

Proverbs
FAMILY
Devotions

28 DAYS OF FAMILY DEVOTIONS
BASED ON THE BOOK OF PROVERBS.

PARKWAY  CHURCH

****Some days will have 2 readings. Be sure to follow the day #s on the top right of each page****

*7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
8 Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction
and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.
9 They are a garland to grace your head
and a chain to adorn your neck.”*

In Luke 2:52 we get to hear how Jesus grew up. It is true that we don’t know much about the time he spent growing up. But Luke tells us that he grew in ‘wisdom and stature’ from about 12 years old until we meet him again at age 30. One thing is clear, Jesus grew in wisdom, and he is our perfect example, so we should as well.

Proverbs is known as ‘wisdom literature’. That means that it is a collection of statements that are wise and help us to live better lives. Isn’t it amazing that we get to learn how to live a wise and fruitful life from the same source of wisdom that Jesus learned from? Because Jesus is also God (John 1:1-3), He was the one who provided this wisdom to Solomon in the first place (1 Kings 3:12). What a treasure we have in this book of Proverbs, to learn wisdom from the Lord himself!

As we take this journey together, keep in mind what verses 7 and 8 tell us every day as you read this devotional together. Only fools will reject this wise advice. The advice begins with this – fear God. This kind of reverent fear that God requires of us in the scripture is not only good for us – but it is essential to our understanding who God is and how to live the life he has prepared for us.

We should have such respect, awe, and reverence for the God of the universe that we are moved by His majesty. We also need to be reminded that this same God who is worthy of all worship, fear, and respect, has demonstrated his love for us in such a sacrificial way as to provide his Son for our salvation. Furthermore, he gives us the kind of wise teaching that we find in the Proverbs to help us live a life that is full of joy, peace and purpose. Let’s learn from the only wise God (Romans 16:27) our Savior together on this journey!

QUESTION: WHAT DOES SOLOMON MEAN BY A GARLAND TO ‘GRACE YOUR HEAD AND A CHAIN TO ADORN YOUR NECK’ IN VERSE 9? DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP/FAMILY.



6 “For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding”

Did you know that the average person makes up to 35,000 decisions in a single day?! These can be tiny decisions like moving your eyes to major life choices. Wow, that is a lot of choices! How do we know what is the right thing to do? Sometimes life can feel overwhelming with all the things we need to decide.

The good news is that God is the one who can help us in the little choices and in the big decisions. Proverbs talks a lot about how God wants to and is happy to help us make wise choices all the time. As a Jesus follower, we have the Spirit of God living inside us to help us and give us wisdom. All we have to do is ask. Sometimes, when the pressure is on to make a quick decision, a good thing to do is count to 5 and ask yourself:

1. Is it right?
2. Is it good?
3. Is it helpful?
4. Would my parents approve?
5. Would God approve?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, stop counting and ask God for wisdom to make the wise choice.

Here’s the promise, James 1:5 “If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you...”

**QUESTION: TELL ABOUT A TIME YOU MADE AN UNWISE DECISION AND A WISE DECISION.
HOW WOULD THE RESULT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF YOU HAD ASKED GOD FOR WISDOM FIRST?**



5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths”

The centerpieces of the book of Proverbs are verses 5 and 6. “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”

Trusting in the Lord is the center of our lives as individuals but also as a family. Families thrive when trust is their foundation. Proverbs reminds us to trust in the Lord wholeheartedly. Families are called to lean on God’s word and wisdom rather than their own limited perspective. In times of uncertainty, whether financial struggles, parenting challenges, illness, or decisions about the future, placing trust in God brings peace and direction.

Proverbs 3 doesn’t just speak of big decisions. It speaks of trusting Him in ALL your ways, in every aspect of your life and the lives you are called to lead. Acknowledging God as a family can be done in so many simple ways like praying before meals, showing kindness to one another, or reading a bible story at bedtime. These small acknowledgements weave faith into the fabric of the family life, teaching children that God is present in the small and big moments of their lives.

As you navigate life, it will feel like you are in the middle of a maze of choices and distractions. God promises to make your paths straight when you trust Him. That does not mean life will be easy, but it does mean He will guide your family toward what is good, true, and lasting.

Proverbs 3:13 says, “Blessed or happy is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding”!

May God bless you and your family as you walk together in faith while navigating challenges. Know God is the one who is directing your steps, as you trust Him for what he does, acknowledge Him for who He is.

**QUESTIONS: WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU FIND CHALLENGING TO TRUST GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART?
IN WHAT WAYS DOES YOUR FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGE GOD?**



READING: READ PROVERBS 4 AS A FAMILY

DAY 3

1-7 *1 "Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. 2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. 3 For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. 4 Then he taught me, and he said to me, "Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. 7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom." Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

Wisdom is often something that is misunderstood or that is considered something that only older individuals possess. The writer here is imparting the wisdom he learned from his own father, emphasizing the true value of a heritage of wisdom.

Here are a few key things to think about during our devotion today:

1. Listen to Wisdom

In verse 1, we are urged to "be attentive" to a father's instruction. This highlights the importance of listening to those who have walked the path before us. Wisdom often comes from experience and guidance provided by our parents, pastors, leaders, teachers, coaches, and mentors.

2. Meditate on Wisdom

Verse 4 advises us to "let your heart hold fast my words." It's not enough to simply listen to or to hear wisdom; we must internalize it and keep it close to our hearts. This means meditating on wise teachings and allowing them to guide our actions. Hold fast to the wisdom received from our parents, pastors, leaders, teachers, coaches, and mentors.

3. Pursue Wisdom

Verses 5-7 repeatedly tell us to "get wisdom" and "get insight." This pursuit is active and ongoing. We must be intentional about seeking wisdom through prayer, reading the Bible, and learning from the lives of others who have lived life well and gained wisdom from it. As we do, we will find that wisdom guards and protects us.

As we conclude, let's remember that gaining wisdom is a lifelong journey. We are encouraged to seek it, listen to it, and hold onto it. May we all grow in wisdom and understanding as we continue to pursue God's purpose for our lives and our families.

Let's close in prayer:

Father, thank You for the gift of wisdom. Help us to seek it earnestly and cherish it deeply. Guide our family in Your truth and help us to apply Your word to our daily lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

QUESTION: HOW CAN WE ACTIVELY SEEK AND APPLY WISDOM IN OUR DAILY FAMILY LIFE?



READING: READ PROVERBS 5 TOGETHER

DAY 4

*****Family warning, this chapter contains sexual material. Be cautious with young readers.*****

Some of the imagery in Proverbs 5 is graphic and explicit. In a world where the exploitation of human sexuality prospers, we need warnings about what to avoid as well as encouragement to enjoy what God has intended for good.

A few insights from our reading of Proverbs 5 today...

1. Listen to the wise council the Lord has provided to you. Whether from things they've done right or wrong, we all have people who have gone before us and can offer us insight accordingly. Recognize, seek out, and be humbly willing to listen. (verse 1)
2. Things (and people) are not always as they appear. Be on guard and pay attention to actions. Stay mindful and alert, setting right boundaries along the way. (verses 3, 8)
3. Rejoice in the wife of your youth! What a treasure, a gift. Of course, God's grace is perfect and covers all. While that doesn't negate His "Plan-A", first design for marriage. We can (must) recognize that the wife of your youth is something to rejoice in. It can satisfy! Intoxically so!

Ladies: This tells us that you are enough! Enough to satisfy and to intoxicate your husband with your love, even with an aging body! Reject society pressure to stay "forever young". Embrace the truth that you are a delight for your husband and come ready to enjoy that very special (and fun!) part of God's design for your union.

Men: Ask the Lord to bring you satisfaction and delight in your wife. Temptations abound, but He can and wants to hold you above. Ask Him. Recognize that growing old with the wife of your youth is God's own purpose, plan-A design. For your good. Enjoy her.

Singles: Look forward with expectation to this satisfying delight. Don't sell yourself short for any cheap imitation. It will not satisfy and will lead to death. His way is best. Hold out for it. (verses 18, 19)

1. "Discipline" has become a dirty word in our society. It is misunderstood as offensive and oppressive. When in reality, it is a big piece of knowing true freedom. It is for our good. We should learn to love it. We will die from lack of it. Let's be a people of discipline in our marriage relationships and in every other area as well. (verses 12, 23)

Let's close in prayer:

Jesus, we thank You for Your powerful, transforming Word. It is life. Help us to walk diligently in Your ways, trusting You for our Full Satisfaction. You are it and You will provide as we are following You closely, intimately. Let it be so, Amen.



20” My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.
21 Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck.
22 When you walk they will guide you; when you awake, they will speak to you.”
(Proverbs 6: 20-22 NIV)

Chapter 6, like many other chapters in Proverbs, is full of practical wisdom that helps families make good choices in their everyday lives. It reminds us that God cares about how we live, how we treat others, and the habits we build each day.

First, we are encouraged to be wise and responsible. It warns against making promises we can’t keep and reminds us to think before we commit. We have to be careful not to get ourselves into situations where we end up in a trap or in debt to someone else. God wants us to be people whose words can be trusted.

Next, Proverbs 6 talks about the danger of laziness. When I was in high school, I had a youth group friend who loved the “sluggard” verses of Proverbs. He had them memorized. It was quirky and funny. When we were on a missions trip and someone was slacking off, or when kids would sleep in during summer camp, the sluggard verses would come out. Using the example of ants—tiny creatures that work hard and plan ahead—it teaches that effort and faithfulness matter. God values diligence, even in small tasks like homework, chores, or showing up with a good attitude over the comforts of a person who is lazy and puts off work (a sluggard).

The chapter also explains that God cares deeply about how we treat others. It lists behaviors that hurt relationships, like lying, causing trouble, and stirring up conflict. These actions don’t bring joy or peace, and they pull families and communities apart.

Finally, Proverbs 6 highlights the importance of listening to loving instruction. God’s guidance—often shared through parents, teachers, and Scripture—is meant to protect us, not restrict us. His wisdom is like a light that helps us stay on the right path and avoid choices that can lead to regret.

Let's close in prayer:

“God, help us to make wise choices, work hard with joyful hearts, and treat others with kindness. Thank You for guiding us every day. Amen.”

QUESTIONS:

- 1. WHAT IS ONE CHOICE YOU MAKE EVERY DAY WHERE GOD’S WISDOM COULD HELP YOU?**
(EXAMPLES: TELLING THE TRUTH, DOING CHORES, BEING KIND TO SIBLINGS, FINISHING HOMEWORK.)
- 2. WHY DO YOU THINK GOD USES THE EXAMPLE OF ANTS TO TEACH US ABOUT WORKING HARD?**
WHAT IS ONE SMALL JOB YOU CAN DO THIS WEEK WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE?
- 3. HOW CAN OUR FAMILY HELP EACH OTHER MAKE WISE CHOICES AND AVOID HURTING OTHERS?**
WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE AT HOME, AT SCHOOL, OR WITH FRIENDS



****Family warning, this chapter contains sexual material. Be cautious with young readers.****

4 "Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
and call understanding a close relative,
5 so that they may keep you from the adulterous woman,
from the loose woman who has flattered you with her words. "
(Proverbs 7: 4-5 NIV)

Have you ever had a Sour Patch Kid before? If not, you should. They are delicious. They are a sour and sweet candy that starts with a sour flavor that is immediately followed up by a sweet sensation. The tagline of the candy is "First they are sour, then they are sweet."

For many of us, when we think of situations that are unwise, damaging, or deadly, we imagine that they are a lot like a Sour Patch Kid. We engage in behaviors we know are unwise, and we will immediately taste the sour flavor right up front. We will regret our decision and won't be tempted to make that decision again. But Proverbs 7 paints a different picture.

Proverbs 7 is a complex and understandably disturbing passage for many to read. On one level, it is a graphic warning against sexual infidelity where two parties participate in a deadly betrayal. At another level, the entire drama is a metaphor between the sister of Wisdom and the adulterous woman of Folly. Anyone reading the passage is supposed to relate to the naïve man, trapped between the enticing but deadly allure of Folly and the silent but strong Wisdom. Who will they choose to trust?

And what Proverbs 7 teaches us about the allure of Folly is that it appears sweet right up front. Decisions that destroy our lives don't appear unappealing up front, quite the opposite. They play to our weaknesses and convince us that engaging in Folly will only lead to sweetness, but that is not so. When we engage in them, we experience a sweet sensation that sometimes blinds us completely to the destruction that will come from our Folly.

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While Proverbs 7 ends as a cautionary tale, it invites us to reflect on that which we are vulnerable to.

QUESTIONS: WHAT ARE THE AREAS IN MY LIFE I AM VULNERABLE TO BAD DECISIONS ? HOW CAN I INTENTIONALLY ORDER MY LIFE TO PROTECT THOSE WEAK AREAS?



“..for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing
you desire can compare with her..”
(Proverbs 8: 11)

How do I know what is right? From the time we are young we are constantly confronted with this question. Learning how to discern right from wrong starts out with simple things like, it is right to eat my vegetables and wrong to hit my brother. It's right to put my socks in the drawer, and wrong to steal my brother's new remote-control car and drive it down the stairs.

As we grow up the answers to what is right and wrong get more complicated. We begin to have to answer questions like; who should I allow to speak into my life? How do I find a spouse? Or the most pressing question; when is the next time McDonalds will bring back the McRib? All of these questions lead us to uncover a framework for making decisions and that framework requires something sought after for generations: Wisdom.

When we ask ourselves questions of what is right and what is wrong, what we're really searching for is wisdom. Deep in our souls we all long for the wisdom to choose the proper solutions to combat the curveballs that life throws our way.

Proverbs 8:22-23 says:

22 “The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;
23 I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be.

This tells one very important detail about our ever-deepening search for wisdom. Wisdom is found in our Creator. True wisdom is found in getting to know it's creator. If wisdom is the great cosmic search for what is right and what is wrong, then we can only find it when we grow in relationship with our God. When we grow in our devotion to God, he teaches us to “Speak what is right (v6), and endows us with “Sound judgement, insight, and power” (v14)

**QUESTION: WHEN WAS A TIME YOU HAD TO WORK TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS
THE BEST CHOICE TO MAKE? TALK ABOUT WHAT CHOICE YOU ENDED UP MAKING
AND WHAT YOU LEARNED AS A RESULT.**



¹⁶“Let all who are simple come to my house!”

To those who have no sense she says,

¹⁷ “Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!”

¹⁸ But little do they know that the dead are there,
that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.”

As followers of Jesus, we have a promise given to us in Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”. It’s very clear that the foundation of our wisdom and knowledge comes only from the Lord. We also see in this Proverb that the enemy is always posing as a version of the truth. Gaining wisdom and knowledge from the things of the world seems like a great idea. When the enemy lures us off track toward something worldly that looks and sounds tempting and exciting, we must compare the false promise with the Truth of the Word of God.

The temptress calls out to us to join her at her table, especially when we are trying to walk a straight path. Come eat and drink with me in secret, nobody else needs to know. It’s ok, you’ll enjoy a new kind of wisdom when you try it. It’s no big deal because everyone else is doing it. Don’t miss out.

The enemy has prepared a table for us just like our God has prepared a table for us, but there is a big difference. The enemy tempts us with things that seem small, but it is an open door to a hard fall. “But little do they know that the dead are there” (verse 18). That’s a powerful statement. The worldly things that seem small lead directly to death.

A spiritual death full of guilt, shame, regret and destruction. It could be a recurring thought, something you’re watching, listening to, or doing only once in a while. Over time it becomes a habit and you’re feeling guilty about it but can’t stop even when you pray to stop. That’s exactly where the enemy wants you to be. Questioning your salvation, doubting God, and feeling like a failure. The good news is that you have power and authority over sin because of the work of Christ.

Do not allow the temptations of the world lure you into a trap of death and destruction. Go to the Truth of the Word and ask God for strength. Pray today as a family: “God help us to rely only on the foundation of your Word for truth, wisdom, and understanding. Don’t allow us to fall for the trap of the enemy. We refuse to dine at the table of lies. May we find joy in your presence, your Word, and your love that satisfies all of our needs, In Jesus Name, Amen.

**QUESTION: THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOU WERE TEMPTED TO DO SOMETHING YOU KNEW
WAS NOT HONORING TO GOD. IF YOU FOLLOWED THROUGH, HOW DID IT MAKE
YOU FEEL? DID YOUR ACTIONS HAVE A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE RESULT?**



“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”

Proverbs 10:9

Proverbs 10 is full of short sayings that help us understand how everyday choices shape our lives. Instead of long stories, this chapter uses quick comparisons to show the difference between wise choices and foolish ones. It reminds us that the way we live—at home, at school, at work, and with friends—matters to God.

Proverbs 10:9 says, “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.” This verse reminds us that living honestly and doing the right thing—even when no one is watching—leads to peace and security. When we choose integrity, we don’t have to worry about hiding or covering up mistakes. God’s wisdom helps families build trust with one another through honesty and faithfulness.

Another important reminder comes from Proverbs 10:19: “When words are many, sin is not absent, but whoever holds their tongue is wise.” This verse teaches us that wisdom often means knowing when to speak and when to stay quiet. Our words have power, and choosing them carefully can protect relationships and prevent unnecessary hurt. Wise words help make our homes places of encouragement and grace.

At its heart, Proverbs 10 shows families that wisdom begins with trusting God. As we listen to Him, He shapes our hearts, our words, and our choices. Each day is an opportunity to walk in integrity, speak with wisdom, and choose the path that honors God together.

QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO “WALK IN INTEGRITY” AT HOME OR SCHOOL THIS WEEK?
2. CAN YOU THINK OF A SITUATION WHERE CHOOSING HONESTY MIGHT BE HARD BUT RIGHT?
3. HOW CAN OUR FAMILY PRACTICE USING WISE WORDS THIS WEEK?
4. WHEN MIGHT IT BE BETTER TO PAUSE OR STAY QUIET INSTEAD OF SAYING EVERYTHING WE THINK?



“The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.”

Proverbs 11:1

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25

My favorite thing about pairing these two verses together is that they point out two things that God loves: honesty and generosity. In Proverbs 11:1, Solomon uses the picture of scales. Scales are tools used in the marketplace to weigh goods. In biblical times, dishonest sellers would sometimes use false weights to cheat people without being obvious.

God makes it clear that even when dishonesty is hidden or culturally accepted, it still matters deeply to Him. God cares not just about what we do, but how we do it. He delights in integrity, truthfulness, and doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

Honesty isn't only about telling the truth when we're asked. It shows up in small, everyday choices like admitting when we make a mistake, being fair with siblings, keeping our word, and owning our actions instead of blaming others. These moments may feel small, but Proverbs reminds us that they matter deeply to God.

Then Proverbs 11:25 shifts our focus outward: “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Generosity is more than giving money. It includes sharing our time, our kindness, our patience, and our attention, or even our toys, homes, and meals! It's choosing to bless others even if it costs us something.

It's so cool how these two ideas work together. Honesty shapes who we are on the inside, and generosity shapes how we live toward others. When we live truthfully and give freely, we reflect the heart of God. And here's the promise: God doesn't overlook that kind of life. He refreshes those who refresh others.

This doesn't mean generosity guarantees wealth or comfort... it means God sees your heart and above all, you will become more like Jesus. Which hey, that's our ultimate goal!

QUESTIONS: IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU NEED TO BE HONEST ABOUT WITH YOUR FAMILY?

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE WE ARE BEING HONEST WITH EACH OTHER IN OUR HOME?

WHO IS SOMEONE YOU COULD “REFRESH” THIS WEEK, AND HOW COULD YOU DO THAT AS A FAMILY?



17" An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies.

18 The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment."

Proverbs 12:17-19

Often in our lives, it can become easy to get into the habit of lying. It may seem easier to lie than to tell the truth because of the consequences telling the truth may bring. Proverbs 12 reminds us that our words are never neutral or “in the middle.” We are either speaking the truth or we are speaking lies. We should desire to speak honestly because we want to reflect the character of God. God always tells the truth!

Our words not only hurt people when we tell lies, but they can also tear people down or build people up. The way we speak to others can either give life or take life away. Verse 18 tells us that our words matter. Just as a sword can be used to harm or kill someone, our words can be very hurtful and can damage people emotionally and even physically. When we use our words with wisdom and caution, they can bring healing. They can bring life to those who may feel dead on the inside. Our words can bring hope to the hopeless. Your words matter, so let us remember to use kind words every chance we get to build others up.

Verse 19 reminds us that when we speak the truth, it will live on forever. Lies often seem easier in the moment. We may think they get us out of a sticky situation, or help us get our way, but those feelings only last for a moment. Eventually, the truth will always come out—and the truth lasts forever.

God wants us to use our words to reflect His love to the world around us. Let us use our words to encourage, heal, and bring hope to a lost and dying world.

QUESTIONS:

CAN YOU THINK OF AND SHARE A TIME WHEN YOUR WORDS HURT SOMEBODY?

CAN YOU SHARE A TIME WHEN YOUR WORDS HELPED SOMEBODY?



“The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.”

Proverbs 13:14

Wisdom is more than just good advice; Solomon calls it a fountain of life. What a fountain does is bring refreshment, renewal, and strength to those who thirst. God uses wisdom to teach us how to live with abundance and how to avoid things that harm ourselves. The Bible is a tool given to us so that we may lean on God’s understanding and not our own. Too often, we see that what the world calls wise is foolishness in God’s eyes that creates snares for us.

Growing up, my sister and I would play with the neighbor’s kids in the street. We were told that when it was dark, and the great light in the sky turned on, it was time to go home. (Some just call it a streetlight). When I was younger, I didn’t fully understand why my parents were scared of the dark. Looking back, I understand that my parents weren’t scared of the dark, but rather what the darkness brought with it. Using their wisdom and experience, they protected us by having us go inside. They saw what we couldn’t see.

Usually, by the time the streetlight came on, dinner was ready, so when we returned home, we were surrounded by light and food to eat. This also applies to the wisdom God gives us. His instruction isn’t about limiting us, but instead it is about protecting us from “the snares of death,” which are sin, pride, impulsive choices, unhealthy relationships, and all the things that live in darkness. Scripture says that Jesus is the light of the world and that if we bask in His light, we will never be left in darkness. Where there is light, there is peace, comfort, and warmth. Where there is darkness, there is fear, danger, and grief. Darkness cannot exist in the light.

Take a moment to ask yourself whose wisdom you are listening to? Will you listen to those who are wise and more experienced, or will you listen to whatever “sounds right” or “feels good” in a moment? Seek out God’s wisdom and surround yourself with people who speak His truth. The more we seek wisdom, the more we avoid the traps of the enemy.

Prayer: Lord, I ask that You continue to guide me in Your wisdom and understanding.
Help me to hear your words over everyone else’s voice so that I may be wise in Your eyes, Father.
Continue to guide me so that I may fight temptation and turn away from the snares of death.

Make Your wisdom my daily fountain.

Amen.



¹⁶"It is a sin to despise one's neighbor,
But blessed is the one who is kind to the needy."

Proverbs 14:16

Throughout Proverbs 14, God gives us various instruction about fearing the Lord, foolishness, mockery, deception, faithlessness, quick temperedness, work, patience, peace, wickedness, righteousness and wisdom. All of this instruction is valuable to our walk with God and will help us in our decision making, leading us to bear fruit in our lives.

Of all the 35 verses of things to do or avoid doing, only one thing is referred to directly as being a sin. That sin is despising one's neighbor. The Blue Letter Bible commentary explains "See here how men's character and condition are measured and judged by their conduct towards their poor neighbors".

What do you think about your neighbor next door? How do you feel when you see a homeless person sleeping under a bridge? How do you act when you hear someone in the grocery store speaking a foreign language? What you think and how you act towards your neighbor is deeply important to God.

Before we go further, let's define the word neighbor. In Luke 10, Jesus told a story of a Samaritan (a group of a different culture despised by Jews) who stopped to help a man robbed and left for dead, while a priest and Levite passed by. Jesus also gives the command to "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39, Luke 10:27) which means extending compassion and care to everyone, including strangers and even enemies.

Your Christian character and the condition of your heart is measured by how you treat your neighbors. Let that sink in. It's easy to help those you love, but much more difficult to invest time and resources into someone you're uncomfortable with. It's not just a suggestion, God expects us to go out of our comfort zones to serve our neighbors. If our hearts are truly surrendered to Jesus, loving and helping our neighbors will be the outflow of our relationship with Him.

QUESTIONS:

TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK AND TALK WITH YOUR FAMILY ABOUT HOW YOU CAN REACH OUT TO THE NEIGHBOR DOWN THE STREET, A STRANGER LIVING IN POVERTY, A FAMILY FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY OR EVEN SOMEONE WHO YOU MIGHT CONSIDER AN ENEMY.



“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.
The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.
A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.” (v.1-4)

Proverbs 15 teaches us that wisdom is often shown through our words. Our tone and attitude matter just as much as the words themselves. Verse 1 reminds us that when emotions are at an all time high, a soft response can calm anger, while harsh words can make things much worse.

Verse 3 reminds us that God sees everything. He doesn't just see what we say in public, but how we speak to our family at home. He sees how we talk to others when we're tired, stressed, or upset. Our words are never unnoticed by Him.

Verse 4 says “A gentle tongue is a tree of life.” Just like a tree provides shade, fruit, and strength, our words can give life through encouragement, healing, and hope. However, if we don't choose our words wisely, our words can deeply hurt others, even if we didn't mean to.

Later in the chapter we're reminded that we need to have mentors and advisors to help us to succeed and that the Lord loves those who pursue righteousness (v.9) God wants us to be people who are willing to listen, learn, and speak wisely.

Proverbs 15 shows us that wisdom is not about being the loudest or winning arguments, but instead it is about humility, self-control, and choosing words that build others up and honor the Lord.

QUESTIONS:

WHY DO YOU THINK GENTLE WORDS ARE SO POWERFUL?

WHICH IS HARDER: STAYING QUIET WHEN ANGRY OR SPEAKING GENTLY?

HOW CAN WE PAUSE BEFORE SPEAKING WHEN EMOTIONS ARE HIGH?

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS OUR WORDS CAN BRING LIFE TO OUR FAMILY THIS WEEK?

HOW DOES KNOWING GOD HEARS AND SEES EVERYTHING CHANGE THE WAY WE SPEAK?



“ It is much better to get wisdom than gold.
It is much better to choose understanding than silver.”

Proverbs 16: 16

I remember as a young boy saving pennies, nickels, and dimes in a small glass jar and thinking I was rich when I had accumulated \$.78 cents! I thought and thought of a good place to hide it from my brother and finally decided to put it in the trunk of an old car my dad had on our property.

One day I came home from school and discovered the old junk car was gone! My dad had the old car hauled off to the scrap yard with my treasure still hidden in the trunk! I was devastated. The lesson I learned that day was to not count on treasure always being around.

Proverbs 16:16 tells us what is truly valuable and permanent...wisdom. Wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Even though there are things that seem valuable to us, like our toys and stuff, there is nothing more important than wisdom.

You will learn to be wise as you commit your life to Jesus and follow Him every day. Digging into God's Word and talking to the Creator of the Universe is far more important than saving up our pennies and dollars and having the latest video games or the most expensive clothes.

Always make the wise choice and run after what is of most value...Wisdom.

QUESTION:

WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION YOU OWN? HOW IS YOUR BALANCE BETWEEN PURSUING STUFF AND WISDOM?



” A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

(Proverbs 17: 17 NIV)

Proverbs 17 focuses on how our words, attitudes, and choices affect our relationships—especially within families. It reminds us that peace, kindness, and wisdom matter more than stuff or being “right.”

This chapter teaches that peace in a home is more valuable than riches. A quiet, loving environment brings more joy than a house full of tension, even if there’s plenty of food or possessions. God cares deeply about the tone of our homes and how we treat one another. Moms and dads, the tone of peace matters in our homes, even when we are in a chaotic phase of life where the kids don’t sleep, math homework is endless, and there are a thousand ball/dance practices all happening at the same time.

Proverbs 17 also highlights the power of our words. Speaking kindly, listening carefully, and knowing when to stay quiet can prevent hurt and conflict. Wise words build others up, while careless words can cause lasting damage. Our tongues have the power to both cut and heal. Are you using your words as a sword or a band-aid? I remember my parents quoting Proverbs 17:28 to me many times, “Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent...”

Another key theme is true friendship and family love. The chapter reminds us that real friends stick around during hard times and that family members are meant to support one another, even when it’s not easy. On every one of the hard days of my life, my sister was by my side holding my hand, and I wouldn’t trade her for the world.

Finally, Proverbs 17 encourages us to value wisdom and good judgment. In nature, a mama bear has nothing to lose when it comes to protecting her cubs. Take them away from her? Not a creature you want to square up with – talk about danger! That is the same danger a person set on foolish choices and ways will face. Making thoughtful choices, staying calm, and seeking understanding help us live in ways that honor God and bless our family and others.

QUESTIONS:

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD SAYS PEACE IS BETTER THAN HAVING LOTS OF THINGS?

WHAT HELPS OUR HOME FEEL PEACEFUL?

HOW CAN OUR WORDS MAKE SOMEONE’S DAY BETTER—OR WORSE?

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME KIND WORDS HELPED YOU?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER DURING HARD TIMES?

HOW CAN WE PRACTICE THAT THIS WEEK?



A few insights from our reading of Proverbs today...

We can be tempted to surround ourselves with people who will simply tell us what we want to hear. Or maybe even withdraw altogether if we can't find someone to affirm us in our thinking/opinions. This Proverbs warns us to seek understanding of others, not simply to express our own opinions. Filtering it all through His Ultimate Truth for His Glory and for our good. (verses 1, 2)

Being a diligent worker matters. To slack is to align ourselves with one who destroys. We should be a people who work hard in all we do. Work hard for His Glory and for our good. (verse 9)

Pride comes before fall; humility comes before honor. Jesus is perfect theology. We are to model our lives after His in every way. He humbled Himself. The creator of all, humbles Himself. We must follow suit. Live humbly for His Glory and for our good. (verse 12)

What we say matters. God created all that is through His spoken word. Words have the power of life and death. Measure them accordingly for His Glory and for our good. (verse 21)

Friends (companions) are a gift from the Lord and are a part of this life we are to navigate here on earth. If we are honest, we can all think of friends who have been a beautiful blessing to our lives, and ones who have been more challenging. Maybe even an affliction to us. Choosing our company well matters. While even when doing so well, we are all imperfect people and can count on letting others down and on being let down by others. That's why the truth of Proverbs 18:24 is so beautiful and important. We must know others (even the best of ones) will disappoint us, but we have The Ultimate Companion, Friend, Sovereign Lord who will never let us down. Hallelujah! (verse 24)

Let's pray together...

Lord, again we thank You for Your Perfect, Transforming Word. Help us to understand well, to work hard, to live in humility, to measure our words, and ultimately to know You are our Constant Best Friend. To love You is to obey You.
May we do both well. Amen.



“Fearing the Lord leads to life, and one who does so will live satisfied;
he will not be afflicted by calamity.”

Proverbs 19:23

Have you ever been jealous of someone who had what you didn't have? Maybe it was a toy, maybe it was a job, maybe it was the picture of a life that you have always wanted but never attained. I know I have. It is easy in moments like these to think that if you just had what they had, your life would be better.

But I am sure if you were to dig a layer deeper, look into what this person's life was actually like, you would realize that everything that glitters isn't gold. Every blessing comes with a cost, and sometimes what appears to be a blessing is actually something that was attained through sinful avenues.

Solomon, in Proverbs 19, hones on this idea for much of the chapter, showing that for many in this context those that were rich, surrounded by friends, or appeared to have it easy normally had acquired these things through foolish routes. Wisdom, integrity, and discipline however might not shine on the outside but provide a life of fulfillment on the inside.

What is most central to all of these themes is v. 23, echoed in Proverbs 9:10, that the fear of the Lord is what brings life. We should be orienting our life around the consideration that God cares about how we live our day to day life. While Proverbs are not promises, meaning that we will certainly still have calamity come to our life as Jesus promised in John 16:33, Proverbs operate as general rules of engagement letting us know that this is normally how God's ordered world works.

What does all of that mean? It means that unlike the scoffer, unlike the sluggard, and unlike the fool, those that orient their decision making around the fear of the Lord will have a life less defined by self-inflicted calamity. Rather, it will be marked by authentic and whole living. Prayerfully reflect on these questions:

QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR ME TO CONSIDER HOW JESUS FEELS ABOUT A DECISION BEFORE I MAKE IT?
2. IS THERE ANYBODY OR SITUATION IN MY LIFE THAT I HAVE A SENSE OF JEALOUSY OR RESENTMENT TOWARDS? DO I THINK MY LIFE WOULD BE BETTER IF I WAS JUST LIKE THEM? IS THAT TRUE?
3. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR ME TO CENTER MY LIFE DEEPER INTEGRITY, DEEPER WISDOM, AND DEEPER DISCIPLINE IN THE CONTEXT OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS? HOW CAN I START THAT TODAY?



9 "Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure;
I am clean and without sin"?
Proverbs 20:9 NIV

This verse from Scripture confronts us with the question, 'Who is clean and without sin?' What this question does is it helps strip away pride and self-righteousness by reminding us that no one can claim to have a perfectly pure heart or a sinless life. It is easy for us to point out others' flaws and mistakes without looking at our own.

While we are called to rebuke unrighteousness and help others live a life pleasing to God, we must also invite self-examination into our own lives. This invitation challenges us to not only look at the problems in our hearts, but also to stop using others' splinters to justify our own logs (Matthew 7:3-5).

While our image may be clean, God looks deeper, seeing our motives, our attitudes, and the hidden places of our hearts. If we pretend we are without sin, we allow pride to enter our hearts. A prideful person says to themselves that they need no help, that they have nothing broken inside, and therefore do not seek God wholeheartedly. The prideful person gains a shallow heart that focuses only on themselves while a humble heart prepares for the service of others. Walking humbly before God keeps our hearts soft and teachable.

Self-examination and humility open the door to freedom. When we humble ourselves and admit we are broken, we allow room for God to enter our hearts to fix us. This helps us develop dependence on God. A hammer cannot fix shattered pottery. Broken cannot fix broken.

The question asked earlier was answered about 2,000 years ago. Jesus is the only one who can truly say He is clean and without sin. Because of what Jesus did, we too can be forgiven and given a new heart. Purity doesn't come from our own effort but rather God's mercy working within us.

QUESTIONS:

IS THERE AN AREA IN YOUR LIFE THAT IS BROKEN AND NEEDS GOD'S HEALING?
HOW DOES RECOGNIZING MY NEED FOR GRACE CHANGE THE WAY I VIEW OTHERS?
WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT I NEED TO TURN AWAY FROM TO RECEIVE HEALING?

Lord, I confess that I cannot keep my heart pure on my own.
Search me and reveal in me anything that does not honor You. Thank You for Your mercy and forgiveness through Jesus. Help me to see others through Your eyes, Father.
Create in me a clean heart and help me walk humbly in Your grace.
Amen.



“A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.”

Proverbs 21:2 NIV

Proverbs 21 reminds us that while we often have strong opinions about what we think is best, God’s wisdom sees the whole picture. This chapter speaks directly to everyday family life—our plans, our words, our tempers, and even how we handle conflict at home.

One verse that hits close to home for many families is Proverbs 21:9:

“Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.”

While this verse may sound a bit funny (and maybe even a little dramatic), the point isn’t about blaming one person. It’s about how constant arguing makes home life miserable. Most of us don’t actually want to live on the roof—but we’ve all had moments where tension made us wish for a little space! God’s wisdom invites families to choose peace, patience, and kindness over winning every argument.

Another helpful verse is Proverbs 21:2:

“A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.”

This verse reminds us that we’re not always as right as we think we are. Whether it’s a disagreement between spouses, siblings, or parents and kids, God sees our hearts, not just our words. Wisdom means being willing to pause, pray, and ask, “Am I responding with love, or just trying to prove my point?”

Proverbs 21 encourages families to build homes marked by humility and grace. When we invite God into our decisions and disagreements, He helps us choose the better way—one that leads to peace, understanding, and stronger relationships.

QUESTIONS:

WHAT ARE SOME SMALL DISAGREEMENTS THAT CAN TURN INTO BIG ARGUMENTS IN OUR HOME?

HOW COULD WE HANDLE THEM MORE PEACEFULLY?

WHY DO YOU THINK IT’S HARD TO ADMIT WHEN WE’RE WRONG?

HOW CAN TRUSTING GOD HELP US RESPOND WITH HUMILITY INSTEAD?



1" A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. 2 Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all. 3 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. 4 Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life. 5 In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but those who would preserve their life stay far from them. 6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. "

Proverbs 22:1-6 NIV

Proverbs 22 teaches us the importance of a good reputation. Having a good name means being known for our integrity, kindness, and faithfulness. This is something we should strive for every day, both as individuals and as a family. Here are some ways we can strive to achieve this:

- Practice Honesty: Always tell the truth, even when it's difficult.
- Show Kindness: Be kind to everyone, regardless of their status or background.
- Seek Wisdom: Make decisions based on wisdom and understanding, not just on immediate benefits.
- Stay Humble: Remember that our abilities and achievements come from the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6 emphasizes the importance of training children according to God's ways. Parents have a significant role in instilling biblical values in their children, ensuring they grow up with a strong foundation in the faith.

As a family, challenge yourselves to practice one of the applications listed above this week. Share your experiences at the end of the week and celebrate the steps you've taken to live out these biblical truths as a family.

QUESTIONS:

HOW CAN WE SHOW HUMILITY FOR THE LORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO?

HOW CAN OUR FAMILY PRIORITIZE HAVING A GOOD NAME OVER SEEKING WEALTH?

Let's close in prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for the wisdom found in Proverbs 22. Help us to value a good name over riches and to live lives marked by humility, kindness, and integrity. Guide us as we train our children to follow your ways, so they may grow up to honor you in all they do.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



“Don’t let your heart envy sinners; instead, always fear the LORD. For then you will have a future, and your hope will not be dashed.” (Proverbs 23:17–18, CSB)

“My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.” (Proverbs 23:26, CSB)

Solomon warns us not to envy those who ignore God. That warning assumes something uncomfortable: there are moments when disobedience looks appealing. The lives of sinners can seem freer, easier, or more rewarding—at least in the short term. Proverbs does not deny that temptation; it exposes it.

Instead of envy, Solomon calls us to “fear the Lord.” This isn’t about fear as terror, but about ordering our lives around God. Verse 18 ties that choice to the future: the way we choose now shapes the hope we will—or won’t—have later.

Charles Spurgeon often taught in his sermons that the prosperity of the wicked is real but temporary, while the hope of those who fear God is quiet, costly, and lasting. In other words, what we envy reveals what we value, and what we value determines where we’re headed.

When Solomon says, “Give me your heart,” he is pressing for more than outward obedience. He’s calling for full allegiance—a life shaped by wisdom, not appearances. The question is not whether we admire wisdom, but whether we will actually follow it.

QUESTION:

WHAT DOES FEARING THE LORD COST US RIGHT NOW—AND WHAT DOES IT PROMISE LATER?

There are many times the bible mentions overindulgence. In Galatians 5:22-23 the apostle Paul tells us that self-control is from the Holy Spirit. These “Fruits of the Spirit” is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Proverbs 23 cautions us about overindulgence – whether it be in food, pleasure or status. God is teaching us that wisdom is knowing when to stop. In our society we are surrounded by so many things that catch our attention. We are surrounded by fast food, fine dining, and delicious foods like Italian food. We have fast cars, cruises, airplanes, and trips to places like Disney. We try to keep up with our friends by wearing the same clothes they wear, owning the same gaming systems, and always wanting the newest phones. You get the idea. Some things promise happiness but, in the end, leave us empty.



Verse 5 tells us that “in the blink of an eye, wealth disappears”. God wants us to live wisely, not by avoiding fun, but by choosing what truly leads to life.

1. *Can good things be harmful if we take too much?*
2. *What are some things that you may want that won't last?*

We are also given directions in Proverbs to simply listen. God often teaches us through others who love us. In Ephesians 6:1-3 children are called to obey their parents. In Hebrews 12:11 it says “no discipline is enjoyable while it is happening – It's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those trained in this way”. Listening can be hard for all of us, not just children.

3. *Who helps you make wise choices?*
4. *Why is listening sometimes harder than speaking?*

One of the most important verses of Proverbs is found in verse 26 – “O my son, give me your heart, may your eyes take delight in following my ways”. God doesn't just want our behavior; He wants our trust, our love, our attention. Once we begin to give Him those things, our choices will begin to change too.

5. *Why do you think God cares so much about our hearts?*

In closing, we all want things that look good, feel good or make life easier. Proverbs remind us that God isn't trying to take away good things, or joy, but instead He is trying to protect our hearts and help us to choose what is right. As a family, try to share one wise choice that you would want to make this week.



“Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. Don’t excuse yourself by saying, “Look, we didn’t know.” For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.” (v. 11-12)

In the second half of Proverbs 24, wisdom moves beyond our personal thoughts and becomes action. God shows us that true wisdom is revealed in the moments when it would be easier to stay quiet, look away, or choose what benefits us most.

Verses 11–12 are especially challenging. God calls US, His people, to notice those who are hurting, in danger, or being treated unfairly. He doesn’t only call us to notice but also to respond! Wisdom does not ignore suffering or pretend it isn’t happening. Even when we feel powerless or unsure of what to do, God weighs our hearts and sees our willingness to care. For families, this means teaching our children that kindness, justice, and compassion are not optional parts of faith. They have to know that these traits show what type of person we really are and they are essential parts of our faith.

Proverbs 24 also offers encouragement for imperfect people, all of us 😊. Verse 16 reminds us that righteous people fall—not once, but many times. Wisdom is not about never making mistakes; it’s about repentance, humility, and resilience. God’s grace invites us to stand back up, learn from our failures, and keep walking in His grace.

As the chapter continues, God warns us not to become discouraged or jealous when those who do wrong seem to succeed. This can be very challenging for us, because as humans, we always compare. Just remember, their path may look easier, but it leads to emptiness. God’s justice may not be immediate, but it is certain. Wisdom trusts God’s timing and chooses faithfulness even when it feels unseen.

The chapter closes with practical reminders: speak truth honestly, prepare carefully, and build your life with patience. God values integrity over shortcuts and faithfulness over quick success. When families choose wisdom every day, they are building something strong, steady, and lasting with the Lord as their firm foundation.

QUESTIONS:

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR OUR FAMILY TO “RESCUE” OR HELP OTHERS TODAY?

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CARES ABOUT WHAT WE DO WHEN WE COULD HELP?

HOW CAN WE RESPOND WHEN WE FAIL OR MAKE POOR CHOICES?

WHY IS IT HARD NOT TO ENVY PEOPLE WHO DO WRONG BUT SEEM SUCCESSFUL?

WHAT DOES “FEARING THE LORD” LOOK LIKE IN EVERYDAY LIFE?



“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.
22 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head,
and the Lord will reward you.”
Proverbs 25:21-22

These verses can challenge us in an uncomfortable way. It is easy for us to be kind to others when they are kind to us. What is difficult is being kind and patient with those who have hurt us, spoken negatively to us, or treated us unkindly. Yet God still calls us to respond with kindness, which is the opposite of what the world tells us.

We should meet those who have wronged us with kindness. These verses tell us to feed our enemies if they are hungry or give them a drink if they are thirsty. These are simple acts of kindness, but they can go a long way—especially when someone has been unkind to us. We can choose simple acts of kindness even when someone may be our “enemy.”

In verse 22 it says, “you will heap burning coals on their head.” This may sound harsh or like we are being mean in return. However, in Bible times this phrase symbolized bringing conviction or a sense of shame that leads to repentance. When we respond to evil with kindness, it can reveal the wrongdoing and hatred in another person’s actions, causing them to want to repent of their wrongdoings.

These verses remind us that God sees our simple acts of obedience to Him. Even if our acts of kindness seem to go unnoticed, we can be sure that God still sees them. He will reward our obedience to Him and our acts of kindness toward others.

Let us choose to be kind to others in all situations, regardless of how others treat us.

QUESTION:

WHAT IS ONE PRACTICAL WAY YOUR FAMILY CAN SHOW KINDNESS THIS WEEK, EVEN WHEN IT’S HARD?



“Do not answer a fool according to his folly... Answer a fool according to his folly”

Proverbs 26: 4-5

Proverbs 26 teaches us a lot about wisdom by showing us what foolishness looks like. Through vivid pictures and simple sayings, this chapter helps families recognize behaviors that cause trouble and reminds us why God calls us to live differently. It encourages us to slow down, think carefully, and choose responses that honor Him.

One key verse is Proverbs 26:4–5, which says, “Do not answer a fool according to his folly... Answer a fool according to his folly.” At first, these verses can sound confusing, but together they teach an important lesson: wisdom means knowing when to respond and when to walk away. Sometimes engaging in an argument only makes things worse, while other times a calm, truthful response can help stop confusion or harm. God’s wisdom helps us discern the difference.

Another important verse for families is Proverbs 26:20: “Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.” This verse reminds us that gossip and careless talk can keep conflict alive. When we choose not to spread rumors or repeat unkind words, we help bring peace instead of tension. Our words can either fuel problems or help calm them.

Proverbs 26 encourages families to be thoughtful with both actions and words. True wisdom isn’t about winning arguments or having the last word—it’s about reflecting God’s love, choosing peace, and acting with humility. As we trust God, He teaches us how to respond wisely, even in difficult situations.

QUESTIONS:

**HOW CAN WE TELL WHEN IT’S WISER TO RESPOND AND WHEN IT’S
BETTER TO WALK AWAY FROM AN ARGUMENT?**

CAN YOU THINK OF AN EXAMPLE FROM SCHOOL, HOME, OR ONLINE?

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS GOSSIP CAN HURT PEOPLE OR CAUSE PROBLEMS?

HOW CAN OUR FAMILY HELP “PUT OUT THE FIRE” INSTEAD OF ADDING TO IT?



“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17

Proverbs 27 has lots of advice about taking care of your life, family, and provisions. We do that best as a family. Proverbs 27:17 gives an amazing visual of how we are to be as a family, Just as close as one iron sharpens that sharpens another piece of iron. It reminds us that we are shaped by those people closest to us, that our words, actions and encouragement sharpen the hearts of those we love.

Families are God’s workshop of character, where patience, kindness and forgiveness are forged. Verse 6 says that wounds from a friend can be trusted. Within the family, honesty, even when it stings, is a sign of love.

Verse 10 tells us not to forsake your friend or a friend of the family. Families thrive when we remain faithful, showing up in times of joy and in times of trial. In other words, not just ball games but also in hospital rooms. Presence is more powerful than perfection and just being there is often the greatest gift.

Finally, in verse 23 it says, be sure you know the condition of your flock. Parents, tend to those things God has entrusted you with, your home, your children, each other and your resources. Careful stewardship ensures that love and provision flow from one generation to the next.

May God bless you and your family as you shape and sharpen one another into the beautiful artwork God intended.

QUESTIONS:

IF WE ARE SHAPED BY THOSE CLOSEST TO US, WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO SHAPE YOUR LIFE?

WHO IS SHAPING YOUR CHILDREN’S LIVES?



1 “The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. ...

13 Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

27 Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.”

Proverbs 28:1, 13, 27 NIV

This chapter is filled with practical insights and godly principles to guide us in our daily lives. One of my favorites is verse one. I often use this verse jokingly when someone talks to me about running. I simply reply, “the wicked run when no one is chasing them.” Really the next part of this verse is where we should focus. Think for a moment what it means to be “as bold as a lion,” In the Bible, lions are often symbols of strength, courage, and leadership.

When we live righteously, following God's commands, we can have confidence and boldness in our actions. This boldness is not from our own strength but from the assurance that God is with us.

Another verse that is key in today's Proverb is verse 13. This verse reminds us of the importance of honesty and repentance. When we are dishonest or lie, often we end up covering it up with another lie, and then the downward spiral begins. Concealing our sins only leads to more trouble, but when we confess and turn away from our wrongdoings, we receive God's mercy and forgiveness. It's a powerful reminder of the grace that is available to us through Jesus Christ.

One final thing to consider is how can we apply these principles to our neighbors and our communities. Verse 27 encourages us to care for those who are in need. When we give generously, we reflect God's love and compassion. It's a practical way to live out our faith and make a positive impact on the world around us.

QUESTIONS:

**CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOU FELT CONFIDENT BECAUSE YOU KNEW
YOU WERE DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT?**

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FROM SOMEONE YOU'VE WRONGED?

HOW CAN WE AS A FAMILY BE MORE GENEROUS AND CARING TOWARDS OTHERS?

Lord, Thank you for your word. Help us to be bold as lions, confident in Your righteousness.

Teach us to be honest and repentant, seeking Your mercy and forgiveness.

Open our hearts to be generous and caring towards those in need. May we reflect Your love in all that we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



20" Do you see someone who speaks in haste?

There is more hope for a fool than for them.

22 An angry person stirs up conflict,
and a hot-tempered person commits many sins."

Proverbs 29: 20 & 22

Do you remember the old song, "Oh be careful little mouth what you say? Oh, be careful little mouth what you say. There's a Father up above, and He's looking down in love, so, be careful little mouth what you say". The song also gives warnings for our eyes, ears, hands, and feet, and all of them speak about honoring God in all our actions. It is not just about the words that we say, but about the things we do and how we treat others that are important. In John 13:35, Jesus says that others will know they are His disciples because of the way they show love to one another. If we are supposed to share Christ with those around us, the best way to do that is if they see the love of Jesus in our lives.

This Proverb alludes to the power of the tongue and those who speak out in anger or too hastily have less hope than a fool. It is important for us to learn to tame our tongue and to speak words that will encourage and lift up our brothers and sisters, not just in our immediate family, but in the body of Christ. How often have you heard a teacher or parent say to "think before you speak"? This is not only good advice, but it is based in scripture, because "a gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). Sometimes when we do not control our tongue, our words can unintentionally cause wounds to others.

The apostle Paul tells us, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:2). As we go through each day, we know that what we put into our minds and hearts is crucial because scripture tells us that out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). Luke writes that "a good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of". If we are filling our minds with things that are pleasing to the Lord, things that are true, noble, and right (Phil 4:8), these things will help us carefully choose our words and our actions towards others.

QUESTION:

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOUR FRUSTRATION OR ANGER CAUSED YOU TO SAY SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T MEAN? HOW COULD YOU HAVE HANDLED THAT SITUATION DIFFERENTLY? DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR GROUP/FAMILY. REFLECT ON THIS PASSAGE AND ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU WISDOM ON WHAT TO SAY IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND THAT HE WILL HELP YOUR WORDS TO BE PLEASING TO HIM.



5 “Every word of God is flawless;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
6 Do not add to his words,
or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar”.
Proverbs 30: 5-6

Often, in our lives, we are confronted with lies and falsehoods. People will present statements and ideas that are not true and we need to be aware of them. Sometimes we hear them from friends, classmates, family members, teachers and even church leaders. This can be both frustrating and confusing to Christians who are trying to discern what is right in their lives. How can we possibly know who is telling the truth?

One of the most common comments we hear from politicians is how their competitors are ‘liars’. We hear this from media personalities as well. Before long, if you aren’t careful, you may begin to believe that all people are telling their own version of the truth, or their own version of lies. When it seems like you can’t find truth – do not be afraid! God has provided us with a standard by which we can judge all these things we hear in our world.

Every word that God speaks is perfect. His word is flawless. We hope that this devotional time for you and your family has begun a habit that will never end. Every day, Christians need to read God’s word, be familiar with it, understand it and keep it in their hearts. That way they will know and be able to find the truth when the world around them lies.

Sometimes, we will hear people that tell us that ‘God said this...’ or ‘God said that...’ but we know it doesn’t sound right. Remember that we do not add to the words of the Lord. He has provided his scripture which is available to us. Jesus said that not one word of scripture will pass away before the end of the earth (Matt. 5:18) and Paul reminds us that all scripture is there for us to learn from and to discern truth from.

Continue to read scripture so that you can test when people say ‘God says...’ if his word really says what they claim it does. Be thankful today for the fact that we have the Word of God to learn from!

QUESTION:

**WHEN WAS A TIME WHEN SOMEONE TRIED TO TEACH YOU SOMETHING THAT YOU KNEW WASN'T TRUE?
TALK ABOUT HOW THAT MADE YOU FEEL AND HOW YOU CAN USE THE BIBLE AS A PROTECTION AGAINST
THAT HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE.**



“Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

Proverbs 31:30

Proverbs 31 is often read as a checklist of everything a woman should be. But when we slow down and read it carefully, we discover something freeing: this chapter is not about perfection, it's about character.

Proverbs 31 describes a person who lives wisely, faithfully, and with respect for God. While the chapter is written about a woman, the qualities it highlights (integrity, diligence, kindness, wisdom, and fear of the Lord) are traits God values in all of His people.

This verse also reminds us that many of the things our world celebrates do not last. Charm can be misleading. Beauty fades. Achievements, popularity, and outward success all change with time. None of these things are bad, but they were never meant to define our worth or identity.

What does last is a heart that fears the Lord. In the Bible, “fearing the Lord” does not mean being scared of God. It means honoring Him, trusting Him, and choosing to live His way even when it is difficult. It is a posture of humility that says, “God, You are in charge, and I want my life to reflect You.”

This kind of faith shapes our character. When we fear the Lord, it influences how we speak, how we treat others, how we respond when we fail, and how we make decisions. It reminds us that faithfulness matters more than appearance and obedience matters more than applause.

For families, Proverbs 31:30 is an invitation to shift what we praise. Instead of only celebrating good grades, clean rooms, or success, we are encouraged to praise humility, honesty, kindness, and trust in God. When children grow up in homes that value Godly character over performance, they learn that they are loved not for what they do, but for who they are becoming in Christ!

QUESTIONS:

**WHAT ARE SOME THINGS OUR WORLD PRAISES THAT DO NOT LAST? WHAT DOES GOD PRAISE INSTEAD?
WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU'VE SEEN IN OUR FAMILY THAT REPRESENT HUMILITY, HONEST,
KINDNESS OR TRUST IN GOD? SHARE WITH THE FAMILY WHEN YOU SEE THESE THINGS IN YOUR FAMILY
MEMBERS! CONSIDER MAKING THIS A DINNERTIME RITUAL.**

Prayer

God, thank You for showing us what truly matters. Help our family to fear You, honor You, and trust You in all we do. Teach us to value character over appearance and faithfulness over perfection. Shape our hearts to reflect Yours. Amen.



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