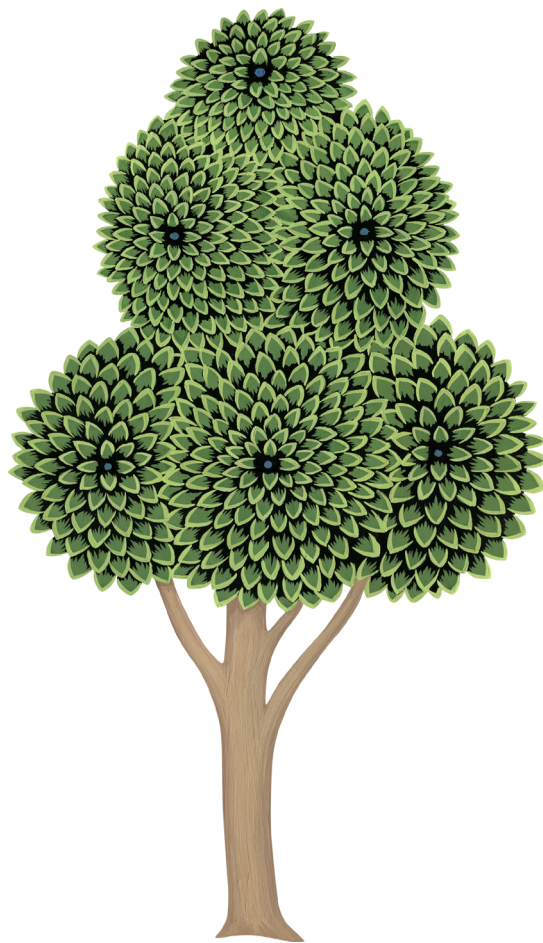
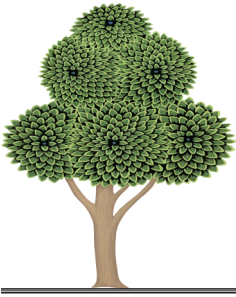


Proverbs

PURPOSE AND THEME





Proverbs

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I recently asked my grandson for help with a project. “What’s in it for me?” he asked, so naturally, I told him that he would have the joy of knowing that he helped his grandma! Of course, we were kidding and he really was a huge help to me, but that’s not the first time that I’ve heard that phrase or something similar.

Adults do it all of the time. When asked to accomplish a task, we think, *is it worth my time or energy?* When we seek out employment, we want to know *how much will I make, and are there any benefits that come with the job?* If asked to inconvenience ourselves in any way, we want the person requesting to give us a good reason.

I’m sure you can think of other scenarios where *what’s in it for me?* is the spoken or unspoken thought in our head. The idea is that if it is going to cost me time, energy, pain, or money, then I want something in return. Negotiations begin and then I decide if I will agree to do it or not. It has to be “worth” it for me to agree to it.

In this season’s Bible study, we will be asking you to read a chapter of Proverbs every day. So, what’s in it for you? Solomon tells us right off the bat what the rewards for our hard work will be. We will gain wisdom and discipline. A successful life can be ours. Do you desire knowledge, discretion, and understanding? Those are all promised to us, along with learning to be just, fair, and righteous in our dealings with others. And above all, we will learn the secret to all wisdom, which is the fear of the Lord. These are the benefits we will get from reading and studying Proverbs. Completely worth the effort, isn’t it? Sign me up!

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 NLT “*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.*”

Read Proverbs 1:1-7 NKJV.

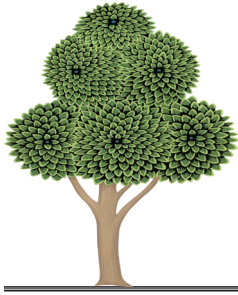
1. Who is the writer, and what does he tell us about himself?

Three books in the Bible were written by Solomon:

- Proverbs - the book of wisdom
- Ecclesiastes - the book of folly
- Song of Solomon - the book of love

Solomon was an expert on them all.

In verse one, we read “*The proverbs of Solomon.*” This statement probably means that this is a collection of proverbs by Solomon, not that these were all written by Solomon. We know that Proverbs 30 was written by Agur and Proverbs 31 was by King Lemuel, and halfway down, chapter 22 is a collection of proverbs from wise men.



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2. Look up 1 Kings 4:32. How many proverbs did Solomon write?

The book of Proverbs contains about 915 proverbs, so obviously, this is not the entire collection of Solomon's proverbs.

3. What is the purpose of these proverbs? Fill in the blanks from Proverbs 1:2-3.

“To know _____ and _____, to perceive the words of _____, to receive the _____ of wisdom, _____, _____, and _____.”

4. What is the definition of **wisdom**, according to a Bible dictionary?

5. What is the definition of **knowledge**, according to a Bible dictionary?

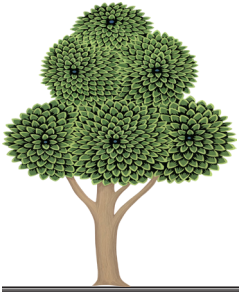
David Guzik says, “It is helpful to remember the difference between **wisdom** and **knowledge**. One may have knowledge without wisdom. Knowledge is the collection of facts; wisdom is the right use of what we know for daily living. Knowledge can tell one how financial systems work; wisdom manages a budget properly.”

6. Verse 4 - What is given to the simple person? What is given to the young man?

Simple: “The word indicates the person whose mind is dangerously open. He is gullible, he is naive. He may have opinions, but he lacks deeply thought-through and field-tested convictions.” (Phillips)

7. Why would **prudence** be important for the simple? You may need to find the definition of the word or check out the New Living Translation version of this same verse to help you answer.

8. Can you think of a reason that it would be good for a young man/woman to learn knowledge and discretion?



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9. What happens to the wise man?

A wise person will dig deeper into the true meanings and applications of these proverbs (and other Scriptures) and this makes him/her wiser still. This deeper study into the Word of God can mean:

- looking for other times a word or theme is talked about in the Bible
- looking up definitions of words used
- looking for examples in the Bible of people either doing or not doing what the verse is saying
- applying the Scripture to your own life
- listening to what Bible teachers say about the same topic
- spending time praying and asking the Holy Spirit to teach you (See John 14:26)

10. Read Proverbs 1:5 and compare it to Proverbs 9:9. Should we ever stop learning? Why or why not?

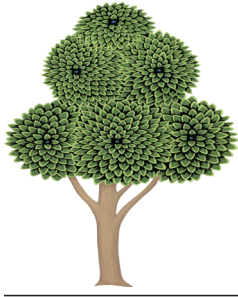
11. Now look at Colossians 1:10. What specific area should we continually increase in knowledge?

12. Proverbs 1:7 - “*The _____ of the LORD is the beginning of _____.*”

13. Who despises wisdom and instruction?

14. What else do we know about the **fool**? Find six things about him/her in these verses:

- Psalms 14:1
- Proverbs 10:18
- Proverbs 10:23
- Proverbs 14:16
- Proverbs 26:11
- Proverbs 29:11



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The Fear of the Lord

“The Book of Proverbs focuses on practical life wisdom more than theological ideas. Yet it is founded on a vital theological principle—that true knowledge and wisdom flow from **the fear of the Lord.**”
(Guzik)

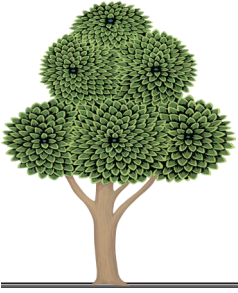
In the Old Testament, we read of Israel obeying God because the “*fear of the Lord fell on them.*” Often, the neighboring nations would not battle Israel for the same reasons. This fear came from knowing and seeing the power and judgment of God against all who would disobey Him or mistreat His people. Fear here meant terror or being extremely afraid of the consequences their actions would provoke. This same type of fear should fall on us, too, if we do not continue in the faith. Hebrews 10:26, 27, and 31 says, “*For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries...It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*”

Yet **fear** has another meaning. It is *a reverence, respect, and honoring of God.* This type of fear comes from knowing God and knowing His character. It comes from understanding how much He loves us and sacrificed for us because of His love. God’s great love for us has moved us into a great love for Him. 1 John 4:18, 19 says, “*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*”

He has paid the price for our sins and has made us one with Him; therefore, we no longer have the terror of God in our hearts. We know that God has adopted us and now calls us His daughters. Our desire is to please Him, to follow Him, to learn more about Him. We want our lives to honor Him. He has provided for all of our needs, including forgiveness when we sin. In the book of Revelation, we read about angels and people all falling down and worshiping the Almighty God. This resonates deep inside of us, for we, too, want to bow and worship our Holy Father. This is the fear that is primary to having wisdom.

Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you into all truth. Reread Proverbs 1:1-7. It is important to study the Bible, and specifically, for this season, to study the book of Proverbs.

15. What changes do you need to make in your daily routine to allow for time to read a chapter of Proverbs each day?



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16. Are you interested in digging deeper into Scripture with the reward that you will become even wiser? This benefits not only you but those you have influence over. How much time do you need to accomplish this type of study? Do you have a plan to put it into action? What is your plan?

17. We looked up some of the bad habits that fools are known for. Did you recognize something in your own life that needs to be corrected? If so, what is it and what will you do about it?

18. Christian fear of the Lord comes from knowing God personally. How would you describe your relationship with the Lord? Do you need to talk to someone for more information about it? (Any of the leaders are equipped to help you with this.)

Ladies, be blessed! Psalm 112:1 says, “*Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man (woman) who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments.*”