

# Week 32: The Proverbs - Godly Wisdom for Daily Life

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

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## Introduction

Proverbs is God's manual for living in His created order. It is practical, sharp, and uncompromising - dividing the wise from the foolish, the diligent from the lazy, the righteous from the wicked, the faithful from the adulterous, the builder from the destroyer. Solomon wrote these sayings so that God's people would learn how to walk with integrity, rule their households well, guard their tongues, control their passions, train their children, steward their labor, and fear the LORD above all else.

This week, we look at Proverbs not as the poetry it is known for but as covenant training - God's instructions for men, women, and children who desire to live under His blessing.

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## Scripture Reading (KJV)

### Proverbs 1:1-7 - The Foundation of Wisdom

*1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;*

*2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;*

*3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;*

*4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.*

*5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:*

*6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.*

*7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

## Commentary

This opening sets the terms: wisdom requires humility, teachability, and the fear of God. Wisdom is not intelligence or cleverness, but moral submission to God's order. Fools reject correction, despise instruction, and cannot be led. The wise love learning - even when it wounds their pride.

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## Proverbs 3:1–12 - Trusting God's Ways

*1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:*

*2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.*

*3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:*

*4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*

*5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

*6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

*8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.*

*9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

*10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

*11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*

*12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

## Commentary

Trusting the Lord means obeying Him - especially when it defies human logic. Honoring God with wealth leads to increase; resisting correction brings destruction. God disciplines sons He loves, not strangers. A wise household welcomes God's correction and follows His direction without complaining and groaning.

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## Proverbs 4:20–27 - Guarding the Heart and the Path

*20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.*

*21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.*

*22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*

*23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

*24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.*

*25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.*

*26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.*

*27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*

### Commentary

Everything flows from the heart - speech, thoughts, decisions, habits, purity, and direction. Wisdom demands discipline: guarding speech, focusing the eyes, weighing one's steps, and refusing detours into evil. A wise family is one where hearts, mouths, and paths are all brought under God's rule.

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## Discussion Questions for All Ages

### Young Children

- What does it mean to “fear the Lord”?
- Why should we listen to wisdom?
- How can we guard our hearts?

### Older Children & Teens

- Why is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom?
- What are examples of “leaning on your own understanding”?

- How does discipline show God's love?

## Adults

- What habits in your home reflect wisdom? Which reflect folly?
  - How can your family cultivate teachability and humility?
  - What practical steps can be taken to guard the heart and tongue?
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## Psalm Reading - Psalm 119:97–104 (KJV)

*A Psalm of Love for God's Wisdom*

**97** *O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

**98** *Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.*

**99** *I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.*

**100** *I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.*

**101** *I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.*

**102** *I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.*

**103** *How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

**104** *Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*

## Commentary

Wisdom is not merely known - it is loved, obeyed, and treasured. God's Word makes a family wiser than the world around them and anchors them against falsehood.

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## Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"

*(Traditional Irish Hymn, 6th Century; Translated by Mary Byrne, 1905)*

1.

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

## **Family Application Points**

### 1. **Choose Wisdom Daily**

Remind your family that wisdom does not come automatically. It is rewarded day by day through obedience, humility, and the fear of the Lord. Encourage everyone to seek God's ways first in all decisions big and small.

### 2. **Welcome Correction**

Teach your household that correction is not rejection. It is love. Whether from Scripture, parents, or life itself, a wise heart embraces discipline and grows stronger through it.

### 3. **Guard the Heart and the Tongue**

Make it a family habit to guard attitudes and speech. What enters the heart through your eyes and ears shapes the mouth, and what the mouth speaks shapes the home. Let Scripture be the filter that decides what you should watch, see and associate with.

### 4. **Honor God with Your Labor and Resources**

Apply Proverbs 3 by giving, serving, working diligently, and managing the home with integrity. A family that honors God with its increase will reap and live under His blessing.

### 5. **Walk a Straight Path**

Encourage each family member to weigh their daily steps - friends, choices, habits, media, speech - and refuse the temptations of folly. Wisdom requires intentional direction.

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## **A Sabbath Feast Prayer**

*(Used later when the Sabbath meal is ready)*

Father, we thank You for Your wisdom that guides our home and guards our steps. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Teach us to walk in Your ways with humility and diligence. Help our family to choose wisdom over folly, obedience

over pride, and truth over deception. Let this meal strengthen our bodies as Your Word strengthens our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, we ask You to make our home a place where wisdom thrives. Give us hearts that fear You, ears that hear You, and feet that follow Your paths. Remove the folly that creeps into our speech, our habits, or our attitudes. Form in us a love for Your Word - sweet, pure, and life-giving. Shape this family into a household marked by integrity, discipline, and joy in Your commandments. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.