

Ways of the

*M*y son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

*I*t is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy. Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.

*B*lessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

A Study in Proverbs

STUDY GUIDE

APRIL 12, 2026 - JUNE 21, 2026

Proverbs 1 | April 12, 2026

Proverbs 1 calls us to recognize two competing voices, the voice of wisdom and the voice of folly. One leads to life, security, and the fear of the Lord. The other leads to destruction, often through subtle enticement.

Whose voice are you listening to? Do you truly fear the Lord?

Read Proverbs 1:1–7. What does this passage say wisdom is for? How does this shape your understanding of why you need wisdom?

Verse 7 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” What does it mean to fear the Lord? Why would this be required to attain knowledge? (Read Psalm 111:10 and Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Read verses 8–9, what role do parents and family members play in forming wisdom? How should instruction be received? (Read Hebrews 13:17)

Read verses 10–19, sinners “entice” with promises of gain and belonging. What are some modern examples of this kind of enticement? What makes it appealing?

Verse 15 says, “do not walk in the way with them.” Why is avoiding sinful influence often more about proximity than just intention? (See also Psalm 1:1)

Read verses 24–32, what are the consequences of rejecting wisdom? What stands out to you about how judgment is described?

Where in your life right now are you most tempted to ignore God’s wisdom and rely on your own understanding?

Key Takeaways

- Wisdom begins with God, not you.
- There are always competing voices. The path of wisdom requires actively rejecting the enticement of sin and choosing God’s way.
- Ignoring wisdom has real consequences. Proverbs makes clear that rejecting God’s instruction leads to destruction, not neutrality.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would cultivate in you a deep and reverent fear of the Lord that shapes how you think, decide, and live. Ask the Lord to expose areas where you have been listening to the voice of culture, sin, or self instead of His wisdom. Pray for discernment to recognize the subtle enticements that pull your heart away from obedience, whether in relationships, ambitions, or desires for comfort and control. Ask God for the humility to receive instruction, correction, and truth, even when it is difficult. Pray that you would not only hear wisdom but walk in it, that you would be a doer of the Word, forming a life marked by obedience and trust.

Proverbs 2 | April 19, 2026

Where Proverbs 1 defines wisdom, Proverbs 2 exhorts us to pursue it. Wisdom is not something passively received, it is something diligently sought after, like hidden treasure. This chapter makes clear that growth in wisdom requires intentional effort, a receptive heart, and a dependence on God who ultimately gives wisdom.

Read Proverbs 2:1-8. What actions are described in the pursuit of wisdom? What do these verbs reveal about the effort required?

How does this passage describe the relationship between human responsibility (seeking) and God's role (giving wisdom)? (**Read James 1:5**)

Verse 4 compares seeking wisdom to searching for hidden treasure. What does this teach about the value of wisdom? Does your pursuit of wisdom reflect this kind of priority?

According to verses 6-8, what does God do for those who walk in integrity? What encouragement does this give you?

Read verses 9-11. What are the internal results of gaining wisdom? How does wisdom shape not just actions, but desires and discernment?

Read verses 12-19. Describe deliverance from "the way of evil." What characteristics define these individuals? Where do you see similar patterns in today's world?

In verses 16-19, what is being warned against here? How does this passage reveal the deceptive nature of sin?

Read verses 20-22, what are the two paths set before us? What are the long-term outcomes of each?

In what areas of your life do you need wisdom right now? What would it look like to actively pursue God's wisdom in those areas this week?

Key Takeaways

- Wisdom must be pursued intentionally. It is not gained passively but through seeking, listening, and treasuring God's truth.
- Wisdom protects from destruction. It guards the heart and life from both external influences and internal temptations.
- There are only two paths. The way of righteousness leads to life and stability, while the way of wickedness leads to ruin.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would give you a deeper hunger for wisdom. Ask Him to shape your heart so that you would seek His truth like hidden treasure. Ask the Lord to give you discernment in areas where you may be vulnerable to deception-whether through sinful influences, distorted thinking, or misplaced desires. Finally, pray that the Lord would guide your steps this week, giving you clarity in decisions and a steady confidence that His ways are good, right, and life-giving.

Proverbs 3:1-7 | April 26, 2026

In Proverbs 3, Solomon provides a roadmap for living wisely in a fallen world. This passage presents a rhythm of commands paired with blessings. The commands call for wholehearted obedience, remembering God's Word, walking in steadfast love and faithfulness, trusting in the Lord, and fearing Him. The blessings reveal the fruit of that life, peace, favor, direction, and restoration.

Read Proverbs 3:1–4. What does it mean to not forget God's teaching but to keep it in your heart? How is this different from simply knowing Scripture?

Verse 2 speaks of "length of days... and peace." What kind of "peace" is being described?

In verses 3–4, what do "steadfast love" and "faithfulness" reveal about God's character? How are these qualities meant to be reflected in your life? What are practical ways to "bind" these qualities around your life and write them on your heart? Where is this most difficult for you right now?

Read verses 5-6. What does it look like to truly "trust in the Lord with all your heart"? What are some signs that you are leaning on your own understanding?

Verse 6 says to "acknowledge him in all your ways." What would it look like to bring God into every part of your daily life, your decisions, relationships, and thoughts?

Read verses 7-8, what does it mean to be "wise in your own eyes"? Why is this so dangerous?

How are the fear of the Lord and turning away from evil connected? What does this reveal about genuine wisdom?

Verse 8 speaks of "healing" and "refreshment." How have you seen that walking in God's wisdom brings restoration to your life?

Key Takeaways

- God has always desired hearts shaped by His Word, not just outward conformity.
- Trusting God requires surrender. You cannot trust the Lord fully while continuing to rely on your own understanding.
- The fear of the Lord reorients everything. A life rooted in reverence for God leads to turning from evil and walking in wisdom.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would guard your heart from merely knowing His Word without truly obeying it. Ask Him to shape your affections so that His commands are not burdensome but treasured and kept from the heart. Ask for help to grow in mercy, kindness, truth, and integrity, especially in areas where this does not come naturally. Ask God to reveal where you are still leaning on your own understanding, whether in decisions, fears, or plans, and surrender those areas to Him. Ask for the grace to acknowledge Him in all your ways, not compartmentalizing your faith but living in daily dependence on Him.

Proverbs 3:13-26 | May 3, 2026

Our passage this week expands our understanding of wisdom by showing its true value, its foundation in creation, and its practical impact on daily life. Wisdom is not merely helpful; it is better than anything this world offers. It brings a deeper joy, a lasting peace, and a life aligned with how God designed the world to work. Wisdom is meant to be applied. It guards, guides, and stabilizes the life of the one who holds fast to it.

Read Proverbs 3:13-15. How does this passage describe the value of wisdom? What comparisons are made, and what do they reveal about what you should treasure most?

Verse 13 describes the one who finds wisdom as "blessed." How is this deeper than the world's definition of happiness? Where are you tempted to seek a lesser, temporary joy?

Read verses 16-18, what are the benefits of wisdom? How should these be understood, not as guarantees, but as the kind of life wisdom produces?

Verse 18 calls wisdom a "tree of life." How does this connect to the story of Scripture (Genesis to Revelation)? What does this reveal about what wisdom ultimately restores?

Read verses 19-22.

How does recognizing God as the wise Creator change the way you approach decisions, uncertainty, or fear?

In verses 21-22, what does it mean to "not lose sight" of wisdom? What tends to distract or pull your focus away from living wisely?

Read verses 23-26, describe security, peace, and freedom from fear. What kind of security is being promised here? How is this different from a life free of difficulty?

Verse 26 says, "the Lord will be your confidence." What does it look like practically for your confidence to be rooted in God rather than in circumstances or yourself?

Key Takeaways

- Godly wisdom is more valuable than anything the world offers. No possession, success, or achievement can compare to the lasting joy and stability that wisdom provides.
- Wisdom is rooted in God's design. The same wisdom that created and sustains the world is the wisdom that guides your life.
- Wisdom restores what sin has broken. It leads to life, peace, and wholeness, ultimately pointing to the restoration found in Christ.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would reshape what you value. Ask Him to expose any areas where you have been chasing lesser treasures, whether success, comfort, approval, or material gain. Pray for a deeper understanding of who God is as the wise Creator. Ask that this truth would strengthen your trust in Him, especially in areas where you feel uncertain, anxious, or out of control. Pray that you would rest in the reality that His wisdom is perfect and His ways are good.

Proverbs 31 | May 10, 2026

Proverbs 31 presents a beautiful portrait of a woman shaped by wisdom and the fear of the Lord. This passage is not a checklist for perfection, nor a standard meant to produce discouragement. Instead, it is a picture of what God forms in a life that walks closely with Him, faithfulness, strength, wisdom, and love expressed in everyday life.

Read Proverbs 31:10. Why is a woman of this character described as “far more precious than jewels”? What does this reveal about how God defines value?

How does this passage challenge cultural definitions of success, beauty, and identity for women today? Where do you see tension between biblical wisdom and cultural expectations?

Verse 30 highlights the “fear of the Lord.” Why is this the foundation for all the other virtues in this passage? (See also Proverbs 9:10)

Read verses 11–24, what does it look like to be trustworthy and consistently for the good of others? How does this kind of character shape relationships?

What stands out about her work ethic and priorities? How can this be applied in everyday life?

Verse 20 highlights generosity. What does this reveal about the relationship between wisdom and compassion? How can you grow in this area?

Read verses 25–31, how are strength, dignity, and wise speech connected? What does it look like to speak with wisdom and kindness in your daily interactions?

Verse 27 says she does not live in idleness. What are some modern forms of distraction or passivity that can pull you away from living with purpose?

Verses 28–31 describe the lasting impact of her life. What kind of legacy does wisdom produce? What do you want your life to be known for?

Key Takeaways

- The fear of the Lord is the foundation. All true wisdom and godly character flow from a heart devoted to God.
- Faithfulness matters more than perfection.
- A life rooted in wisdom leaves a legacy. The impact of faithfulness extends beyond the present into future generations.

Prayer Prompt

- Ask the Lord to help you see that true worth is not found in outward appearance, achievement, or approval, but in a life that fears the Lord and walks in His wisdom. Pray that your life would leave a lasting impact, that through your faithfulness, others would see the goodness of God and be drawn to Him. Ask that your life would reflect His wisdom in a way that brings Him glory and blesses those around you.

Proverbs 14 | May 24, 2026

Throughout Proverbs, we are presented with a contrast between vices and virtues. Vices, like pride, deceit, laziness, and cruelty, often disguise themselves as strengths in our culture. But God's Word holds out a different vision: a life shaped by virtue, reflecting the character of our Creator.

Read Proverbs 14:21–35. What virtues stand out most to you in this passage? Why do you think these qualities are often undervalued in today's culture?

How does our culture sometimes repackage vices (like pride, harshness, or dishonesty) as strengths? Where do you see this most clearly?

Proverbs consistently elevates humility. Why is humility so foundational to the Christian life? What are some subtle ways pride can show up in your heart or actions?

Sunday's sermon described humility as "the low road to honor." What does it look like practically to choose humility in your relationships, work, or leadership?

Proverbs 11:17 connects kindness to personal benefit. How have you experienced the impact of kindness, both giving and receiving it? Who might God be calling you to show kindness to this week?

Integrity is being consistent before God. Where is it most tempting for you to compromise integrity in private thoughts, public actions, or hidden habits?

Why is truthfulness so important to God? What are some common ways people drift into dishonesty (even subtly)? How can you pursue greater honesty in your speech?

How do these virtues of humility, kindness, integrity, and truthfulness reflect the character of Christ? Which of these do you most clearly see in His life?

Key Takeaways

- Virtues reflect the character of God. A life of humility, kindness, integrity, and truthfulness displays who God is to the world.
- Culture often celebrates the opposite. What God calls good is frequently minimized or distorted in our world.
- Virtue is formed, not manufactured. These qualities grow in us as we abide in Christ and walk by the Spirit.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would expose any areas in your life where vices have taken root especially those that may appear acceptable or even commendable in the eyes of the world. Ask Him to give you clarity to see your heart honestly and the humility to respond with repentance. Pray that the Lord would actively form Christlike character in you. Ask Him to grow in you humility that resists pride, kindness that reflects His compassion, integrity that remains steady in both public and private, and truthfulness that honors Him in every word you speak.

Wisdom in Our Work | May 31, 2026

The book of Proverbs has so much to say about work. In a culture that often swings between overworking for identity and underworking out of comfort, Scripture calls us to a better way. It gives us a wise, God-honoring approach to work. Work is not a result of the fall; it is part of God's design. But sin distorts it, leading to laziness on one side and anxious striving on the other. Does the way you approach work reflect the wisdom of God?

Read Proverbs 6:6-11. What does the example of the ant teach about diligence and initiative? Where are you tempted to drift toward passivity or procrastination?

Read Proverbs 14:23 It says, "In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty." How does this principle relate having a godly work ethic?

Read Proverbs 22:29. What does this verse teach about skill, excellence, and diligence in work? How can you pursue excellence without making work your identity?

Proverbs 12:11 contrasts faithful work with chasing "worthless pursuits." What might "worthless pursuits" look like in today's world?

Read Proverbs 16:3. What does it mean to "commit your work to the Lord"? How can you practically bring God into your daily work?

Proverbs 10:4-5 connects diligence with provision. How should we understand the relationship between hard work and God's sovereignty?

Read Proverbs 11:1 and 16:11. What role does integrity play in work, especially in areas like business, finances, or leadership?

How does your current attitude toward work (whether job, home responsibilities, or ministry) reflect wisdom-or lack of it? What needs to change?

Key Takeaways

- Work is part of God's design. It is a means of honoring Him and serving others, not merely a way to earn income.
- Wisdom leads to diligence and faithfulness. Laziness and distraction pull us away from God's intended purpose.
- Integrity matters as much as effort. How you work is just as important as how hard you work.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would reshape your view of work. Ask Him to help you see your work, whether in a job, at home, or in ministry as a calling from Him and an opportunity to honor Him. Pray that your motivation would shift from self-focused goals to a desire to glorify God and serve others faithfully. Pray for diligence and discipline. Ask God to strengthen you in areas where you are tempted toward laziness, distraction, or procrastination. At the same time, pray for wisdom to guard against overworking or finding your identity in productivity or success. Pray for integrity in all that you do. Ask the Lord to help you work with honesty, consistency, and excellence, even when no one is watching.

A Godly Perspective on Possessions | June 7, 2026

We live in a world constantly pulling us toward “more”. More comfort, more security, more possessions. Yet Scripture consistently reminds us that life is not found in what we own, but in who we belong to. Proverbs gives us a wise and balanced perspective on money and possessions: it warns us of their dangers, shows us their proper use, and reminds us of their limits.

Read Proverbs 1:10–19. How can the desire for gain lead people into sinful behavior? Where do you see this temptation in today’s culture or in your own heart?

Read Proverbs 18:11. It describes wealth as a “high wall in his imagination.” What does it look like to place false security in money or possessions? How can this subtly show up in your life?

How do possessions tend to increase anxiety rather than relieve it? Why do you think more often leads to more worry instead of more peace?

Read Proverbs 27:7. It speaks about ingratitude in abundance. How can having more actually dull your gratitude? What practices help cultivate thankfulness?

Read Proverbs 23:4. What does it look like to “not toil to acquire wealth”? How can someone be diligent in work without making money the goal?

Proverbs 3:9–10 and 11:24–25 highlight the blessings of generosity. How does giving reshape your relationship with money?

In what ways can money and possessions be used for good, both practically and spiritually? Where have you seen this done well?

Read Proverbs 16:16 and 11:4. What do these verses teach about the limitations of money? Why can’t wealth provide what the heart truly needs?

Jesus asks, “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” How does this question reframe your priorities and perspective on possessions?

Key Takeaways

- Possessions can easily become dangerous. They can fuel greed, create false security, increase anxiety, and distort priorities.
- Possessions are meant to be stewarded, not worshiped. When used rightly, they can bless others and honor God.
- Christ is the true treasure. Only in Him do we find lasting security, joy, and righteousness.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would examine your heart and reveal how you truly view money and possessions. Ask Him to expose any areas where you have placed your trust in what you have rather than in Him. Pray for freedom from subtle forms of idolatry, where possessions may have taken a greater place in your heart than they should. Pray for a spirit of contentment. Ask God to help you be satisfied in Him, regardless of your financial situation, and to cultivate gratitude for what He has already provided. Pray that your heart would not be driven by comparison, envy, or the pursuit of more.

Friends and Family Plan | June 14, 2026

God did not create us for isolation. From the beginning, He declared that it is “not good” for man to be alone. We are made in the image of a relational God and designed for connection within marriage, family, and friendship. Yet relationships are often difficult. They require vulnerability, honesty, forgiveness, and risk. In a world marked by loneliness and shallow connection, Proverbs gives us a better way, a vision for relationships shaped by wisdom and grounded in God’s design.

Read Genesis 2:18. What does this reveal about God’s design for relationships? Why do you think loneliness is so prevalent today despite constant connection?

Proverbs presents marriage as a gift. What do passages like Proverbs 18:22 and 31:10 reveal about how God views marriage? How should this shape expectations within marriage?

Read Proverbs 21:19. It gives a warning about conflict in relationships. What are some common sources of tension in marriage or close relationships? How can wisdom reshape how conflict is handled?

Read Proverbs 22:6 and 20:7. What role does example play in parenting? How does your life reinforce or undermine what you say you believe?

For children (and all under authority), what do Proverbs 6:20 and 13:1 teach about receiving instruction? Why is this often difficult?

Read Proverbs 13:20 and 27:17 They highlight the influence of friendships. How have your relationships shaped your character for better or worse?

Read Proverbs 27:5–6. Why is honest correction an essential part of true friendship? How can you grow in both giving and receiving it well?

Read Proverbs 16:28 and 17:9 These verses address gossip and forgiveness. How do these two issues either strengthen or destroy relationships?

Key Takeaways

- Wisdom shapes how we relate to others. Healthy relationships require truth, forgiveness, loyalty, and humility.
- The people around you influence who you become. Wise friendships sharpen and strengthen your walk with God.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would reshape your understanding of relationships according to His design. Ask Him to help you value connection as a gift from Him and to recognize areas where you may have withdrawn, avoided vulnerability, or settled for shallow relationships. Pray for wisdom in your closest relationships whether in marriage, family, or friendships. Ask God to grow in you humility, patience, and love. Pray for the relationships that need healing. Ask the Lord to restore broken trust, soften hardened hearts, and bring reconciliation where it is needed.

Faithful Fatherhood | June 21, 2026

At its core, fatherhood is not about producing well-behaved children or high achievers, but about pointing hearts toward wisdom that leads to life. While this passage speaks directly to fathers, it also reveals principles that apply to everyone. All believers are called to influence others, pass on truth, and live lives shaped by God's wisdom. The question becomes: Are you intentionally shaping the hearts of those God has entrusted to you and are you walking in that same wisdom yourself?

Read Proverbs 4:1–9. What stands out about the role of a father in giving instruction? Why is this described as essential, not optional?

The passage emphasizes passing down wisdom from one generation to the next. Who has played that role in your life? Who are you currently influencing?

In verses 6–9, wisdom is presented as something to love and pursue. Why is it important that wisdom is not just taught, but treasured?

The sermon emphasized that the goal is not behavior modification but pointing to Christ. How does this reshape how you think about spiritual leadership in the home or in relationships?

Read Proverbs 4:10–27. What contrast is drawn between the path of the righteous and the path of the wicked? Why is clarity about these paths so important?

Verse 23 says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance." Why is the heart such a central focus? How does what you love shape how you live?

Verses 24–27 describe a progression from heart to speech to actions. Where do you most often see breakdown in that progression in your own life?

What kind of legacy are you currently building? If someone followed your life closely, what would they learn about what truly matters?

Key Takeaways

- Spiritual influence is a primary calling. Fathers, and all believers, are called to pass on wisdom that leads to life.
- Wisdom must be both taught and modeled. What is lived out carries as much weight as what is spoken.
- What you love ultimately shapes your thoughts, words, and actions.
- Legacy is spiritual, not material. The most lasting impact is pointing others toward Christ and His wisdom.

Prayer Prompt

- Pray that God would strengthen and encourage the fathers in your life. Ask that He would give them wisdom, endurance, and clarity as they lead, teach, and love those entrusted to them. Pray that they would not be discouraged by their imperfections but would be sustained by the grace of Christ. Pray for faithful influence. Whether in your home, friendships, or church, ask God to help you speak truth clearly, model it consistently, and point others toward Christ. Pray for humility to admit failure, courage to lead with conviction, and grace to walk in repentance when needed.