

Proverbs

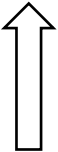
Knowing the God of Prudence



Lesson 4 *Understanding the Daily Issues of Life*

Day 1- Words

Proverbs 12:18, 15:4, 16:24, 18:21, 12:19, 16:28, 18:8, 18:2,13, 10:19, 13:3, 17:27



Father, renew my spirit today, let me see you with fresh eyes. Give me wisdom to understand what you are saying in your word and to love your ways and live them.

1. Summarize the wisdom found in 12:18, 15:4 16:24, and 18:21.
 - a. How have you seen or experienced the tongue bearing the fruit of death?



Is there someone in your life who needs gracious and wise words from you today? Pray for God's help in this.

Picture and Ponder

"The evil tongue slays three, the slanderer, the slandered and the listener."¹

2. Proverbs 12:19, 16:28 and 18:8 are talking about gossip and lying. What warnings are given in these proverbs?

3. What other kinds of foolishness can we take part in with our tongue according to 18:2 and 18:13?

4. What does it look like to be wise in 10:19, 13:3, and 17:27?



James 3:2 says,

...For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. (NLT)

Our words get us into so much trouble! Why is it so hard to control our tongues? We know the answer—our words come tumbling out from our hearts (Matt.15:18). Our words are not so much a tongue problem as a heart problem; so instead of trying to bite our tongues we should go to the root of the problem and diagnose our hearts.

- ◆ How do you struggle with your tongue? Reflect and pray, asking God to show you what is at the heart of your struggle with your words.

Day 2-Decision Making/Guidance

Proverbs 3:5-6, 16:3, 11:3, 24:6, 11:14, 12:15, 20:18, 16:9,33, 19:21, 20:24

1. What is our part in making decisions according to the wisdom in 3:5-6, 16:3 and 11:3?
 - a. What does it mean not to lean on your own understanding?
 - b. What does it look like to acknowledge God in all your ways?
2. What wisdom do the proverbs in 24:6, 11:14, 12:15, and 20:18, give about counsel and guidance?
3. What recurring theme do you see in Proverbs 16:9,33, 19:21, and 20:24?



The wisdom of Proverbs tells of the reality of God's sovereignty in all our plans while at the same time urging us to get counsel, to strategize and to make wise decisions.

We feel this tension throughout the Bible—God is in charge of history, working everything according to his plan and at the same time we are responsible for our actions and choices.

- ◆ What comfort do you find in the truth that God is sovereign—he has complete rule and authority over everything?

- ◆ Why isn't passivity in the face of God's sovereignty an option for believers?

Day 3- Justice

Proverbs 31:8-9, 24:10-12, 3:27, 12:10, 21:13

1. What three things are we to do according to 31:8-9?

- a. Who are *the mute* that we should speak for in our world? Who are the destitute?

For Discussion

What does it mean for us to *judge righteously*? How should we think about social justice in our culture from a godly perspective?

2. What is not an excuse for not helping those who need help according to 24:10-12?

Scholar's Note: "The general application of verse 11 would include any who are in mortal danger, through disease, hunger, war..."²



How can you practice the wisdom of 3:27?

3. Who does justice and mercy include according to 12:10?

- a. Why is this true?



Proverbs 21:13 says, *Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.*

- ◆ Why is it important to have compassion on the poor and needy?

- ◆ What all does listening to the cries of the poor encompass?

- ◆ What are you doing to listen to the cries of the poor?

Day 4- Conflict

Proverbs 17:9,14, 24:29, 26:17, 20-21, 18:17, 16:2

1. What wisdom do you find in 17:9,14, 24:29, and 26:17, 20-21 about conflict, quarreling and strife?
2. How does the wisdom in 18:17 help when conflicts arise?
3. How does the wisdom in 16:2 give us perspective when we are involved in a conflict?

Digging Deeper

What wisdom from the life of Jesus do you find in these verses that would instruct us when we face conflicts?

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:3-8 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own

interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.



If we are to live out the wisdom we see in Proverbs we need Jesus, who is wisdom, who lived wisdom, and who gives wisdom. We can face conflict with grace and truth and deflate conflict with humility and self-sacrifice when we are united to Jesus our Savior.

- ◆ Spend some time in prayer bringing any conflict you are experiencing before God. Ask for God to strengthen you with his Spirit to live out the life of Jesus in you.

Day 5- Money and Work

Proverbs 12:27, 14:23, 20:13, 22:29, 27:23-24, 3:9-10,16, 22:4, 10:15,11:4, 16:16, 30:8-9, 13:11, 20:17, 22:16, 23:4-5, 28:11

1. What wisdom do you learn about work from the proverbs in 12:27, 14:23, 20:13, 22:29, and 27:23-24?
2. What attitude is displayed in 3:9-10, 3:16 and 22:4 about wealth?
3. What perspectives do 10:15, 11:4, 16:16 and 30:8-9 give about wealth?

4. What warnings do 13:11, 20:17, 22:16, 23:4-5 and 28:11 give about money?

Digging Deeper

What other important things do you learn about having money from the verses below?

1 Samuel 2:7 *The LORD makes poor, and the LORD makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.*

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19 *⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and ⁸ we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

¹ Midrash Tehillim 52:2

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