

(These 5-minute devotionals can be shared at breakfast, dinner or anytime when the family is together)

***Daily Bread***  
**Monday (Week 1)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 10:8 Proverbs 10:8 (NLT) The wise are glad to be instructed, but babbling fools fall flat on their faces.*

**Devotional Thought**

A wise person is a good listener and accepts the instructions of those in authority. Imagine a classroom with two kids. Have you ever met someone who talks non-stop? They're always chattering, interrupting, joking, and trying to grab attention. Because of this, they often miss the teacher's instructions the first time around. Now, picture someone who sits quietly when the teacher is speaking and listens carefully. If they don't get it, they raise their hand and ask the teacher to explain. This is a smart kid who takes directions well and always wants to learn. Here's a helpful idea: if someone is always so loud that they miss instructions or commands, they might not listen to advice when it comes. They're probably too focused on being the class clown. It's like trying to talk and listen at the same time—it's just not possible. When you're talking, you can't really listen, and you might miss out on learning what you need to do to grow. It's really important to pay attention and listen carefully to your parents, teachers, coaches, and anyone else who's talking to you. They're there to help you and want you to make smart choices. God wants our hearts to be teachable. When we listen well, we grow wiser every day.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think it is so important to be a good listener to become wise?
  
2. Can you name some of the people God has put in your life that you need to always listen to and learn from?

**Prayer**

Father, help us to be good listeners and to always respect those who speak to us by giving them our full attention. Help us grow wiser as a family as we learn from your word. Amen

**Daily Bread**  
**Tuesday (Week 1)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 1:7 Proverbs 1:7 (NLT) Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

**Devotional Thought**

What's something that makes you feel really scared? Is it a spider, a snake, or maybe the dark? Or maybe it's someone at school who's always teasing you and once threatened to hurt you if you ever told on them. We all have our own fears. Being afraid means you think something might hurt you. Some people think of God this way because God is so much bigger than we can imagine and the most powerful being in the universe. Sometimes, we think that because God created us and tells us in His word how to be good, when we aren't, God is upset with us, and that's why we should be afraid of Him. Because when the most powerful being in the universe gets angry, you better watch out!

The fear of the Lord isn't about being afraid. God loves and cares for us more than anyone else ever could. It's just not in God's nature to want to hurt us. Even when God disciplines us, it's to protect us and bring us closer to Him so He can protect us. The fear of the Lord means listening and obeying because God always knows what is best for us. Let's consider this: when Daddy tells you, "Please don't run across the street until you check both ways," you listen not out of fear, but because you trust that he loves you and wants to protect you. Even so, obeying God is similar—we listen and follow because we love Him and trust that He knows what's best for us. So, love God, listen to God, and you'll gain more knowledge every day.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why is it important to love God, listen to Him, and remember that He always knows what is best?
2. What can happen when we choose not to listen to God and do what He says?

**Prayer**

Father, thank You that you love us and always want is best for our good. Help us to love and respect you and always desire to listen and obey Your word so that we can gain knowledge and be wise. Amen

**Daily Bread**  
**Wednesday (Week 1)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 3:7–8 (NLT) Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. <sup>8</sup>Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.*

**Devotional Thought**

Have you ever watched a father put together a new bicycle or piece of furniture? He opens the box, grabs his tools, picks up his favorite screwdriver, glances at the picture on the front of the box, and gets to work, sure he knows exactly what to do. The instruction booklet remains folded inside the box because Dad thinks he really doesn't need it. I got this!

A little while later, parts are scattered across the floor. Dad scratches his head and wonders why things didn't fit together the way they looked on the front of the box. Finally, he finishes and proudly sits in the chair he has built with his own hands, or maybe he sits on the bike and pushes it forward to test the wheels, but immediately he knows something is wrong! Maybe the chair falls sideways or the handlebars twist the wrong way. Then, as he looks at the living room floor, he notices several extra parts still lying there unused. What happened? Dad trusted his own skill and know-how rather than following the instructions in the box put there by the person who designed and built the bike or the chair.

Proverbs 3:7 and 8 teach us not to be "wise in our own eyes." In other words, don't assume you always know best. Instead, fear the Lord, trust his wisdom, and turn away from sin. God's commands are like an instruction manual for life. He made us, loves us, and knows what's best for us.

When we humbly follow God's ways rather than our own, he brings peace, strength, and joy to our hearts.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think Dad ran into trouble when he ignored the instructions?
2. What does it mean to be "Wise in your own eyes?"
3. What is one way we can trust God's wisdom today instead of doing things our own way?

**Prayer**

Father, help us trust You every day. Teach us that Your way is the best way. Help us listen to You and follow Your wisdom, because You love us and want what is best for us. Thank You for giving us strength and taking care of us. Amen.

***Daily Bread***  
**Thursday (Week 1)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 13:13 (NLT) People who despise advice are asking for trouble; those who respect a command will succeed.*

**Devotional Thought**

Have you ever ignored a warning and later wished you had listened? When I was 11 years old, my dad asked my brother and me to help clean up the yard after some construction work on our house. Bricks and pieces of metal were scattered everywhere, and my dad gave me a simple warning: be careful and do not throw anything.

But I was frustrated because I wanted to be outside playing with my friends instead of helping in the yard. Without thinking, I picked up a piece of metal and tossed it aside. I did not realize that my two-year-old sister was standing nearby. The metal struck her foot and broke it, and she had to wear a cast for several weeks while it healed.

My dad disciplined me for my disobedience, but the hardest part was knowing that my careless disobedience had hurt someone I loved. More than 50 years later, I still remember the pain of ignoring my father's words—and the lesson it taught me about the importance of listening to wise instruction.

This verse in Proverbs reminds us that there is always a cost to ignoring wise instruction. When we reject God's wisdom, we often bring unnecessary pain on ourselves and others. But when we listen with humility and obey, we walk in the path of blessing.

God's commands are not meant to spoil our joy; they are given to protect us, guide us, and help us flourish. His wisdom is always for our good and for the good of those around us.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think it's sometimes hard to listen to instructions?
2. Can you think of a time when listening to a warning helped? Kept you safe?

**Prayer**

Father, teach us to listen closely and always obey your wise words and instructions. Lord, help us to always remember that disobedience hurts us and those around us, but obedience brings blessing. Amen.

***Daily Bread***  
**Friday (Week 1)**

**Read Together**

*Proverbs 3:3 (NLT)*

*<sup>3</sup>Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.*

**Devotional Thought**

Have you ever noticed someone wearing a locket on a necklace? A locket is a special piece of jewelry with a tiny space inside to hold something precious—a picture of someone you love, a little note, or a memory you want to keep close. People often wear lockets because they remind them of something that matters deeply. And isn't that a beautiful picture? The locket rests where others can see it, but it also stays close to your heart.

That picture gives us a beautiful way to understand Proverbs 3:3: “*Never let love and faithfulness leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*” God isn't telling us to wear the words love and faithfulness on a necklace. He's inviting us to keep these qualities close before us each day and tucked deep within our hearts. When God's truth fills our hearts, it begins to shape the way we live and the way we treat people. We start to become more loving, kind, faithful, and honest. These qualities become part of who we are—not just rules we are trying hard to remember.

There is only one person who has ever lived out this proverb perfectly, and that is Jesus. His life was filled with love, kindness, gentleness, and faithfulness because these qualities were deeply rooted in his heart. And the good news is that as we follow Jesus and learn to keep his Word, God gently helps us grow in these same qualities day by day, making us more like Jesus.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. If you had a Locket to wear around your neck, what would you want to put in it?
2. How can you show love and kindness to someone in your family today?
3. What do you think it means to not only remember God's words in your mind but to also have them written on your heart?

**Prayer**

Father, please help us remember your love and faithfulness. Let us treasure them in our hearts. And help us remember how Jesus lived as God's gift of love and faithfulness to us.