

7/12/2026 Walking Wisely — Proverbs 4

Study Guide

Big Idea: Life rarely moves straight from immaturity to maturity — it coils forward through good seasons and hard ones. Proverbs 4 shows how to turn chaos into forward progress: get wisdom, avoid evil, and guard your heart.

1. Get Wisdom (vv. 1–9)

Solomon credits his parents (David and Bathsheba) as a source of his wisdom, despite their flawed past. The Hebrew word for "get" (qanaw) means to acquire, buy, possess. Wisdom, personified, guards, exalts, and honors those who love and embrace her (v. 6–8).

Questions:

- What wisdom have you received from parents, mentors, or church family — and have you actually captured and used it?
- Where in your life do you already know the right thing to do, but need to love it more so you'll follow it?

2. Avoid Evil (vv. 10–19)

Some people cannot sleep until they've done wrong. The Hebrew word for "avoid" (pawrah) means to let loose, to let go. Evil isn't only active wrongdoing — it includes complacency that keeps us from doing good. Verses 18–19 picture two paths: the sunrise of the righteous, growing brighter, versus the deep darkness of the wicked, who stumble without knowing why.

Questions:

- What habits, attitudes, or relationships do you need to "let go" of?
- Is the sun rising or setting on your current season — and what does that reveal?

3. Guard Your Heart (vv. 20–27)

Verse 23: "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." The Hebrew word for guard is used for guarding a prison cell — vigilant, diligent watching. Solomon ties the heart to speech (v. 24), eyes (v. 25), and feet (v. 26). Scripture's larger picture (Ezekiel 47, John 7, Revelation 22) shows a river of life flowing from God's presence, and ultimately from the heart of the believer — the answer isn't behavior modification but Jesus ruling the heart.

Questions:

- What is currently flowing out of your heart — into your words, what you look at, and where you go?
- Behavior modification is like mowing dandelions — they grow back stronger. What would it look like to let Jesus rule your heart instead of just managing behavior?

Closing Reflection: Will you ask — or re-ask — Jesus to be Lord of your heart, so it is filled with wisdom, free of evil, and guarded for eternity?