

PROVERBS STUDY GUIDE



Proverbs 1:1-7

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

for attaining wisdom and discipline;

for understanding words of insight;

for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life,

doing what is right and just and fair;

for giving prudence to the simple,

knowledge and discretion to the young--

let the wise listen and add to their learning,

and let the discerning get guidance--

for understanding proverbs and parables,

the sayings and riddles of the wise.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,

but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

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A special thanks and gratitude goes to Linda Boyd who through her commitment to bring the Word of God alive to others, diligently developed and prepared the following study along with Reverend Leslie D. Nelson.

I personally want to thank her for giving us permission to share this study with you. We pray that it will be a blessing to you as it was to the study group.

Reverend Leslie D. Nelson
Heart of the Savior Ministries, Inc.

Welcome to Proverbs. We hope that the following Bible study guide will help you gain wisdom and knowledge in who you are in Christ Jesus and the love of God the Father.

This is not meant to be all inclusive of the depth of study that can be undertaken on the Book of Proverbs, but a starting point for learning how to study God's Word, enjoy the process of studying God's Word, and hopefully fall in love with God's Word.

Study Outline

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Blessing to you as you study Proverbs.

As always, in His service

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STUDY MATERIALS

In preparation for your time in Proverbs we suggest that you have on hand the following:

- Your favorite version of the Bible; the one you are most comfortable with
- Add a paraphrase Bible. I recommend The Message Bible. The use of a paraphrase can sometimes bring clarity and understanding to a passage as it is written in current day language using idioms or expressions. For the New Testament I use the Phillips New Testament in Modern English.
 - **Note:** As much as I like using a paraphrase for this purpose, to cross reference or bring the point of a passage clarity, it is necessary to remember it is a reading Bible that connects with today's reader. It is not intended to take the place of a standard Bible version or study Bible.
- Writing Pad, composition notebook, or journal to keep your notes in
- Based on your preference for noting things in your Bible, add to your Bible study materials:
 - Writing pens (at least two different colors)
 - Colored pencils or Highlighters: I use the following as they do not bleed through to the other page.
 - Pentel 8 color Automatic Pencil (my favorite)
 - Bible Dry Highlighter by GT Luscombe Company
 - Bible Underliner by GT Luscombe Company
 - Stickie Notes (small size 1" by 1" or 3" by 3"). I prefer lined ones

So let's begin

INTRODUCTION TO PROVERBS

Why is wisdom so important? I am so glad you asked.

It is the way we live life with skill. Like an accomplished craftsman or musician who hones their skills and creates something of lasting value and, in this case, it is wisdom of eternal value.

King Solomon is attributed to being the wisest man in the Old Testament with over 3,000 proverbs credited to his name as documented in the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. The Book of Proverbs itself contains 800 proverbs.

PURPOSE FOR STUDYING PROVERBS

There are six core purposes for studying Proverbs:

1. To come to know God's will for your life, and to be disciplined and obedient enough to do it.
2. To be able to tell the difference between good and evil and choose good.
3. To give instruction on how to be wise and honest.
4. To help the naïve and inexperienced to not get caught in the ever so subtle traps of this world.
5. For those who are sensible, to gain further knowledge and to seek wise counsel
6. To enable the wise to explain, teach, admonish, and correct others in plain language and to interpret the Word so that others can understand it.

Step 1 General Reading of Proverbs

Read all the way through Proverbs. This can be done in one sitting or you may do it over several days. If you chose to read them over several days, we suggest that you read:

- Chapters 1 – 9 the first day
- Chapters 10 – 21 the second day
- Chapters 22 – 31 the third day.

Using Study Guide: **Step 1 - General Reading of Proverbs:**

- Note any questions you might have and the passage reference
- If a specific Proverb or passage impacts you:
 - Highlight or underline it in your Bible
 - Place a stickie note on the edge of the page so you can find it again
- On your study guide write the passage reference, the passage in its entirety and why it has impacted you. (see sample below)

Passage Reference	Step 1 General Reading of Proverbs Notes
Prov 3:5-7	<i>"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight"</i>
	I realized that I don't think about trusting God but think I am smart enough to get through it on my own. What a relief to know that I don't have to understand everything, but that if I trust God, he will keep me on the right path and not let me be led astray with my own imaginings. WOW this is a big relief

If you come across a passage that you don't understand, read the same passage in your paraphrase (Message Bible) .

Step 2 Second Reading of Proverbs
Christ - the Wisdom of God

This time as you read through Proverbs when you come to the word "*wisdom*" we are going to exchange that word with "*Jesus Christ*" – the Wisdom of God.

Using Study Guide : **Step 2 – Second Reading of Proverbs**

- Draw a cross (✝) either before the word "wisdom," after it, over or through it.
- You could also choose to highlight the word "**wisdom**" with a color that you have identified represents "**Jesus Christ**" to you and using one of your colored pencils or highlighters highlight the word instead.
- Note the passage reference on your study guide (See example below)
- Write down any revelations that you discern by doing this on your study page.

Passage Reference	Step 2 Christ – The Wisdom of God Notes
Prov 1:2	I never realized that reading "for attaining wisdom" is for attaining "Christ." That puts a whole new perspective on this.
Prov 1:7	This is a little scary to think about. It is one thing to acknowledge that Knowledge only comes from God but explains a lot why so many People are in big trouble if, in fact, they are actually despising Jesus Christ who is God's wisdom.
Prov 1:20	Jesus calling on the street to us?

- Reread the passage. As you are reading, when you come across the word "**wisdom**" that you marked with a (†) cross, or **highlighted**, exchange the word "**wisdom**" with "**Jesus Christ**".

Example:

Prov 1:1-2 *The proverbs of Solomon Son of David, king of Israel: for attaining (†) wisdom(†) and discipline; for understanding words of insight,*

Read it: The proverbs of Solomon Son of David, king of Israel: for attaining "**Jesus Christ**" and discipline; for understanding words of insight,

Prov 1:7 *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise (†) wisdom(†) and discipline.*

Read it: the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise "**Jesus Christ**" and discipline.

Prov 1:20 *Wisdom calls aloud in the street*

Read it: **Jesus Christ** calls aloud in the street

Prov 2:1-2 *My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within in you, turning your ear to Wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, . . .*

Read it: My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within in you, turning your ear to **Jesus Christ** and applying your heart to understanding, . . .

The purpose for reading Proverbs through a second time and replacing the word "**wisdom**" with "**Jesus Christ**" is to help you see how powerful Proverbs are, for Christ is truly the wisdom of God.

Step 3 Third Reading of Proverbs
What Happens When We Ignore God’s Word

The purpose of reading Proverbs through this third time is to see how greatly our lives are impacted when we **don’t** listen to God’s Word. Proverbs are full of parallels between your actions and consequences.

There are at least 21 of these references in Chapters 1-15, and you still have another 16 chapters to document.

Using Study Guide: **Step 3 - What Happens When We Ignore God’s Word**:

- Write down all of the examples you find (See the example below)

Passage Reference	Step 3 What Happens When We Ignore God’s Word Notes
Prov. 1:5	Action: If you don’t honor the Lord, Consequence: you will never be knowledgeable and discerning
Prov 1:7	Action: If you despise (†)wisdom(†)“ <i>Jesus Christ</i> ” and discipline, Consequence: you are a stupid fool
Prov 1:10	Action: If you give in to a sinner’s enticement, Consequence: you waylay only yourself
Prov 1:23	Action: If you don’t respond to the Lord’s rebuke, Consequence: He won’t answer you when you call.

At the end, write down any personal revelation you had during this part of the study.

Step 4 Fourth Reading of Proverbs **God's Promises**

There is nothing better than to lean on God's promises in the good and the bad times. Proverbs once again is full of God's promises to us; His children.

By leaning on the promises of God, you will receive:

- Peace
- Calm
- Joy
- Encouragement
- And Hope

We can all use those five things in our daily lives.

Using Study Guide: **Step 4 – God's Promises:**

- Note the passage (See example below)
- Many times it requires an action by us to receive his Promise

Passage Reference	Step 4 God's Promises Notes
Prov 1:23	Action: If you respond to My rebuke,
	Promise: I will pour out My heart to you and make My thoughts known to you.
Prov 1:33	Action: If you listen to Me,
	Promise: you will live in safety and be at ease without fear of harm

Step 5 Fifth Reading of Proverbs
Biblical Proverbs versus Common Proverbs

We know that Proverbs were written to give wisdom to the young and old, are short statements drawn from personal experience by the writers of Proverbs, and are sound advice for our daily living.

There are Biblical Proverbs and there are culturally developed proverbs. These culturally developed proverbs are called "common proverbs."

Using Study Guide: **Step 5 – Biblical Proverbs vs. Common Proverbs:**

- Note the common proverb and then try to match it with a Biblical passage. (See example Below)
- For your fun and convenience, we have started you off with all the common proverbs we could come up with. We are sure you can come up with others.

Passage Reference	Step 5 Biblical Proverbs vs. Common Proverb Notes
Common Prov Prov 31:30	Beauty is only skin deep <i>Beauty is fleeting</i>
Common Prov Prov 3:28	Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today <i>Do not say to your neighbor, come back later, I'll give it tomorrow when you now have it with you</i>
Common Prov Prov 4:24	If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all <i>Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips</i>
Common Prov Prov 1:8	Mother knows best <i>Do not forsake your mother's teaching</i>

Passage Reference	Step 5 Biblical Proverbs vs. Common Proverb Notes
	A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
	A kite rises against the wind
	A miss is as good as a mile
	A penny saved is a penny earned
	A pictures is worth a thousand words
	A place for everything and everything in its place
	A stitch in time save nine
	A rolling stone gathers no moss
	An apple a day keeps the doctors away
	An idle mind is a dangerous thing
	An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure
	A watched pot never boils
	Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
	Beauty is as beauty does
Common Prov Prov 31-30	Beauty is only skin deep <i>Beauty is fleeting</i>
	Better safe than sorry
	Better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt
	Curiosity killed the cat
	Don't argue with anyone who buys ink by the gallon
	Don't count your chickens before they hatch
Common Prov Prov 3:28	Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today <i>Do not say to your neighbor, come back later, I'll gie it tomorrow when you now have it with you</i>
	Don't put the cart before the horse
	Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry
	Do as I say, not as I do
	Don't cry over spilt milk
	Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise
	Good things come in small packages
	He who laughs last, laughs best
	Home is where the heart is
	If looks could kill, you would be dead
	If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all

Passage Reference	Step 5 Biblical Proverbs vs. Common Proverb Notes
Proverbs 4:24	<i>Put away perversity from your mouth' keep corrupt talk far from your lips</i>
	It's no use crying over spilt milk
Prov 4:27	Keep your feet to the tried and true path <i>Do not swerve to the right or the left, keep your foot from evil</i>
	Look before you leap
	Measure twice and cut once
	Money doesn't buy you everything
	Money doesn't grow on trees
Prov 1:8	Mother knows best <i>Do not forsake your mother's teaching</i>
	Necessity is the mother of invention
	Nothing is certain but death and taxes
	Opposites attract
	People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones
	Procrastination is the thief of time
	Revenge is a dish best served cold
	Safety lies in the middle course
	Silence is golden
	Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me
	Still waters run deep
	The best advice is found on the pillow
	The bigger, the better
	The early bird catches the worm
	The grass is greener on the other side of the fence
	The pen is mightier than the sword
	There is no place like home
	Time flies when we're having fun
	Too many cooks spoil the broth
	Variety is the spice of life
	You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink
	You can't judge a book by its cover
	You can't take it with you
	You made your bed, now lie in it
	Waste not want not

Step 6 Sixth Reading of Proverbs **Old Testament and New Testament Parallels**

There is so much more to grasp from Proverbs. But to close this study, your final read through you are to once again focus on and watch for your (†)wisdom(†) "*Jesus Christ*" notations that you made in **Step 2 – Christ – The Wisdom of God**. This final step in your study will bring about a confirmation that Christ, as John put it in John 1:1,

*In the beginning was the Word (Jesus)
and the Word (Jesus) was with God,
and the Word (Jesus) was God.
He (Jesus) was with God in the beginning.
Through him (Jesus) all things were made.*

The real power and beauty of the Book of Proverbs lies hidden in the true meaning of the word "**wisdom**." It is found that the wisdom of Proverbs is the incarnate (†) Word of the New Testament. In other words, the wisdom of Proverbs is the incarnate, embodied, personified, in the flesh Word of the New Testament, Jesus Christ being the Word. 1 Cor. 1:30

*"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus,
who has become for us wisdom from God -- that is,
our righteousness, holiness and redemption."*

The following is a parallel between Proverbs and the New Testament. This aspect of the parallel reflects that God's Word is the same "yesterday, today and forever" as stated in Hebrews 13:8. As you read through this last time, look up each of the New Testament parallels and see how the Old Testament was the precursor to Jesus Christ's coming.

We pray that God has richly blessed you in your commitment, diligence and obedience to studying His Word through the study of Proverbs.

Proverb Reference	Scripture	New Testament Parallel
CHAPTER 1		
1:16	Hurry to shed blood	Romans 3:15
1-23	I will generously pour out my spirit for you	Acts 2:17 Acts 10:45 Romans 5:5 Titus 3:6
1:24	I stretched out my hands to you	Romans 10:21
1:25	You ignored all my advice	Luke 7:30
1:28	They will look for me, but they will not find me	John 7:34
CHAPTER 2		
2:4	Hidden treasure	Matthew 13:44 Colossians 2:3
2:6	The Lord gives wisdom	James 1:5
2:21	For the upright will live in the land	Matthew 5:5
CHAPTER 3		
3:3	Write them on the tablets of your heart	2 Corinthians 3:3
3:4	You will find favor and much success in the sight of God and mankind	Luke 2:52 Romans 12:17 2 Corinthians 8:21
3:6	Acknowledge Him	John 17:3
3:7a	Do not consider yourself wise	Romans 12:16
3:7b	Fear the Lord	Matthew 10:28 Luke 12:5 Acts 10:2, 22, 35 Acts 13:16, 26 Colossians 3:22 I Peter 2:17 Revelation 14:7
3:9	The first and best part of all your income	Mark 12:41-44 Luke 21: 1-4 1 Corinthians 16:2
3:11-12	Do not reject the discipline of the Lord, my son, nor resent His warning, because the Lord warns the one He loves, even as a father warns a son in whom he delights	Hebrews 12: 5-6
3:13	Wisdom	Revelations 3:19
3:14	Silver . . . gold	1 Peter 1:18
3:18a	A tree of life	Revelation 2:7 Revelation 22:2, 14, 19
3:18c	Those who cling . . . are blessed	Revelation 1:3 Revelations 22:7

Proverb Reference	Scripture	New Testament Parallel
3:25	Do not be afraid of sudden terror	I Peter 3:6
3:27	Do not hold back any good thing from those who are entitled to it	Romans 13:7 Romans 16:1-2 I Timothy 5:18 James 5:4
3:34	When He mocks the mockers, He is gracious to the humble	1 Peter 5:5
CHAPTER 4		
4:19	The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble	John 12:35
4:26	Carefully walk a straight path	Hebrews 12:13
CHAPTER 5		
5:21	For a man's ways are clearly seen by the Lord, and He surveys all his actions	Hebrews 4:13
CHAPTER 6		
6:15	That is why disaster will come on him suddenly; in a moment he will be crushed beyond recovery	2 Peter 2:1
6:17	Hands that kill innocent people	Matthews 23:35 James 5:6
6:25	Do not desire her beauty in your heart	Matthew 5:28
CHAPTER 7		
7:3	Write them on the tablet of your heart	2 Corinthians 3:3
CHAPTER 8		
8:8	Twisted or crooked	Philippians 2:15
8:17	I love those who love Me; those eagerly looking for Me will find Me	John 14:21
8:20	I walk in the way of righteousness	Matthew 21:32
8:22a,b	The Lord already possessed Me long ago, when His way began	John 1:1-18 Colossians 1:15 Revelation 3:14
8:22c	Before any of His works	Colossians 1:17
8:23	Before the earth began	John 17:5
8:30	I was beside Him	John 1:1-3
8:32	Blessed are those who keep My ways	Luke 11:28
CHAPTER 9		
9:2	Prepared her meat	Matthew 22:4-8 Matthew 26: 17, 19 Mark 14: 12, 15, 16 Luke 14:7 Luke 22:8-9, 12, 13 1 Corinthians 2:9

Proverb Reference	Scripture	New Testament Parallel
9:3a	Has sent out her servant girls	Matthew 22:3
9:3b	Calls from the highest places in the city	Matthew 22:9
9:5a	Come, eat my bread	Matthew 26:26 Mark 14:22 1 Corinthians 11:23-24
9:5b	Drink the wine	Matthew 26:27 Mark 14:23 1 Corinthians 11:25
9:7	Whoever corrects a mocker receives abuse, and whoever warns a wicked person gets hurt	Matthew 7:6
CHAPTER 10		
10:9	Whoever lives dishonestly will be found out	Acts 13:10
10:11	A fountain of life	John 4:14 Revelation 7:17 Revelation 21:6
10:12	Love covers every wrong	James 5:20 1 Peter 4:8
10:25a	When the storm has passed, the wicked person has vanished	Matthew 7:27
10:25b	But the righteous person has an everlasting foundation	Matthew 7:25
CHAPTER 11		
11:17	A merciful man benefits himself	Matthew 5:7
11:24	One person spends freely and yet grows richer, while another holds back what he owes and yet grows poorer	2 Corinthians 9:6 Galatians 6:7
11:30a	The fruit of the righteous	Philippians 1:11
11:30a	A tree of life	Revelation 2:7 Revelation 22:2, 14, 19
11:30b	A winner of souls is wise	James 5:20
11:31	If the righteous person is rewarded on earth – how much more the wicked and the sinner	1 Peter 4:18
CHAPTER 12		
12:2	Obtains favor from the Lord	Luke 1:30
12:28	On the road of righteousness	Matthew 21:32
CHAPTER 13		
13:9	The lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out	Matthew 25:8
13:12	A tree of life	Revelation 2:7 Revelation 22:2,4, 19
13:14	A fountain of life	John 4:14 Revelation 7:17 Revelation 21:6

Proverb Reference	Scripture	New Testament Parallel
CHAPTER 14		
14:5a	A trustworthy witness	Revelation 1:5 Revelation 3:14
14:5b	A dishonest witness	Acts 6:13
14:12	But eventually it ends in death	Romans 6:21
14:21	Blessed is the one who is kind to the humble	Matthew 5:7
14:27	A fountain of life	John 4:14 Revelation 7:17 Revelation 21:6
14:29	Slow to become angry	James 1:19
14:35	A servant who acts wisely	Luke 12:42 Matthew 24:45
CHAPTER 15		
15:3	The eyes of the Lord are everywhere	Hebrews 4:13
15:4	A tree of life	Revelation 2:7 Revelation 22:2, 14, 19
15:11	Abaddon	Revelation 9:11
CHAPTER 16		
16:22	A fountain of life	John 4:14 Revelation 7:17 Revelation 21:6
16:27	His speech is like a burning fire	James 3:6
CHAPTER 17		
17:3	The crucible is for refining silver and the smelter for gold, but the One who purifies hearts by fire is the Lord	1 Peter 1:7
CHAPTER 18		
18:4	The words of a man's mouth are like deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is an overflowing stream	John 7:38
CHAPTER 19		
19:5	A lying witness . . . one who utters lies	Acts 6:13
19:9	A lying witness . . . one who utters lies	Acts 6:13
19:17	Whoever has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed	Matthew 25:40
19:26	A son who assaults his father and who drives away his mother	1 Timothy 1:9
CHAPTER 20		
20:20	Whoever curses his father and mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in total darkness	Matthew 15:4 Mark 7:10
20:22a	Do not say, I'll get even with you!	Romans 12:17

Proverb Reference	Scripture	New Testament Parallel
20:22b	Wait for the Lord	Romans 12:19 1 Thessalonians 5:15 1 Peter 3:9
20:25	This is a holy offering	Mark 7:11
20:27	A person's soul is the Lord's lamp; it searches his entire innermost being	1 Corinthians 2:10
CHAPTER 21		
21:2	A man thinks everything he does is right, but the Lord weighs hearts	Luke 16:15
21:22	Pulls down the strong defenses	2 Corinthians 10:4
21:28	A lying witness	Acts 6:13
CHAPTER 22		
22:8	Whoever sows . . . will reap	Galatians 6:7-8
22:10	Drive out a mocker and conflict will leave; quarreling and abuse will stop	Galatians 4:30
CHAPTER 23		
23:31	Do not look at wine	Ephesians 5:18
CHAPTER 24		
24:12c	Won't He who guards your soul know it?	Luke 16:15
24:12d	Won't He pay back everyone according to what he does?	Matthews 16:27 Romans 2:6 2 Timothy 4:14 Revelation 2:23 Revelation 20:12 Revelation 22:12
24:20	The lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out	Matthew 25:8
24:21	Fear the Lord . . . fear the king	1 Peter 2:17
24:29	Do not say, "I'll treat him like he treated me; I'll pay him back for what he's done to me."	Romans 12:17 1 Thessalonians 5:15 1 Peter 3:9
CHAPTER 25		
25:6,7	Do not brag about yourself before a king or stand in the spot that belongs to notable people; because it is better to be told, "come up her," than to be put down in front of a prince whom your eyes have seen.	Luke 14:7-11
25:21-22a	If your enemy is hungry, give him some food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him some water to drink; for in this way you will heap burning coals on his head	Romans 12:20

Proverb Reference	Scripture	New Testament Parallel
25:22b	And the Lord will reward you	Matthew 6:4, 6
CHAPTER 26		
26:11	As a dog goes back to his vomit	2 Peter 2:22
CHAPTER 27		
27:1	Do not brag about tomorrow, because you do not know what another day may bring	James 4:13-16
27:18	Whoever takes care of a fig tree can eat its fruit	2 Corinthians 9:7
27:20	Abaddon	Revelation 9:11
CHAPTER 28		
28-14	Whoever is hard-hearted falls into disaster	Romans 2:5
CHAPTER 29		
29:23	A person's pride will humiliate him, but a humble spirit gains honor	Matthew 23:12 Luke 18:14
CHAPTER 30		
30:4a	Who has gone up to heaven and come down?	John 3:13 Romans 10:6
30:4e	Son	John 3:13
30:6	Do not add to His words	Revelation 22:18
30:8	Feed me only the food I need	Matthew 6:11
CHAPTER 31		
31:17	Puts on strength like a belt	1 Peter 1:13