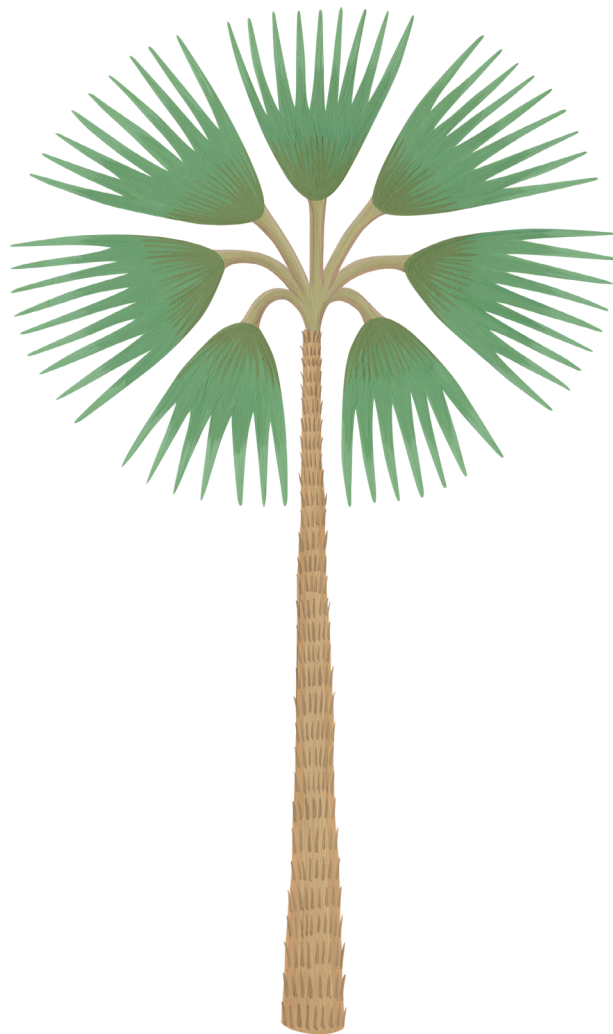
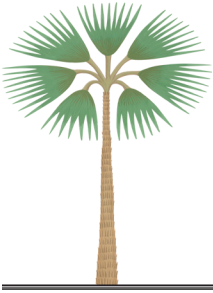


# Proverbs

BLESSINGS & BENEFITS OF WISDOM





# Proverbs

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“The book of Proverbs contains the greatest collection of wisdom ever recorded, written by some of the wisest men who ever lived.” – Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe.

This week’s lesson comes from both chapters 8 and 9. Be sure to begin with lots of prayer.

**Knowledge.** Noun. *Facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.*

**Wisdom.** Noun. *The soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment.*

My family moved to northern California when I was two years old. We rented a house next to an elderly couple and lived there for several years. I don’t remember if they had grown children of their own, but I do remember that they soon replaced the grandparents we had left behind. They were both excellent Christians and attended the church my parents soon joined. The wife always seemed to be a wise woman to me and truly walked in the ways of the Lord. She prayed for me during my growing up years, and when I left for a Christian college, she often encouraged me with cards. Inside each card, I would find a fancy handkerchief; more often than not, she would include a dollar bill. She was an outstanding example of a Christian woman in my life, and although I didn’t follow the prayers she had for me (she really wanted me to become a pastor’s wife), she certainly was a guiding light in my walk with the Lord.

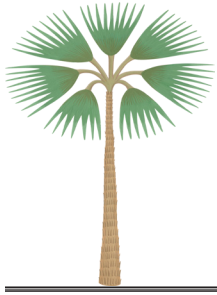
1. Think back on a wise person who was an influence in your life and tell us about them.

1 Kings is believed to be written by Jeremiah and teaches us many things about Solomon. King Solomon reigned over all the kingdoms from the river to the land of Philistines, as far as the borders of Egypt. 1 Kings 4:29 states, “*And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.*”

2. “*Solomon was wiser than \_\_\_\_\_.*” (1 Kings 4:31).

God spoke to people in Solomon’s day, but they weren’t listening. We all know the value of good advice. The book of Proverbs passes on knowledge and experience that we must have to live successfully. The Bible teaches that a woman who fears the Lord will be praised.

King Solomon wrote many proverbs. A **proverb** is *a unit that presents an item of truth about life, the world, or the way God works.* Sometimes they state what is evident to all, and sometimes they reveal what cannot be seen by direct observation. Proverbs should be treated as guidelines.



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Solomon's writings are a basic example of Hebrew poetry. They contain some rhythm, but they mostly use **repetition** and **recapitulation**.

3. Write the dictionary definition of **recapitulation**.

The first line makes a statement, and the second line reinforces it.

4. Write a saying or proverb that is meaningful to you. (Example: A stitch in time saves nine.)

### **Read Chapter 8.**

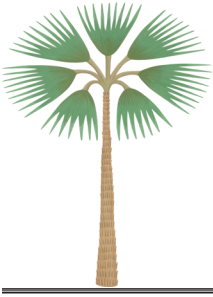
This chapter is a hymn of praise about how Jesus becomes wisdom and the Word of God in the New Testament.

5. Choose two verses from this chapter that especially speak to you, and write them down.

6. List the teachings of wisdom from the following verses in Chapter 8:

- a. Verse 1
- b. Verse 5
- c. Verse 6
- d. Verse 7
- e. Verse 8

Proverbs teaches about the excellence of wisdom. Wisdom is offered only to those who fear the Lord. Power and authority require the use of wisdom.



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LESSON 5

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7. Fill in the blanks for Proverbs 8:16 NKJV: “By me \_\_\_\_\_ rule, and \_\_\_\_\_, all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth.”

Verse 22 states: “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old.” The Hebrew word for **possessed** can mean *brought forth or created*. God, who is ever wise, produced wisdom.

8. Fill in the blanks for Proverbs 8:30-31 NKJV: “Then I was beside Him as a \_\_\_\_\_; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my \_\_\_\_\_ was with the sons of men.”

Wisdom’s greatest joy comes in the finest of the work of God – humankind.

### **Read Chapter 9.**

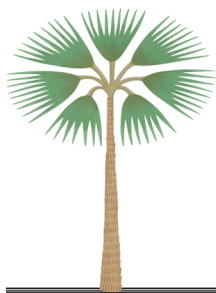
You will notice in chapters 8 and 9 that Solomon pictures wisdom as a woman. In this chapter, she is shown as a woman of generous hospitality who invites all to her banquet table.

9. What do you think is the central theme of this chapter?

10. Choose two of your favorite verses from chapter 9 and write them below.

In Proverbs 9:1, Wisdom has built her house, calling attention to the seven pillars, which represent completion. It is not that there were precisely seven pillars, but that the house of Wisdom was solidly built. The meal at Wisdom’s banquet includes meat, wine, and a lovely table. Wine was a staple in ancient Israel, but when a feast was unique, a homemaker would add aromatic spices to improve the aroma and taste.

11. When you invite guests to your home, do you remember to ask the Lord to join you and fill you with wisdom for the right words to say?



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Wisdom makes a point of inviting the simple, meaning those who have not yet made up their minds about their course in life.

12. Why do you think Wisdom includes the simple?

Just as food and drink give physical life, Solomon's teachings give spiritual life.

In Proverbs 9:8-9, the **scoffer** is *the person who will not live by wise and moral teachings and is not content to let others do so without mocking them*. A scoffer is thoroughly set against wisdom and scoffs at the things of God. A wise person accepts the truth and becomes wiser.

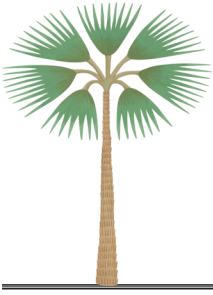
13. How should a person respond to a scoffer? Is it best not to respond at all?

14. Fill in the blanks for Proverbs 9:10 NKJV: “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_, and the knowledge of the Holy One is \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. What are your thoughts about the fear of the LORD?

16. Write the dictionary definition of **fear**.

17. Why do you think Solomon chose to portray wisdom in feminine terms?



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18. List three ways you can grow in the wisdom of the LORD.

19. Have you come to a fuller understanding of wisdom in the person of Christ?

20. What changes do you need to make to show that you have the wisdom of God in your everyday life?