”