

MONDAY: Introduction to Proverbs

The title and author of most books appear at the beginning. Proverbs reveals its author in the first verse. Complete the next two statements by recalling what you learned about Proverbs last week. If you cannot recall the missing words, check Proverbs 1:1.

Proverbs is collection of wise sayings mostly written or collected by _____.

Solomon's father was _____. Solomon's job was _____.

While Solomon was the one writing this book, Proverbs—like all the books in the Bible—was breathed out by God through Solomon. (2 Timothy 3:16)

Check the front of your textbooks sometime. You might find an introduction. Lots of books start out with an introduction to let you know what the book is about and why it was written. This week we will look at the six verses that make up the introduction to Proverbs.

According to Proverbs 1:2, what is Proverbs going to teach you?

What will Proverbs help you understand?

Read Proverbs 1:3. What two things does Proverbs provide you with?

Proverbs gives instruction and help so you can live wisely. Living wisely means you are skilled in living. Describe a person who is your age who lives every day with skill. How does a person who is skilled in living interact with family? Friends? School work?

The last part of Proverbs 1:3 says Proverbs will lead you to three things. What are they?

When you look for a friend you want someone who will do right by you, who will not lie to you, who will be fair with you. Proverbs can teach you how to be that kind of genuine person.

TUESDAY: Growing Up

What's your favorite candy? What is it like to eat that candy?

Have you ever eaten cotton candy? Just about the time it touches your tongue, it dissolves. Think about how different it is to eat cotton candy than steak. One you can attack with only your tongue. The other takes a steak knife and lots of chewing. Reading Proverbs is more like eating steak. You will have to chew—mentally—on the ideas in the verses we look at.

All this week we are looking at the introduction to the book of Proverbs. The introduction tells us why the book was written. Today we are looking at just one bite of wisdom—Proverbs 1:4. Write that verse here.

While babies are cute, they do not have a lot of life skills (wisdom). They can't do anything to take care of themselves. They have no emotional control. They need everyone else to meet their needs. They don't even notice the needs others have. They are completely selfish.

It's natural for a child to act like a child, but when a young adult or grown up acts like a child, it's obvious something is wrong.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. Write this verse in your own words.

Adults learn to do the *right thing* at the *right time* with the *right attitude*.

Think about what has happened in the last day or two. Describe a time when you struggled to do the right thing at the right time with the right attitude?

WEDNESDAY: Listen

Welcome back to our introduction to the book of Proverbs. Read Proverbs 1:1–4 for review.

Now take a look at Proverbs 1:5. What two things do wise people do?

What do people who understand what is right get?

When do you have the hardest time listening?

Who do you have the hardest time listening to? _____

In order to listen, we have to stop talking. In order to receive guidance, we need to pay attention to someone who knows the way.

Read Proverbs 1:6. Write this verse in your own words.

Describe a time when you heard what was being said but did not understand it.

If we have to listen to an outside source to get wisdom, then wisdom is not found inside us. Describe a time you heard someone say to look to yourself or listen to your heart in order to know what to do?

What are some reasons listening to yourself or your own heart is bad advice?

THURSDAY: Fearing God

Imagine you have your driver's license and are driving down the road. What do you do when you see a police car? Most people hit their breaks to slow down when they see a police car, even when going the speed limit and observing all traffic laws. People slow down when seeing a police car for several different reasons, but one key reason is that they take the authority of the police seriously.

Even those who see flashing lights behind them and try to outrun the police are taking the authority of the police seriously. Police officers are in a position of authority whether or not they personally deserve to be.

God always deserves to be in authority because He is perfect and rules over all. He is far above every police officer or leader of any country, far above every angel and demon, and far above and in charge of all we see and all we cannot see.

This next verse is really important. Write out Proverbs 1:7.

Now read Proverbs 9:10. What line do you see in both this verse and Proverbs 1:7?

What does it mean to **fear God** or to **have respect for God**? **It means you take Him seriously!**

Unless you take God seriously, you can't even begin learning the knowledge and wisdom God is offering you through Proverbs.

If you take God seriously, what do you do when God says you need to understand His Word to gain wisdom?

If you take God seriously, what do you do when God says He loves you?

If you take God seriously, what do you do when He says His love has made a way to free you from being judged for your sin?

FRIDAY: Review

Re-read Proverbs 1:1–7. Which verse stood out to you the most? Why?

Why do you think Solomon started his book with this introduction?

Who do you know who you think God considers to be wise? What do you admire about this person?

What do you think about describing an adult as someone who does the right thing at the right time with the right attitude?

What does it mean to fear God? How do you show in your daily life that you fear God?
