

Bible Study Guide: Proverbs 15 – Words, Worship, and the Way of Wisdom

Overview

Author: Solomon

Theme: The power of words, the condition of the heart, and living a life that pleases God

Big Idea:

Wise living flows from a right heart—revealed through our words, our attitudes, and our relationship with God.

Section 1: The Power of Words (Proverbs 15:1–7)

Scripture (Key Verse)

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (v.1)

Main Point

Your words have the power to bring peace or create conflict.

Explanation

Solomon emphasizes that speech reflects wisdom (or the lack of it). Gentle, thoughtful words can de-escalate tension, while careless or harsh words ignite conflict.

Application

- Choose your words carefully—especially in conflict
- Respond, don't react
- Speak with wisdom, not emotion

Discussion Questions

- How do you typically respond when someone challenges you?
 - What would it look like to consistently use “gentle answers”?
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Section 2: God Sees the Heart (Proverbs 15:8–11)

Scripture (Key Verse)

“The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases Him.” (v.8)

Main Point

God values sincerity over outward actions.

Explanation

Religious activity means nothing if the heart is not right. God is not impressed with performance—He desires authenticity and righteousness.

Application

- Focus on your heart, not just your habits
- Be honest with God in prayer
- Align your actions with your character

Discussion Questions

- Are there areas where your outward actions don't match your heart?
 - What does genuine worship look like in your life?
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Section 3: The Attitude of the Heart (Proverbs 15:13–17)

Scripture (Key Verse)

“A happy heart makes the face cheerful...” (v.13)

Main Point

Your inner attitude shapes your outward life.

Explanation

Joy, peace, and contentment are not based on circumstances but on the condition of the heart. A heart aligned with God produces a life of stability and perspective.

Application

- Choose gratitude over negativity
- Focus on what you have, not what you lack
- Let God shape your perspective

Discussion Questions

- What is currently shaping your attitude the most?
 - How can you cultivate a joyful heart?
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Section 4: Wisdom vs. Foolishness (Proverbs 15:18–24)

Scripture (Key Verse)

“The path of life leads upward for the prudent...” (v.24)

Main Point

Wisdom leads to life; foolishness leads to destruction.

Explanation

This section contrasts the wise and the foolish in areas like anger, teachability, and decision-making. Wisdom brings stability, while foolishness creates chaos.

Application

- Be quick to listen and slow to anger

- Accept correction and grow from it
- Make decisions based on truth, not impulse

Discussion Questions

- How do you respond to correction?
 - What areas of your life need more wisdom-driven decisions?
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Section 5: Humility and the Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 15:25–33)

Scripture (Key Verse)

“Wisdom’s instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor.” (v.33)

Main Point

Humility and reverence for God lead to honor and life.

Explanation

God opposes pride but lifts up the humble. The “fear of the Lord” means reverence, respect, and submission to His authority.

Application

- Walk humbly before God

- Seek His guidance in every area of life
- Trust God's ways over your own

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to truly fear the Lord?
 - Where might pride be affecting your decisions?
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Key Takeaways from Proverbs 15

- Words have power—use them wisely
 - God cares more about your heart than your actions
 - Your attitude shapes your life
 - Wisdom brings life; foolishness brings trouble
 - Humility and reverence for God lead to honor
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Life Application Challenge

This week:

- Practice responding with **gentle words** in every situation
 - Spend intentional time in **honest prayer**
 - Identify one area of pride and choose humility
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Closing Prayer

“Lord, help me to speak with wisdom, live with humility, and keep my heart aligned with You. Shape my words, my thoughts, and my actions so that my life reflects Your truth. Teach me to walk in Your ways daily. Amen.”