

Lesson 2

What is a Proverb? Styles of Proverbs

Weekly Memory Verse *Proverbs 1: 5-9*

- 5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning.
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.*
- 6 To understand a proverb and a figure,
The words of the wise and their riddles.*
- 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
- 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction and
Do not forsake your mother's teaching.*
- 9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head
And ornaments about your neck.*

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

1. Read Proverbs 11-20 this week. Read all the questions below before you start as there is a special assignment as you read!
2. Work each day this week on memorizing Proverbs 1:4-6.
3. Reading through Proverbs this week will feel like being hit with a fire hose of information. As explained in Hidden Treasures, you are walking through a minefield. Gold and jewels are lying all over the place! We will do deeper study of these chapters later on, but I'd like you to pick one theme, (one jewel), to mine this week. Consider it a warm up!

Find all the Proverbs that fall under the category you've chosen and write them out alongside the reference in a notebook or on notebook paper. Some suggestions are listed below and there is a lengthier list on page 88 of Hidden Treasures (there are also charts that can be copied in the center of Hidden Treasures).

Suggestions: Choose 1 theme (jewel) this week for chapters 11-20

- A Worker
- Food/Drink
- Words
- Justice
- Diligence/Laziness
- Wicked Men
- God/ The Lord
- Joy/Cheerfulness/ Happiness
- The Heart
- Family Members – Father/Mother/Children/Son

4. **Choose one verse/group from chapters 11-20 that convicts you as you read. Write it out here:**

5. **How will you implement this in your life this week/month/year? Communicate this verse to your spouse, kids or a friend. Let them know how it's changing your thinking.**

6. **Search for 4 kinds of Proverbs in this week's reading. Write a sample below:**

Comparing-(look for the words 'like' or 'as'):

Contrasting-(second line will start with the word 'but'):

Addition-(look for the words 'furthermore', 'moreover', 'beyond that' or 'what's more'):

Building up the meaning-(second line elaborates on first line. Often uses 'and'):

7. Look for each of the following types of structures and write out an example of each:

A Proverb that tells you something to put off and something to put on:

A Proverb that observes the law of consequences:

A Proverb that reveals the sequence of character, conduct, and consequence:

A Proverb that teaches something that is ALWAYS true:

A Proverb that teaches something that is USUALLY true:

Hidden Treasures optional homework:

Read pages 11-16 for yourself.

Read pages 85-94 and make copies for yourself this week (if you desire) to prepare for the journey ahead. A notebook or notebook paper are fine as well if you don't want to make copies.

Copies you may want (optional)

Pages 89-90 - a LOT of copies

Page 93 - 31 copies

Pages 91-92 - several copies

Page 94 - 2-4 copies

Proverbs Styles - Teaching Notes

What are we looking for as we study the Proverbs. What do I need to keep a special eye out for as I seek to learn the fear of the Lord and understanding how to best go about my every moment of life?

Structure of the Sage:

Proverbs are terse morsels of truth that are easy to memorize.

- _____
- _____
- _____

In the example below you may not have considered the poetic connectedness of the following 6 verses. As you study this example it may help you to look closer as you dig into the hidden treasures of this book.

Example:

Proverbs 26:6-10

A He cuts off his own feet and drinks violence, who sends a message by the hand of a fool.

B Like the legs which are useless to the lame, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

X Like one who binds a stone in a sling, so is he who gives honor to a fool.

B' Like a thorn which falls into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

A' Like an archer who wounds everyone, so is he who hires a fool or who hires those who pass by.

Take note at this point, not all Proverbs are one little compact verse.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Poetics/Wisdom Literature

"Poetics is to literature as linguistics is to language. We must first know how a text means before we can know what it means. The value to hermeneutics cannot be overstated." Waltke

So, we join the sage in his workshop.

Proverb 24:30-34

It is wise to see Proverbs is not just "_____." The authors/editors viewed creation through the lens of Israel's _____. In other words, they derive truth from observing the _____ order and from _____, within the frame of reference of Israel's covenants. Without that frame the _____ kingdom would teach the law of survival of the fittest (_____), not righteousness. When Solomon erects the ant into a _____ of discipline and prudence, he turns a blind eye to its(the ants) effects."

The sages' inspiration differs in their appeal to _____ to teach _____, and they claim to be _____ and to possess _____ as much as other contributors to literature (1:1; 2:1-8, 22:17-21, 25:1, 30:1-6)

We are going to have a quick grammar lesson to give you little antennae for the different ways poets use language.

Imagery/Figures

Similes	_____	Proverbs 26:18-19
Metaphors	_____	Proverbs 11:22
Allegory	_____	Proverbs 27:23-27
Anthropopathism	_____	Proverbs 24:18
Anthropomorphism	_____	Psalms 94:9
Synecdoche	_____	Proverbs 16:31
Metonymy	_____	Proverbs 3:19
Personification	_____	Proverbs 9:1-6
Hyperbole	_____	Proverbs 30:3
Irony	_____	Proverbs 31:6

It is interesting to note that certain irony in Hebrew culture would not be as ironic to us.

Example of Hebrew translations to English irony removed.

For example:

Proverbs 19:27

English translation: "Cease listening, my son, to discipline, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."

Hebrew translation: "Cease, my son, listening to instruction to stray from words of knowledge."

Solomon means the opposite but English translators change it so that we don't get confused and miss the irony.

The main thing that you will be keeping an eye out for, though is:

Parallelism

Joel James summarizes 4 aspects of parallelism we need to keep in mind:

1. _____: meaning the same.
2. _____: meaning the opposite.
3. _____: adding on to the meaning
4. _____: relating something human to something else.

You must ask yourself: How are the parallel lines of a verse related to one another?

Application:

The application of Proverbs is dependent on you, the learner. Rote application of formulas to experiences is not the intent, rather one must learn the truth and apply it wisely in each different circumstance; skillfully and successfully.