

31 DAYS OF WISDOM

A JOURNEY THROUGH

PROVERBS

31 DAY READING PLAN

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INTRODUCTION TO PROVERBS

The Book of Proverbs offers timeless wisdom, packaged in the form of poetic sayings and teachings, that still speaks to us today. Found in the Old Testament, this collection is like a guidebook for living well, rooted in principles that honor God and foster a life of integrity. Many of the proverbs were penned by King Solomon, celebrated as one of history's wisest men, though other voices, like Agur and King Lemuel, also contribute to its pages.

WHAT'S THE HEART OF PROVERBS?

At its essence, Proverbs is all about wisdom—not just knowledge, but the kind of practical insight that helps us make good choices and live meaningfully. This wisdom starts with a deep respect for God, often called "the fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:7). The book touches on every part of life—relationships, work, money, speech, and personal character—offering guidance that's as relevant now as it was then.

HOW DID PROVERBS COME TO BE?

In ancient times, people shared wisdom through stories and sayings passed down orally. King Solomon, inspired by God, preserved these insights by writing them down, creating a resource that could benefit not only his contemporaries but future generations. With its short, memorable phrases, Proverbs is easy to reflect on and apply to everyday situations.

WHY DO PROVERBS MATTER?

Proverbs reminds us that true wisdom starts with knowing and honoring God. Its teachings show us the value of discipline, the power of words, and the importance of relationships. It encourages us to work hard, live with integrity, and trust God in all things. Here are some themes you'll find:

- **Discipline and Effort:** Wisdom isn't automatic; it requires self-control and intentionality.
- **The Impact of Words:** Words can uplift or tear down, so choose them wisely.
- **Relationships Matter:** Proverbs offers advice on building strong friendships, families, and marriages.
- **Work with Integrity:** Hard work and honesty lead to lasting rewards.
- **Humility and Trust:** A meaningful life begins with dependence on God.

WHY READ PROVERBS TODAY?

The lessons in Proverbs are as fresh and practical as ever. They encourage us to seek God's guidance in every part of life, reminding us that wisdom is far more valuable than wealth or status. By following these principles, we can align ourselves with God's purpose, make better decisions, and bring blessing to those around us.

As you explore Proverbs, take its words personally. Reflect on how its truths can shape your everyday choices, relationships, and challenges. This ancient wisdom has the power to transform your life—one decision at a time.

RULES OF INTERPRETATION WHEN READING PROVERBS

When studying the Book of Proverbs, it's important to approach the text thoughtfully and with the right interpretive principles. Proverbs is a unique form of biblical literature, and understanding its purpose, context, and style will help you interpret its wisdom correctly. Here are some key rules of interpretation to follow:

1. RECOGNIZE THE GENRE: WISDOM LITERATURE

Proverbs is part of the Bible's wisdom literature, which uses short, poetic statements to convey truths. These truths are general observations about life rather than absolute promises or guarantees. For example, Proverbs 22:6 ("Train up a child in the way he should go...") is a principle, not a promise that every child raised well will always follow the right path.

2. INTERPRET IN LIGHT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The foundation of Proverbs is the "fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:7)—a reverence and awe for God that leads to a life of obedience and submission to His will. As you study, keep in mind that true wisdom flows from a relationship with God and is inseparable from moral and spiritual integrity.

3. UNDERSTAND THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The book of Proverbs was written in ancient Israelite culture, so some imagery, references, and practices may not immediately resonate with modern readers. For instance, agricultural metaphors or household roles reflect the cultural setting of the time. Consider how these principles can be applied in today's context.

4. READ PROVERBS AS GENERAL TRUTHS, NOT LAWS

Proverbs offers practical guidance for wise living, but it doesn't guarantee specific outcomes. For example, Proverbs 10:27 says, "The fear of the Lord prolongs life." This does not mean every righteous person will live a long life but rather that revering God generally leads to choices that promote health and well-being.

5. INTERPRET INDIVIDUAL VERSES IN CONTEXT

Proverbs often groups sayings around related themes, and understanding the surrounding verses can provide greater clarity. For example, Proverbs 3:5–6 ("Trust in the Lord with all your heart...") is part of a larger passage about submitting to God's wisdom rather than relying on human understanding.

6. DISTINGUISH BETWEEN OBSERVATIONS AND COMMANDS

Some proverbs describe how things typically work in life (e.g., Proverbs 12:11), while others give direct guidance or exhortations (e.g., Proverbs 4:23). Recognize when the text is offering advice and when it is giving a moral imperative.

7. PAY ATTENTION TO PARALLELISM

Hebrew poetry, including Proverbs, often uses parallelism—a technique where two or more lines are paired to complement, contrast, or elaborate on a point. For example:

- Complementary parallelism: Proverbs 15:1 ("A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger") contrasts two types of responses.
- Synonymous parallelism: Proverbs 3:11–12 restates the same idea in two ways to emphasize God's loving discipline.

8. ALLOW SCRIPTURE TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

Proverbs should be read alongside the rest of the Bible. Other parts of Scripture, such as Ecclesiastes, Job, and the teachings of Jesus, provide fuller insight into themes like wisdom, suffering, and God's sovereignty. This broader context prevents misinterpretation.

9. SEEK APPLICATION, NOT JUST KNOWLEDGE

Proverbs is very practical. Each saying is meant to shape your actions, character, and decisions. Ask questions like:
How can I apply this principle to my life?
What does this teach me about how to honor God in my relationships, work, or speech?

10. PRAY FOR WISDOM AND GUIDANCE

Since Proverbs is about godly wisdom, it's vital to approach your study prayerfully, asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate its truths and help you live them out (James 1:5). The ultimate goal is transformation, not just understanding.

LET THE
JOURNEY
BEGIN!

INSTRUCTIONS

Over the next month, you will embark on a daily journey through the Book of Proverbs. Each day, you will read one chapter of Proverbs and reflect on its wisdom. This plan is designed to help you engage with Biblical wisdom and apply it to your daily life.

HOW IT WORKS:

Read One Chapter Per Day: Each day, read one chapter from the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs has 31 chapters, so this plan covers one chapter for each day of the month.

Use the Notes Section: As you read, use the notes section to jot down key verses, thoughts, or reflections that stand out to you. This is a great space to record anything God might be speaking to you during your reading.

Reflect with the Daily Question: At the end of each chapter, you'll find a daily reflection question. Take a moment to think about how the chapter relates to your life and answer the question thoughtfully. This is an opportunity to connect the wisdom of Proverbs to your personal journey.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This is not a full study guide, but rather a starting place to help you engage with God's Word and apply the wisdom of Proverbs to your life. Take your time with each chapter and allow the truths of Proverbs to shape your heart and mind as you go through this plan.

I pray this reading plan will encourage you to live with wisdom and insight as you draw closer to God over the next 31 days!

DAY

PROVERBS 1

1

NOTES

REFLECTION

What does it mean to fear the Lord, and how does wisdom influence your daily decisions?

DAY

PROVERBS 2

2

NOTES

REFLECTION

How do you actively seek God's wisdom in your life?

DAY

PROVERBS 3

3

NOTES

REFLECTION

In what areas of your life do you need to trust God more fully?

DAY

PROVERBS 4

4

NOTES

REFLECTION

How can you make wisdom a priority in your day-to-day choices?

DAY

PROVERBS 5

5

NOTES

REFLECTION

How does God's guidance help you maintain integrity in your relationships?

DAY

PROVERBS 6

6

NOTES

REFLECTION

How can diligence and honesty shape your work and interactions with others?

DAY

PROVERBS 7

7

NOTES

REFLECTION

What temptations do you need God's strength to overcome?

WEEKLY REFLECTION

What stood out to you the most in this week's chapters?

KEY VERSES

In what areas do you feel you need more wisdom or clarity?

How have the insights from this week's readings impacted your daily life or decisions?

What specific actions or changes do you feel led to take after this week's reading?

DAY

PROVERBS 8

8

NOTES

REFLECTION

How can you hear and respond to the call of wisdom today?

DAY

PROVERBS 9

9

NOTES

REFLECTION

How does knowing God personally deepen your wisdom and understanding?

DAY

PROVERBS 10

10

NOTES

REFLECTION

How does living with integrity bring security and peace to your life?

DAY

PROVERBS 11

11

NOTES

REFLECTION

In what ways can you show generosity and refresh others today?

DAY

PROVERBS 12

12

NOTES

REFLECTION

Are you open to correction and growth? How can you embrace discipline?

DAY

PROVERBS 13

13

NOTES

REFLECTION

Do your relationships encourage wisdom or lead to harm?

DAY

PROVERBS 14

14

NOTES

REFLECTION

How can you discern God's path and avoid being misled by appearances?

WEEKLY REFLECTION

What stood out to you the most in this week's chapters?

KEY VERSES

In what areas do you feel you need more wisdom or clarity?

How have the insights from this week's readings impacted your daily life or decisions?

What specific actions or changes do you feel led to take after this week's reading?

DAY

PROVERBS 15

15

NOTES

REFLECTION

How can you use your words to bring peace and kindness today?

DAY

PROVERBS 16

16

NOTES

REFLECTION

Have you surrendered your ambitions and plans to God?

DAY

PROVERBS 17

17

NOTES

REFLECTION

What can you do to cultivate joy and encouragement in your heart and others'?

DAY

PROVERBS 18

18

NOTES

REFLECTION

Do your words give life or cause harm? How can you choose life-giving speech?

DAY

PROVERBS 19

19

NOTES

REFLECTION

Are your plans aligned with God's purposes, or do you need to surrender them to Him?

DAY

PROVERBS 20

20

NOTES

REFLECTION

How does your integrity influence and inspire those around you?

DAY

PROVERBS 21

21

NOTES

REFLECTION

What is God revealing about your heart and motives?

WEEKLY REFLECTION

What stood out to you the most in this week's chapters?

KEY VERSES

In what areas do you feel you need more wisdom or clarity?

How have the insights from this week's readings impacted your daily life or decisions?

What specific actions or changes do you feel led to take after this week's reading?

DAY

PROVERBS 22

22

NOTES

REFLECTION

How are you investing in wisdom for yourself and future generations?

DAY

PROVERBS 23

23

NOTES

REFLECTION

Where is your heart set—on God's ways or on worldly desires?

DAY

PROVERBS 24

24

NOTES

REFLECTION

How has God helped you rise after past struggles or failures?

DAY

PROVERBS 25

25

NOTES

REFLECTION

What areas of your life could benefit from greater self-control?

DAY

PROVERBS 26

26

NOTES

REFLECTION

Are there unwise patterns in your life that you need God's help to break?

DAY

PROVERBS 27

27

NOTES

REFLECTION

Who sharpens you spiritually, and how can you be an encouragement to others?

DAY

PROVERBS 28

28

NOTES

REFLECTION

Where do you need to be bold in living out your faith?

WEEKLY REFLECTION

What stood out to you the most in this week's chapters?

KEY VERSES

In what areas do you feel you need more wisdom or clarity?

How have the insights from this week's readings impacted your daily life or decisions?

What specific actions or changes do you feel led to take after this week's reading?

DAY

PROVERBS 29

29

NOTES

REFLECTION

How does trusting in God free you from fear or insecurity?

DAY

PROVERBS 30

30

NOTES

REFLECTION

In what ways can you depend more fully on God's Word today?

DAY

PROVERBS 31

31

NOTES

REFLECTION

How can you live a life of virtue, faithfulness, and service to God and others?

WEEKLY REFLECTION

What stood out to you the most in this week's chapters?

KEY VERSES

In what areas do you feel you need more wisdom or clarity?

How have the insights from this week's readings impacted your daily life or decisions?

What specific actions or changes do you feel led to take after this week's reading?



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