

# 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.* Proverbs 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? = Statement of commonplace truth using comparisons or figures of speech

Are proverbs always true? = No, General principles or guidelines

Although interesting, why should we bother with proverbs?

Proverbs 1:1-3 = Valuable *for attaining wisdom ... for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life*

#### Wisdom

*chokmah* = Hebrew for wisdom in Proverbs 1:2

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 = shared writings with each other

Court Wisdom = Kings depended on wise advisors to make decisions on domestic and foreign situations

2 Samuel 16:23 = Ahithophel's advise was like that from God

1 Kings 4:30 = Solomon was wiser than all others

Folk Wisdom = Common to all people at all times

Sayings that parents teach children to help them grow up = Touch on some examples

Proverbs 3:1-2 = *My son, do not forget my teaching ... to live long and prosperous*

Proverbs includes many secular sayings that could fit into Poor Richard's Almanac

Proverbs 3:27 = *Do not withhold good ... when it is in your power to act*

Proverbs also differentiates between human wisdom and God's true wisdom

Proverbs 3:5-8 = *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...*

Proverbs 14:12 = *There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death*

Old Testament Book Organization = Chronological within groups

#### 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

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Wisdom Literature = As pertinent today as it was thousands of years ago when written

Job = Possibly the oldest book in existence

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Psalms = *Tehillim* (Hebrew title) means *praises* - Praise songs and prayers, Israel's hymnbook

How is God important to our everyday lives?

Proverbs = Wise sayings, multiple authors, most from Solomon - For everyday life (not court wisdom)

How can we make the most of this life?

Ecclesiastes = Solomon tried it all - wisdom, foolishness, pleasure, work, sex, riches, fame

What is the meaning of life? = Solomon found that it's all about God

Song of Songs = Deep love and desire expressed between a couple in love - God loves us even more

What example in this life can give a glimpse into God's desired relationship with us?

### Hebrew Poetry

English poetry is based on = rhythm and rhyme

*A friend in need is a friend indeed* = limericks, etc.

Hebrew poetry is based on = rhythm, assonance and alliteration, not rhyme

Rhythm - Certain number of accented syllables per line = Lost in English translation

Assonance - Deliberate repetition of same vowel sounds = Lost in English translation

Alliteration - Juxtaposition of words & syllables that begin with same consonants = Lost in trans

*Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers ...* = Includes rhythm, assonance and alliteration

Hebrew poetry revolves around parallelism and intensification

Verses contain some form of parallelism

Second line intensifies meaning of first

Synonymous Parallelism = Similar concepts in second line

Proverbs 2:11 = *Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.*

Antithetical Parallelism = Second line is opposite of, or contrasts with, first line

Proverbs 10:1 = *A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.*

Emblematic Parallelism = One line illustrates or clarifies the other with a word picture

Proverbs 10:26 = *As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, is a sluggard to those who send*

Synthetic Parallelism = Second line continues the same thought of the first

Proverbs 3:6 = Gives the result of the first line - *Acknowledge Him and He'll make paths straight*

Proverbs 15:3 = Or describes something mentioned in the first line - *Lord's eyes keep watch*

### Who Wrote Proverbs?

Proverbs 1:1 (1:1-9:18) = *The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel*

Proverbs 10:1 (10:1-22:16) = *The proverbs of Solomon*

Proverbs 22:16 (22:17-24:22) = *The sayings of the wise*

Proverbs 24:23 (24:23-34) = *These are also sayings of the wise*

Proverbs 25:1 (25:1-29:27) = *More proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of Hezekiah*

Proverbs 30:1 (30:1-33) = *The sayings of Agur, son of Jakeh* (nothing else known about Agur)

Proverbs 31:1 (31:1-9) = *The sayings of King Lemuel* (non-Israelite, nothing else known about Lemuel)

Proverbs 31:10 (31:10-31) = Anonymous poem on the good wife

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### Solomon

Who was Solomon?

1 Chronicles 29:23 = David's son, *on the throne of the Lord as king* of Israel, prospered

Why was Solomon qualified to write these proverbs?

1 Kings 4:29-34 = *God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight*, world famous for wisdom

How did he get to be so wise? = Don't read, ask class to tell story

1 Kings 3:4-12 = He asked God for wisdom in a dream

What made him wise enough to know that he needed wisdom?

Proverbs 4:3-7 = His father, David, stressed the importance of wisdom

Did Solomon try to pass on his thirst for wisdom to his son?

Proverbs 4:10-13 = Yes, he stressed the importance of wisdom and passed on his insights

### Purpose and Theme

Read Proverbs 1:1-7 = Purpose of *Proverbs*

What 5 purposes are given for the book? = Write on board

Proverbs 1:2a = *for attaining wisdom* (mastery of life) *and discipline* (self control)

Proverbs 1:2b = *for understanding words of insight* (discernment)

Proverbs 1:3 = *for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life* - right, just, fair (ethical and moral)

Proverbs 1:4-5 = for giving prudence, knowledge, discretion, learning, guidance

Proverbs 1:6 = for understanding difficult sayings – proverbs, parables, sayings, riddles

What is the theme of the book?

Proverbs 1:7 = *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*

Are wisdom and knowledge essentially the same? Explain.

Proverbs 9:10 = Used interchangeably here - Discuss difference/relation of wisdom & knowledge

### The Fear of the Lord

What is the Fear of the Lord?

Psalms 128:1 = Recognizing that He is in control and seeking to *walk in His ways*

What are ways we can understand the Fear of the Lord?

Proverbs 2:1-5 = Seek His truths, His commands, His wisdom, His understanding, His insight

How is the Fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge and wisdom?

Proverbs 2:6-8 = He gives wisdom, knowledge and understanding to those who fear Him

### Knowing God's Will

What happens when we receive God's wisdom through a right relationship with Him? = Sanctification

Proverbs 2:9-10 = We grow to understand His will and His ways and want to know Him more

Why should we try to find God's will in what we do?

Proverbs 16:3-4 = If we make God's will our will, we will succeed

Proverbs 3:5-8 = Trust in the Lord and He will guide and bless you

Proverbs 20:24 = It's easier to understand God's way than our own

Proverbial Quiz (page 4) = Go over answers

Closing Prayer

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### Proverbial Quiz

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

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

An ounce of prevention  
is worth a pound of cure  
Better late than never  
Better safe than sorry  
Don't bite off more than you can chew

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth  
Don't put all your eggs in one basket  
Don't rock the boat  
Don't try to walk before you can crawl  
Every dark cloud has a silver lining

Good things come to those who wait  
Hindsight is always twenty-twenty  
History repeats itself  
If life deals you lemons, make lemonade  
Into every life a little rain must fall

Laughter is the best medicine  
Let bygones be bygones  
Let sleeping dogs lie  
Lightning never strikes twice  
in the same place

Look before you leap  
Never judge a book by its cover  
Practice what you preach  
Still waters run deep  
The best things in life are free

The more things change,  
the more they stay the same  
The pen is mightier than the sword  
Truth is stranger than fiction  
Waste not, want not

When the cat's away the mice will play  
Where there's smoke there's fire  
You can't get blood out of a turnip / stone  
You can't have your cake and eat it too  
Youth is wasted on the young