


1



2




Wisdom Literature

- Literature that helps the reader acquire the necessary skill or knowledge to live a godly life
- Possessing wisdom in your spiritual life is to
 1. Learn/Gain knowledge of "God's Way" – the "Wise Way"
 2. Skillfully live "God's Way" – reject foolishness
- Therefore, "Biblical Wisdom" is the skill and art of godly living. Godly living requires the ability to apply wisdom to your life in order to make right/wise choices. This enables the believer to discriminate between what is right and wrong, wholesome and damaging, important and unimportant, wise and foolish.
- THIS IS HIGH PRIORITY FOR EVERY BELIEVER

LifeGroups

3



Introduction to Proverbs

- Collection of Sayings
- Reads more like a book of quotations than a novel, letter, history book, or theological treatise
- A Proverb is a short pithy saying used to express an important truth or piece of advice
 - מִשְׁלָּה – similitude, parable, proverb
 - "to be like, to be compared with, to be parallel to, or to be similar"
- Intentionally short and memorable – think passing wisdom from parent to child... "A penny saved is a penny earned"

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4

General Structure

- Chapters 1-9 – Introduction
- Chapters 10-29 – Body (100s of bite-sized sayings)
- Chapters 30-31 – Conclusion



5

Important Interpretation Guidelines

Find and teach the contrast between choosing the life of wisdom and choosing the life of folly

- Proverbs are Not Legal Guarantees from God
 - 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
- Proverbs are Worded to be Memorable; Not to be Theoretically Correct
 - 15:19 “The way of the sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.”
- Some Proverbs Need to be “Translated” to be Appreciated
 - 22:11 “He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.”
 - 25:26 “It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.”



6

Hebrew Poetry

- Lacks Rhyme and Rhythm
- Based on PARALLELISM and INTENSIFICATION



7

Hebrew Poetry

- Synonymous Parallelism – different facets of a larger truth, statements build on one another
- Example: 2:11

*“discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you,”*



8

Hebrew Poetry

- Antithetical Parallelism – second line is the opposite or in contrast with the first line – second line aims to view the truth from a different angle, intensifying it and driving the truth home
- Example: 10:1

*"A wise son makes a glad father,
but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother."*



9

Hebrew Poetry

- Emblematic Parallelism – one line/sentence illustrates or clarifies the other with a word picture; intensifies
- Example: 10:26

*"Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
so is the sluggard to those who send him."*

- Example: 24:13-14

*"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of
the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that
wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be
a future, and your hope will not be cut off."*



10

Hebrew Poetry

- Synthetic Parallelism – second line bring to completion or expands the idea of the first line
- Example: 3:6

*"In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make straight your paths."*

- Example: 15:3

*"The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and the good."*



11

Curriculum Overview

- Start Date: February 6th (Sun Groups), 9th (Wed Groups)
- 24 Week Teaching Plan
- Lessons (.pdf & .doc) & PowerPoint Art available online at www.prestonwood.org/leaders
- Proverbs, Holman Old Testament Commentary



12

Teaching Plan

- The best method to teach the wisdom of Proverbs is to teach the content topically
- We're going to employ 3 sections
 - The Nature and Value of Wisdom (weeks 1-4)
 - Wisdom in Personal Habits and Character (weeks 5-19)
 - Wisdom in Interpersonal Relationships (weeks 20-24)
- Topics Covered
 - Character of God, Justice, Decisions, Attitudes, Thought-Life, Laziness, Wealth, Greed, Honesty, Faithfulness, Speech, Temptation, Friendships, Marriage, Parenting, Occupation, etc.



13

Recommended Resources

- Videos -
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzmYV8GNAIM>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gab04dPs_uA
- Chapters –
 - Chapter 12 in *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*
 - Proverbs Chapter in *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*
 - Study Bible *Introduction* (ESV, CSB, NIV, etc.)
- Books/Commentaries –
 - *Be Skillful* by Warren Wiersbe
 - *Exalting Christ in Proverbs* by Daniel L. Akin & Johnathan Akin
 - *Proverbs* in Bible Knowledge Commentary



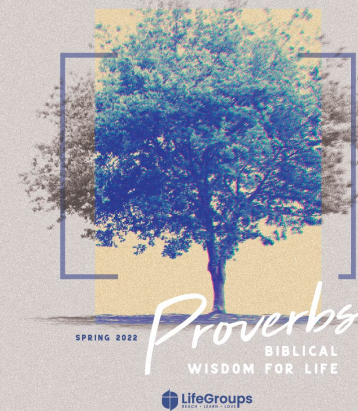
14

Coming Soon

- After Proverbs – FREE TIME
 - Connect with Divisional Minister
- Life of David & Selected Psalms
 - Begins Sept 11, 2022
 - Fall 2022, Winter & Spring 2023



15



16