

Directions

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

The Importance of Studying Proverbs

The Proverbs are meant to give us wisdom in advance of the time when we will actually need it. If we do not get this wisdom now, when we really need it, wisdom will forsake us (Proverbs 1:28). Therefore, the more time you can spend in your own personal study, the better for you in the future.

Understanding the Proverbs

The Proverbs are GENERAL rules. There are exceptions. Therefore we must not argue that the proverb could not be true in a literal sense just because we can think of exceptions. A "proverb" is a brief saying in the stead of many words. The genius of the proverb lies in its shrewd concentration of a truth so that it catches on and becomes easier to remember.

It is important to understand that the Proverbs are in a concentrated form, much like "orange juice concentrate": a little will go a long way. Thus, the Proverbs often have many lessons that go beyond their immediate context. In other words, a proverb may fit many different occasions not only the one mentioned in the text. An example would be 25:16.

THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE

1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
2 To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,
3 to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;
4 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—
5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,
6 to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.
7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
(Proverbs 1:1–7 ESV)

1 Write down the purpose of these proverbs. What will these proverbs do for your life? Do these things sound valuable to you?

2 Where does knowledge begin? Explain.

3 What will fools do with these proverbs?

TRANSFORMATION

What will you do with these proverbs?

THE CALL OF SINNERS

Read Proverbs 1:8-19

*Notice that this is not only godly wisdom, but a father teaching his son in the directions and training of the Lord (1:8).

- 1 What will sinners tempt people to do? What gain will they offer to do these things?
- 2 Why should a person “not walk in the way of them?” What will be the result of going along with them?

THE CALL OF WISDOM

Read Proverbs 1:20-33

- 3 Who does wisdom cry out to?
- 4 What does wisdom say?
- 5 Explain what it means that wisdom will “pour out my spirit to you” (1:23).
- 6 What will happen to those who reject the call of wisdom?

TRANSFORMATION

How can these proverbs prepare you for life’s calamities before they happen?

THE VALUE OF WISDOM

Read Proverbs 2:1-22

- 1 What must we do in order for wisdom to be effective for our lives (2:1-4)? How can we do this?
- 2 What will result from seeking wisdom (2:5-15)?
- 3 What else will godly wisdom do for your life (2:16-19)? Why is this important?
- 4 What good will godly wisdom do for you (2:20-22)? What will happen to the wicked?

TRANSFORMATION

What practical things can you do to secure wisdom in your life?

THE BLESSINGS OF WISDOM

Read Proverbs 3:1-35

- 1 What are the benefits of wisdom (3:1-4)?

- 2 List three keys to your life (3:5-8). What are the benefits for living life this way?

- 3 How can we practice verses 9-10? What does God say will result?

- 4 What is our typical response to correction and discipline (3:11-12)? How should we handle correction?

- 5 Explain the value of wisdom (3:13-18).

- 6 Explain how verses 19-20 fit into the teaching about wisdom. What does this mean for us?

- 7 What other benefits come from wisdom (3:21-27)?

- 8 How are we to walk wisely with our neighbors (3:28-35)?

TRANSFORMATION

What will you do differently to encourage yourself to follow through on verses 5-7?

LISTENING TO WISDOM

Read Proverbs 4:1-27

- 1 What are you strongly encouraged to do (4:1-9)? Why?
- 2 What had his father done for him (4:3-4)? What lessons do we learn?
- 3 What is the beginning of wisdom? Explain.
- 4 Describe and explain the benefits of wisdom listed in verses 10-19.
- 5 Describe and explain the effort that you must give in order for wisdom to be useful and effective in verses 20-27.

TRANSFORMATION

What practical things will you change in your life and now do daily so that wisdom will be useful and effective in your life?

THE DISASTER OF ADULTERY

Read Proverbs 5:1-23

- 1 Describe what the forbidden woman does (5:1-6)?
- 2 What is the result of listening to the forbidden woman (5:1-6)? What lessons do we learn?
- 3 What is the wise action regarding the forbidden woman (5:7-14)? Describe all the things that will happen for not taking wise action with the forbidden woman?
- 4 What is the wise counsel to have success against the temptations of the forbidden woman (5:15-23)?
- 5 What other reasons are given as to why the forbidden woman must be avoided (5:21-23)?

TRANSFORMATION

What practical things will you change in your life to make sure that your marriage is affair proof and your heart is not tempted by another person?

WALKING IN WISDOM

Read Proverbs 6:1-19

- 1 What bad decision is Solomon counseling against (6:1-5)? Give practical examples of what this would look like today?

What should you do if you have put yourself in this situation. Explain.

- 2 What is to be learned from the ant (6:6-11)? What happens to those who do not learn from the ant?

- 3 Explain verses 12-15. What is Solomon cautioning against? What do we learn?

- 4 What are the seven abominations to the Lord? Explain what these things are and look like today.

TRANSFORMATION

What changes need to be made in your life to practice the wise, godly words presented in this passage? What will you do differently?

THE PAIN OF ADULTERY

Read Proverbs 6:20-35

- 1 What must we do so as to avoid the seduction of the forbidden, evil woman (6:20-24)? What will be the result of this effort?

- 2 Explain each of the following proverbs. Describe the warning and result for not listening to wisdom?

Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life. (6:25-26)

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished. (6:27-29)

People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house. (Proverbs 6:30-31 ESV)

He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away. For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge. He will accept no compensation; he will refuse though you multiply gifts. (6:32-35)

TRANSFORMATION

Does this help protect your heart against sexual immorality? In light of verses 25-29, what will you do differently to avoid the trap of sexual immorality?

THE CALL OF THE ADULTERESS

Read Proverbs 7:1-27

- 1 What must be done to avoid the forbidden woman (7:1-5)?

- 2 What is the temptation (7:6-23)? Is the temptation appealing? What does the temptation say?

- 3 What mistake does the young man lacking sense make (7:6-9)?

- 4 How does the forbidden woman approach the man? What is the result of listening to her words?

- 5 How common is the disastrous result of listening to the forbidden woman (7:24-27)? What should we learn from this?

TRANSFORMATION

Does this help protect your heart against sexual immorality? What will you do differently to avoid the trap of sexual immorality?

LISTEN TO WISDOM

Read Proverbs 8:1-36

- 1 Who does wisdom cry out to (8:1-5)?
- 2 List all the reasons why wisdom must be listened to (8:6-11). Explain what is offered.

**Notice that wisdom now speaks for herself beginning in verse 12. Listen to what she says.

- 3 What is the fear of the Lord? What is the way of evil (8:12-21)?

- 4 What happens to those who listen to wisdom (8:12-21)?

- 5 Where does wisdom come from (8:22-31)? How long has wisdom been around?

- 6 What must we do with wisdom (8:32-36)? What will be the result?

TRANSFORMATION

Why do you think wisdom has perpetually and repeatedly kept calling to people to listen to her? What lessons do we learn? What changes will you make in your lives?

THE WAY OF WISDOM

Read Proverbs 9:1-12

- 1 Explain what wisdom has done (9:1-6). What is wisdom saying?
- 2 Explain verse 6. Compare this to Isaiah 55:1-13.
- 3 What is the message of verses 7-9? How can you know if you are a wise man or a scoffer?
- 4 Where does wisdom begin (9:10-12)?
- 5 Explain verse 12.

TRANSFORMATION

What can you do in your life sit down at the feast that wisdom has prepared? What changes in your life must be made so that wisdom will be enjoyed in your life?

THE WAY OF FOOLISHNESS

Read Proverbs 9:13-18

- 1 Describe the character of foolishness (9:13-15).
- 2 Explain what verse 14 means.
- 3 What does foolishness say to people in verse 16? Explain.
- 4 What does foolishness say to people in verse 17? Explain.
- 5 What is the result of listening to foolishness (9:18)?

TRANSFORMATION

What lessons do we learn about the way of foolishness? What changes will we make in our lives?

PROVERBS

CHAPTERS 1-9



A SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

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