

Lesson 1

Introduction to Proverbs

Weekly Memory Verse *Proverbs 1: 1- 4*

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:*
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction,*
To discern the sayings of understanding,
- 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior,*
Righteousness, justice and equity;
- 4 To give prudence to the naive,*
To the youth knowledge and discretion,

My friend, this homework is not for cramming.

To get the most out of this study you need to seek to work on it a little bit every day. Keep in mind that you will get out of it what you put into it. So, invest deeply and be deeply blessed by an increase in the wisdom of our Savior!

1. Read Proverbs 1-10 this week.
2. Work each day this week on memorizing Proverbs 1:1-4.
3. Copy out a list of all the "My Son" commands Solomon gives in Chapters 1-7 on another sheet of paper * or on poster paper with your children. Keep this handy to add to as we continue studying the rest of the book. Mark each "My son" with a certain color or symbol in your Bible or printed out Scripture.
4. Write out a definition for the Fear of the Lord after looking up the following verses:

1:7 _____

1:29 _____

2:5 _____

3:7 _____

8:13 _____

9:10 _____

10:27 _____

14:2 _____

14:26-27 _____

15:16 _____

15:33 _____

16:6 _____

Definition after reading the verses above: _____

5. How does fearing God make us wiser? _____

6. How does wisdom make a difference in our day-to-day lives? _____

7. Look up the following verses in Proverbs on *hearing* and *listening*. What or why are we instructed to hear? Note who is giving the instruction:

1:8 _____

4:1 _____

4:10 _____

5:7 _____

7:24 _____

8:6 _____

8:32-34 _____

19:20 _____

22:17 _____

23:19 _____

23:22 _____

Hidden Treasures Homework:

Read pages 1-10 to become familiar with what the book is about.

Save the next section of pages for next week!



Introduction to Proverbs – Teaching Notes

Purpose: This week we will do an overview called “Studying the Proverbs.”

- Who is the author?
- When was it written?
- Who is the audience?
- What is Proverbs all about?
- What are the different styles of Proverbs?
- How should we study Proverbs?
- When and why should we study the Proverbs?

Authors

- There are several authors in the book of Proverbs.
 - The most well known: _____ (1:1)
 - _____ (30:1)
 - _____ (31:1,4)
 - Editors: “ _____ ” and _____ (22:17, 24:23, 25:1)

Dates

- There is a date range for the full book of Proverbs.
 - Solomon _____ BC
 - Hezekiah’s editors _____ BC

Culture

- Ancient Egypt/Mesopotamia: _____
- Hebrew: _____

Intended Audience

- _____
- _____
- _____

Why did Solomon collect Proverbs? Why is it in the Bible?

- 1 Kings 4:20-32. Solomon spoke _____ of them only _____ in Proverbs.
- Besides God’s divine intervention to give Solomon wisdom, where else did he come by it?
 - 1 Chronicles 29:1
 - Proverbs 4:1-9
- Included in the canon early on as Wisdom Literature with Job and Ecclesiastes.
 - Notes on Solomon: Proverbs style writing vs. Ecclesiastes “end of life” style

How and when?

- Solomon's request of God in 1 Kings 3
- Solomon was a collector from all over during reign of peace.
 - He collected _____, _____, _____ and _____ sayings.
 - 1 Kings 4:32, 10:14, 28
- Psalms of Solomon:
 - Psalm 72
 - Psalm 126
- A note on how Solomon failed in his wisdom: 1 Kings 9:1-9
 - He rejected God's _____ (Deut 17:16, 1 Kings 4:26)
 - He rejected God's _____ (1 Chronicles 22:9, 1 Kings 9:16-17)
 - He rejected God's _____ (Deut. 17:17, 1 Kings 11:3)
 - The Result: _____

What is Proverbs all about?

- The words "wise" and "wisdom" are used _____ times in Proverbs.
- Wiersbe says: The book of Proverbs is about godly wisdom, how to get it and how to use it. Its about priorities and principles not success formulas. It tells you how to be skillful in the lost art of making a life.
- Ephesians 5:15
- Zuck: Wisdom means being skillful and successful in one's relationships and responsibilities—observing and following the principles of order in the moral universe."
_____ + _____ = Wisdom

What are the different styles of Proverbs?

- Cervantes, "A _____ sentence based on _____ experience."
- A short statement based on many words. Easier to remember in a verbal age.
- Proverbs can be parabolic, allegorical, counseling minded, but mainly comparisons and contrasts.
- Like the rest of the Bible, not arranged _____.

How should we study Proverbs?

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- D _____
- R _____
- C _____
- I _____
- Man's observations of mankind.
- The Spirit's wisdom of mankind. Isaiah 11:2, Ephesians 1:17
- Not just clever sayings. _____ Revelation.
- Romans 15:4
- 2 Peter 1:3

When and why should we study this book?

- When? All the time.
 - Hear! Listen! (From Homework)
 - 1:8 4:1
 - 10:5-7 7:24
 - 8:6,32-33 19:20
 - 22:17 23:19,22

 - Blessing of Hearing and Doing:
 - 1:5, 33 8:34
 - 12:15 15:31-32)

- Cursing of NOT hearing and obeying: (19:27, Psalm 1)

Why? To learn the fear of the Lord

- What is fearing the Lord? (Summaries from Homework)

- Charles Bridges says, “It is that affectionate reverence by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father’s Law. His wrath is so bitter, and His love so sweet; that hence springs and earnest desire to please Him, and—because o the danger of coming short from his own weakness and temptations—a holy watchfulness and fear, ‘that he ought not sin against Him’.”

Who is this LORD?

- Colossians 2:3
- 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30
- Matthew 12:42
- John 1:1-5
- Hebrews 1:1-4
- Colossians 1:15-17

Summary

The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, knowledge and instruction. Proverbs was given to us by our loving Father as an observation of what is typical of mankind. The wise father passes on the wisdom he has gleaned from his own father’s knee, the cultures around him and the observations from the window of his home, all within the power of our Father God to us His children. The concentrated sayings are written in a poetic, concise way in order to convey much with little words in a way that is more easily remembered.