Proverbs - Be a Wise Guy for God
Purposes of Proverbs
Week 1

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. 1:7

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Class Topics

Week 1 Purposes of Proverbs
Week 2 The Simple, the Mocker and the Fool
Week 3 God and Man
Week 4 All in the Family
Week 5 Win Friends and Influence People
Week 6 Hard Work Versus Laziness

Proverbs

What is a proverb?
Are proverbs always true?
Although interesting, why should we bother with proverbs?
Proverbs 1:1-3

Wisdom

chokmah
Skillfulness in dealing with the matters at hand so as to get the best results
Skillful mastery of life, Practical expertise that leads to a full and successful life

All civilized peoples of ancient Near East had wisdom traditions

Court Wisdom
2 Samuel 16:23
1 Kings 4:30

Folk Wisdom
Sayings that parents teach children to help them grow up
Proverbs 3:1-2

Proverbs includes many secular sayings that could fit into Poor Richard’s Almanac
Proverbs 3:27

Proverbs also differentiates between human wisdom and God’s true wisdom
Proverbs 3:5-8
Proverbs 14:12

Old Testament Book Organization

History
Torah, Pentateuch, Books of Moses: Genesis – Deuteronomy
Israel’s History: Joshua – Esther

Wisdom Literature
Job – Song of Songs

Prophets
Major Prophets: Isaiah – Daniel
Minor Prophets: Hosea – Malachi
Wisdom Literature

Job
- Why do bad things happen to good people?

Psalms
- How is God important to our everyday lives?

Proverbs
- How can we make the most of this life?

Ecclesiastes
- What is the meaning of life?

Song of Songs
- What example in this life can give a glimpse into God’s desired relationship with us?

Hebrew Poetry

English poetry is based on
_A friend in need is a friend indeed_

Hebrew poetry is based on
- Rhythm - Certain number of accented syllables per line
- Assonance - Deliberate repetition of same vowel sounds
- Alliteration - Juxtaposition of words & syllables that begin with same consonants
- _Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers …_

Hebrew poetry revolves around parallelism and intensification
- Verses contain some form of parallelism
- Second line intensifies meaning of first

Synonymous Parallelism
- Proverbs 2:11

Antithetical Parallelism
- Proverbs 10:1

Emblematic Parallelism
- Proverbs 10:26

Synthetic Parallelism
- Proverbs 3:6
- Proverbs 15:3

Who Wrote Proverbs?

Proverbs 1:1 (1:1-9:18)
Proverbs 22:16 (22:17-24:22)
Proverbs 24:23 (24:23-34)
Proverbs 30:1 (30:1-33)
Proverbs 31:1 (31:1-9)
Proverbs 31:10 (31:10-31)

You can find this Study on the Book of Proverbs on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com/Proverbs
Solomon

Who was Solomon?
1 Chronicles 29:23

Why was Solomon qualified to write these proverbs?
1 Kings 4:29-34

How did he get to be so wise?
1 Kings 3:4-12

What made him wise enough to know that he needed wisdom?
Proverbs 4:3-7

Did Solomon try to pass on his thirst for wisdom to his son?
Proverbs 4:10-13

Purpose and Theme

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

What 5 purposes are given for the book?
Proverbs 1:2a
Proverbs 1:2b
Proverbs 1:3
Proverbs 1:4-5
Proverbs 1:6

What is the theme of the book?
Proverbs 1:7

Are wisdom and knowledge essentially the same? Explain.
Proverbs 9:10

The Fear of the Lord

What is the Fear of the Lord?
Psalm 128:1

What are ways we can understand the Fear of the Lord?
Proverbs 2:1-5

How is the Fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge and wisdom?
Proverbs 2:6-8

Knowing God’s Will

What happens when we receive God’s wisdom through a right relationship with Him?
Proverbs 2:9-10

Why should we try to find God’s will in what we do?
Proverbs 16:3-4
Proverbs 3:5-8
Proverbs 20:24

Proverbial Quiz (page 4)

Closing Prayer
**Proverbial Quiz**

1. **Match the two Bible Proverb halves in each grouping:**

   1. Pride goes before destruction, a. and joy may end in grief. (14:13)
   2. A gentle answer turns away wrath, b. but heartache crushes the spirit. (15:13)
   3. A happy heart makes the face cheerful, c. a haughty spirit before a fall. (16:18)
   4. Even in laughter the heart may ache, d. but a harsh word stirs up anger. (15:1)
   5. Make level paths for your feet e. for it is the wellspring of life. (4:23)
   6. Above all else, guard your heart, f. and take only ways that are firm. (4:26)
   7. Do not boast about tomorrow, g. but in the end it leads to death. (16:25)
   8. There is a way that seems right to a man, h. for you do not know what a day may bring forth. (27:1)
   9. A generous man will prosper; i. ruthless men gain only wealth. (11:16)
   10. A kindhearted woman gains respect, but j. a beautiful woman who shows no discretion. (11:22)
   11. A man’s pride brings him low, but k. he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. (11:25)
   12. Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is l. a man of lowly spirit gains honor. (29:23)
   13. Give beer to those who are perishing, m. is like a kiss on the lips. (24:26)
   14. Speak up for those who can’t speak for themselves, n. but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses. (28:27)
   15. An honest answer o. wine to those who are in anguish. (31:6)
   16. He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, p. for the rights of all who are destitute. (31:8)

2. **Fill in the blanks of these English proverbs:**

   | A bird in the hand is worth _____________________ | Laughter is the best _____________________
   | A penny saved is ______________________________ | Let bygones be ____________________________
   | A picture paints ________________________________ | Lightning never __________________________
   | All that glisters is ___________________________ | An ounce of prevention is worth ____________
   | An apple a day keeps ____________________________ | Better late than _________________________
   | An ounce of prevention is worth _______________ | Better safe than ________________________
   | Don't bite off more than ________________________ | Better late than _________________________
   | Look before you ________________________________ | Don't rock the ____________________________
   | Don't look a gift horse in ______________________ | The pen is mightier than ___________________
   | The more things change, the more they ____________ | The more things change, the more they __________
   | Good things come to those who ____________________ | The best things in life are __________________
   | Hindsight is always ____________________________ | Waste not, ______________________________
   | History ____________________________ itself | When the cat's away ______________________
   | If life deals you lemons, ________________________ | Where there's smoke _____________________
   | Into every life a little _________________________ | You can't get blood out of a ______________
   | You can't have your cake and ___________________ | You can't have your cake and ______________
   | Youth is wasted on ____________________________ | Youth is wasted on _______________________

---

*You can find this Study on the Book of Proverbs on the web at [www.biblestoriesforadults.com/Proverbs](http://www.biblestoriesforadults.com/Proverbs)*