

(These devotionals can be shared at breakfast or dinner when the family is together.)

***Daily Bread***  
**Monday (Week 3)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

**Devotional Thought**

Have you ever helped plant flowers, vegetables, or a small tree? These are good plants that can produce tasty food, beautiful green leaves, and flowers to enjoy. But before you plant good plants, you always have to make sure you use the right soil and that the plants get plenty of water and sunlight.

Soon, the plant begins to grow, and do you know what else? Weeds! No one planted the weeds. They grow from tiny seeds that are hidden in the soil or blown in by the wind. If we allow those weeds to grow, they can take away the nutrients and water that the good plants need to grow. Sometimes they can even choke out the new plant completely. That's why a good gardener is always on the lookout for weeds and pulls them up as soon as they appear.

Think of our hearts as a garden. The things we see, hear, and hear others say can really shape how we think. They don't just pop into our heads; they can also touch our hearts. If we're exposed to negative things, they can stick around and make us make choices that aren't great, or say and do things that might hurt us or others.

This is why God encourages us to keep our hearts safe. It's important to be careful about what we let into our lives. By remembering God's teachings and listening to the guidance of our parents and other godly individuals, we shield our minds and hearts from negative influences. Just like a gardener removes weeds to protect a plant, we should eliminate any sinful thoughts so that our hearts can flourish and bring God's will into our lives. When we do, our hearts will become stronger and yield good fruit that glorifies God.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What kinds of things should we be on the lookout for that can affect our hearts?
2. How is one way we can guard our hearts today?

**Prayer**

Father, help us know what is good for our hearts and what we should guard against. Help us make good choices throughout this day that honor You. Amen

***Daily Bread***  
**(Tuesday Week 3)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 14:17 (NLT)- Short-tempered people do foolish things, and schemers are hated.*

Wisdom is the opposite of a quick temper.

**Devotional Thought**

Isn't it amazing how fireworks can bring such joy with their loud pops and vibrant colors? We all enjoy lighting off firecrackers and other colorful fireworks during the holidays. However, for anyone who uses fireworks, it's important to be aware of a potential hazard: a short fuse. Sometimes, a firecracker's fuse can be too short, making fireworks potentially dangerous and posing a risk of serious injury. If you are standing too close or still have your hand near when it explodes, you can really get hurt.

In the same way, a person with a quick temper who lets anger explode without thinking about what they are doing can be very dangerous. They are like a firecracker with a short fuse. When they explode in anger, they can hurt themselves and others nearby. They say things and act out in ways that cause injury and harm. When we are angry, we act without really thinking through what we are doing and how it will impact those close to us. Uncontrolled anger never produces God's will in our lives (James 1:20).

Uncontrolled anger can also lead us to make harmful plans or choices that damage trust. When we hurt others with our words or actions, people may not want to be close to us because anger makes them feel unsafe.

When we do act in anger, we should be quick to apologize and ask forgiveness—from the people we have hurt and from God.

Most of all, we can remember that God's wisdom protects our hearts. His wisdom helps us slow down, think carefully, and respond in a way that honors Him instead of reacting quickly to something we do not like.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What kinds of things might we do when we are mad and act without thinking?
2. How might these things hurt others?
3. How can being a good listener help us control our anger?

**Prayer**

Father, thank you for the wisdom you give us whenever we pay attention to your word. Help us to always think before we react to things that upset us and do the right thing. Amen

**Daily Bread**  
**(Wednesday Week 3)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 21:2–3 (NLT) People may be right in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their heart. <sup>3</sup>The LORD is more pleased when we do what is right and just than when we offer him sacrifices.*

**Devotional Thought**

Did you know that going to church, praying, and reading the Bible are wonderful ways to grow closer to God? But Proverbs 21:3 teaches us that God is also looking at our hearts. He wants us to do what is right and to be humble and obedient. God wants us not only to do these things but also to have a pure heart when we do them.

Think about this: If your parents tell you to clean up your room, but you really don't feel like it, and while you are cleaning, you are throwing things around, slamming the closet doors, and grumbling the whole time, this means there is something wrong in your heart. Your room may get cleaned up, but your attitude is still dirty.

God cares about what's going on in our hearts just as much as what we do. When we obey, even when we don't feel good about it, God is pleased. But God also wants us to grow in wisdom so that we obey Him from a heart of kindness and love.

A pure heart makes God happy because it shows that we want to follow Him. Today, ask God to help you have a heart that is honest, kind, and loving—just like Jesus.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What is one right and kind choice you can make today that would please God?
2. How can we change the way we feel about doing something we don't want to do?

**Prayer**

Father, give us clean hands and a pure heart so that we may obey you with wisdom. Amen

**Daily Bread**  
**(Thursday Week 3)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 10:17 (NLT) People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore correction will go astray.*

**Devotional Thought**

Have you ever been on a family road trip when the driver missed a turn? Suddenly, you're on the wrong road, heading farther from anything that looks familiar. The GPS says, "*Recalculating. Please make a U-turn!*"

Now, imagine the driver got mad at the GPS, turned down the volume, and said, "I know better than that thing; I know a shortcut." But then you just keep going and end up in the middle of nowhere. That would be pretty silly, right? Because they ignored good directions, they all ended up in the wrong place.

It's important that we always stay on the right path. Life is a lot like that road trip. We move from day to day and live from year to year, meeting new people and experiencing new things. God puts people in our lives—like our parents and, along the way, others like our teachers and coaches—who act like a GPS. Because they are older and wiser, they can see the right way to go when we can't.

When our parents say, "*Don't touch that; it's hot,*" or a teacher corrects a math problem we got wrong, they are not trying to hurt our feelings; they are trying to keep us on the right path to understanding.

If we are humble and listen to good advice, we save ourselves a lot of trouble. But if we ignore correction and say, "I can't do it myself!" we will end up doing it wrong and getting frustrated.

Remember Proverbs 10:17. Accepting directions when you're wrong isn't punishment—it's a map that guides you to the right place.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think it's hard for us to receive correction from someone else?
2. How does this Proverb remind us of God's Word?

**Prayer**

Father, thank you for the people in my life who care enough to gently correct me when I'm off track. Help me to listen to good advice, as it helps me get where I want to go. Amen.

***Daily Bread***  
***(Friday Week 3)***

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 3:35 The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.*

**Devotional Thought**

Do you like getting gifts? Most of us do! A gift can feel extra special when we did not expect it and did not have to earn it. Sometimes, when a person dies, they leave money or special belongings to the people they love. This is called an inheritance.

Imagine your mom or dad has a special toy, like a model airplane or a music box, that came from your grandparents. They may keep it in a safe place or show it on a shelf because it means a lot to them. One day, because they love you, they may pass it down to you. Then it becomes yours to enjoy, remember, and maybe even share with your own children someday.

Proverbs 3:35 says, “The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.” This means that wise people receive honor, kind respect, like a good gift passed down to them.

How do we become wise? We listen to good teaching from our parents, teachers, and God’s Word. We practice kindness, sharing, forgiveness, and paying attention to what is right. When we choose wisdom, honor can grow in our lives over time. But when we ignore what is right and make foolish choices, we may feel shame and embarrassment instead.

Wisdom is a gift worth keeping!

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why is it important to be wise and to apply all the good things we learn to the way we live?
2. Can you think of a time when you made a wise choice and something good happened to you?
3. What are some wise choices you could make today?

**Prayer**

Father, thank you for giving us wisdom from your Word. Thank you for our parents and for how they teach us about God and the wonderful things he gives us. Help us to make wise choices today. Amen