



# Selected Proverbs by Topic

## INTRODUCTION

The following proverbs are categorized by topic. They are not exhaustive, but give us a good place to start when seeing God's wisdom for life. We suggest using any of the four easy guides to meet God (GROW, RRRR, REAP, SOAP) in His word tools to spend time with God in the scriptures this summer. These guides can be found on our [Resource Page](#). Simply take a few minutes, follow the guide to read some of the below proverbs, and meet God in His word.

## WHAT IS WISDOM?

**Proverbs 1:1-7-** The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their griddles.

**Proverbs 3:5-6-** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Proverbs 3:13-20-** Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.

**Proverbs 8:22-31-** The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

**Proverbs 9:10-12-** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

## CHOOSE WISDOM

**Proverbs 1:17-19-** For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.

**Proverbs 1:29-33-** Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

**Proverbs 2:20-22-** So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

**Proverbs 3:5-8-** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

**Proverbs 4:6-9-** Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.”

**Proverbs 4:18-19-** But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

**Proverbs 10:1-2-** The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.

**Proverbs 11:1-3-** A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

**Proverbs 12-** (All of it)

**Proverbs 14:1-** The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

**Proverbs 15:16-17-** Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

**Proverbs 21:3-** To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

**Proverbs 24:3-4-** By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

**Proverbs 1:1-3-** The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity

**Proverbs 1:8-10-** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

**Proverbs 2:6-9-** For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;

**Proverbs 3:1-4-** My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

**Proverbs 3:11-12-** My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

**Proverbs 4:1-** Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight,

**Proverbs 5:1-2-** My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.

**Proverbs 5:15-21-** Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.

**Proverbs 10:1-2-** The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.

**Proverbs 11:16-17-** A gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches. A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.

**Proverbs 12:4-8-** An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones. The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful. The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them. The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand. A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of twisted mind is despised.

**Proverbs 12:26-** One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**Proverbs 13:20-** Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

**Proverbs 14:1-** The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

**Proverbs 14:31-** Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

**Proverbs 16:27-29-** A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire. A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends. A man of violence entices his neighbor and leads him in a way that is not good.

**Proverbs 16:32-** Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

**Proverbs 17:14-15-** The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out. He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord.

**Proverbs 19:13-14-** A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain. House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.

**Proverbs 21:19-** It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.

**Proverbs 23:12-24:2** – (Counseling an obedient son)

**Proverbs 24:15-18** – Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the righteous; do no violence to his home; for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity. Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the Lord see it and be displeased and turn away his anger from him.

**Proverbs 24:28-29-** Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips. Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."

**Proverbs 25:8-10-** What your eyes have seen do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

**Proverbs 25:17-** Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

**Proverbs 25:19-** Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.

**Proverbs 25:21-22-** If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

**Proverbs 25:24-** It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

**Proverbs 26:17-** Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.

**Proverbs 27:9-10-** Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel. Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

**Proverbs 29:3-** He who loves wisdom makes his father glad, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

**Proverbs 29:4-** By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts tears it down.

**Proverbs 29:5-** A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

**Proverbs 29:12-** If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked.

**Proverbs 29:15-17-** The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. When the wicked increase, transgression increases, but the righteous will look upon their downfall. Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

**Proverbs 29:26-** Many seek the face of a ruler, but it is from the Lord that a man gets justice.

**Proverbs 30:10-** Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be held guilty.

**Proverbs 30:11-14-** There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers. There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth. There are those – how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift! There are those whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mankind.

**Proverbs 30:17-** The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

**Proverbs 30:20-** This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, “I have done no wrong.”

**Proverbs 30:21-23-** Under three things the earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up: a slave when he becomes king and a fool when he is filled with food; an unloved woman when she gets a husband and a maidservant when she displaces her mistress.

**Proverbs 31:1-3-** The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him: What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows? Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.

**Proverbs 31:8-9-** Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

**Proverbs 31:10-12-** An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

**Proverbs 31:20-** She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

**Proverbs 31:28-31-** Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

## SPEECH

**Proverbs 10:8 -** The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

**Proverbs 10:10-14-** Whoever winks the eye causes trouble, and a babbling fool will come to ruin. The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense. The wise lay up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

**Proverbs 10:17-20, 31-32**-Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray. The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool. When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense. The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

**Proverbs 12:17-18**- Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

**Proverbs 15:4**: A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit

**Proverbs 27:3**- A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.

**Proverbs 30:32-33**- If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth. For pressing milk produces curds, pressing the nose produces blood, and pressing anger produces strife.

## WORK

**Proverbs 12:11** - Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

**Proverbs 6:6-11** - Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

**Proverb 15:19** - The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

**Proverbs 20:4** - The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

**Proverbs 21:25-26** - The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

**Proverbs 22:13** - The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!"

**Proverbs 10:4-5** - A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.

**Proverbs 14:23** - In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

## MONEY

**Proverbs 22:7** - The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

**Proverbs 3:27** - Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

**Proverbs 11:25** - Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

**Proverbs 3:9** - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce.

**Proverbs 21:26** - All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

## PLANNING

**Proverbs 16:3** - Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

**Proverbs 16:9** - The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

**Proverbs 15:22** - Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

**Proverbs 19:21** - Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

## SEX + LUST

**Proverbs 6:25-35** - 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[h] hunts down a precious life. 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. 30 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. 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.

**Proverbs 5:15-19** Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

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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. 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. 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.

**Proverbs 5** - My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. For the lips of a forbidden[a] woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it. And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation." Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated[d] always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?[e] For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

**Proverbs 7:21-27** with much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him. All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life. And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth. Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.