

PROVERBS

learning to thrive



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Passage Schedule

VARIOUS PROVERBS (CHAPTERS 10 - 29)

WEEK	PASSAGE	TOPIC
12	Prov. 10:8; 11:2; 15:25,33	Humility
13	Prov. 14:29; 15:18; 19:11	Outrage (Anger)
14	Prov. 19:13,14; 22:6; 18:22	Family Matters
15	Prov. 26:28; 18:21; 12:18	Talking, Typing, & Texting
16	Prov. 16:1, 4, 9, 33	Providence
17	Prov. 17:17; 18:24; 27:6,17	Friendship

PROVERBS CHAPTERS 30 - 31

WEEK	PASSAGE	TITLE
18	Prov. 30	The Gift of Written Wisdom
19	Prov. 31	Committed to Wisdom

Series Introduction

We all want to thrive. To live wisely is to experience thriving, and experiencing thriving starts with fearing God. What's this mean?

The thriving life is seen in the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve enjoyed life in God's world, God's way. Since God is the Creator, the first people knew that everything they thought, did and said was in connection to God. And connecting to God was no problem, because they knew the One they walked with - His faithfulness, His love, His power; in other words, Adam and Eve had the proper awe or "fear" of God.

Until they stopped taking God at His word.

We're all now enslaved to this self-focused foolishness. Though we were created to make sense of life in God's presence, we instead choose to independently build stories about Him, the world, and ourselves.

Through Proverbs, God invites us back to Himself, the only place of true thriving.

As down-to-earth, ground-level, and practical as Proverbs is, we'll discover that wisdom and thriving aren't a matter of organizing our lives around great principles, but are instead a gracious gift from the God who gives both to those He loves.

In Proverbs we aren't being summoned to follow advice but to follow and fear a person, Jesus Christ, the gracious Lord who opened up the path of wisdom and thriving through His substitutionary death and triumphant resurrection.

Help for Studying Proverbs

Proverbs are *not* promises, guarantees, or laws but are instead observations about how life and situations *normally* unfold.

For example, Proverbs 22:6 says this:

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

There are probably more than a few parents who can attest to the fact that this simply isn't always true. However, as a general observation, life does work like this: children who are parented and loved well are set up a little better than children not parented well.

There are different kinds of these observations: instructions, sayings, and admonitions or exhortations based on life lived in relationship with God.

The Old Testament balances the “life-works-this-way” nature of Proverbs by setting it alongside the books of Job and Ecclesiastes, which show life in the face of God's mysterious sovereignty (Job) and life's imbalances and seeming futility (Ecclesiastes).

Life doesn't always work out as we expect it to work out because God does not reveal all of the details of His sovereign activity in the world. So the thriving life requires trust in God, who fully revealed Himself in Jesus and reveals Himself through His Word today.

The Fear of the LORD

Proverbs 1:7 is like the motto for the entire book of Proverbs:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

What does it mean to have or live with "the fear of the Lord"?

To "fear the LORD" is to:

1. Live in awe of God, who is utterly holy and entirely different from us.
2. Be in covenant relationship with God, knowing and believing His promises.
3. Know that you are accountable to this incomprehensible God, and that He is entirely trustworthy.
4. Walk in holiness by trusting Him because of who He is.

So, does God want you to be *terrified* of Him?

The short answer is: if you've trusted in Jesus, **no!**

Some of the most clarifying passages for understanding the true nature of the fear of the LORD are found in the Psalms:

"Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!" (Psalm 31:19)

"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name." (Psalm 86:11)

"If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared." (Psalm 130:3-4)

Those who are God's children aren't being called to stand in terror of Him, but to live in trusting reverence and awe. As Jerry Bridges says it,

"I can know if I truly fear God by determining if I have a genuine hatred of evil and an earnest desire to obey His commands."

What is Proverbs?

Proverbs is a collection of individual wisdom sayings that “offers skill in the art of godly living.”¹

Chapters 1-9 act as a unit that introduces the entire book, urging readers to pursue wisdom. These chapters are poems or speeches from a father to his son that provide instruction and insight for understanding and reading the rest of the book.

Chapters 10-29 explore wisdom by applying God’s counsel to many areas of life. There are many comparisons between the wise and the foolish, Lady Wisdom (the personification of wisdom) and Lady Folly (the personification of foolishness and evil), tackling various topics that pop up throughout one’s life.

Chapter 30 presents Agur as a model to emulate - he knows he lacks wisdom, so he goes to the words of God for instruction.

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¹ See <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-the-bible-proverbs>

Chapter 31 presents the wisdom of King Lemuel's mother, along with a picture of the ideal wise woman in an acrostic poem. Some see Proverbs 31 as a picture of Lady Wisdom, whom all who love God should seek to commit themselves to and pursue.

Proverbs was collected over time and one of the main authors, King Solomon, likely started to pass these onto Israel's future leaders so that they could rule just like God rules: with wisdom, justice, and righteousness. So if you're wondering why there's so much said to young men throughout Proverbs, it's because they were the main original audience: they're being prepped to lead God's people in righteousness and justice.

Despite such a wealth of instruction and training, the Old Testament shows the failure of King Solomon and the rest of Israel's kings, highlighting the need for a better King who really does rule with wisdom, justice, and righteousness, King Jesus, the true Son of David.

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Here's what makes the wisdom of Proverbs unique amongst so many other forms of wise sayings, advice, good counsel, etc.: Proverbs makes it clear that true wisdom and thriving can only be found in a covenantal relationship with God.

Proverbs makes it very clear that there are really only two paths to walk in this world: the way of wisdom or the way of folly. That's it. Every choice has us walking further along with God, or further away from God. We do not have infinite choices before us, we cannot make our own path out of thin air; no, we are always either following God or turning from God. Proverbs invites anyone who hears to follow the way of wisdom.

Picture the wisdom in Proverbs as a hiking trail. To even get into the parking lot that leads to the entrance of the trail, you have to "enter" through the fear of the LORD. Why is this the case? Because God is the Creator, so all of life is related to Him. Apart from Him, there is no true wisdom and there is no true thriving.

Week 14

FAMILY MATTERS

PROVERBS 19:13-14; 22:6; 18:22

SUMMARY

The family we grow up with, as well as the family we may have with a spouse, makes a huge impact upon our lives. Yet the the busyness of modern life makes it difficult for us to step back and ask foundational questions such as, "What is family for?" Living wisely with family requires us to think about the answer from a biblical perspective.

The family is God's invention, given to provide order, protection, and structure to human existence, as well as making a way for God's glory to spread. God defines the proper design, structure, and purposes of family, and a God-honoring family acts like a training ground where we learn to trust, love, obey, and honor others, ultimately learning how to do the same with God.

But the story of Scripture shows us that families - even those chosen by God to carry His covenant promises forward - are deeply broken by sin. Even our closest, most trustworthy relationships need the redemption and power of the gospel.

GROUP INTRO

What has been your favorite family vacation? Why?

TEXT

1. Read Proverbs 19:13. What do we need to remember about the author and audience as we interpret this proverb? Thinking back on Proverbs 1-9, what could a son do that would harm his family and make him foolish?

Leader help: The original audience was comprised of males, which is why the pain of a father and the agitation of quarreling wife are highlighted. It's also true that a foolish son or daughter is ruin to his/her mother, and that a husband's quarreling is agitating.

A foolish son might:

Live in unbelief (violating Proverbs 1:7), prioritize wealth or status over wisdom, commit adultery, participate in crime, ignore or not learn God's Word, give into laziness, etc.

2. The author wants us to imagine a house with a leaking roof as we think about a quarreling (constantly combative, argumentative) wife (or husband). How is quarreling with a spouse an offense to God? What might combativeness reveal about someone's heart?

Leader help: This kind of behavior is the opposite of God. God is our helper, He strengthens, encourages, empowers, and warns us for our good. Someone who is constantly combative tears us down, slowly bringing lasting damage.

3. Read Proverbs 22:6. Although this verse is not a promise (see pages 6-7 of this guide), it does offer genuine wisdom. What kind of training, guidance, and correction is most important according to Proverbs (hint: see Proverbs 1:7)? What other passages in the Bible help us know how to train children?

Leader help: The most important thing for children to learn is who God is, what He has revealed in the Bible, and how to know Him - in other words, the most important thing for children to learn is to fear the LORD.²

Other passages that direct our discipline and training of children include Ephesians 6:4 and 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

4. Read Proverbs 18:22. What does this verse tell us about marriage? How does this verse reveal God's grace and goodness toward humanity?

Leader help: Marriage is a gift from God, and He is active in true marriages. From a human perspective, we might be tempted to think we were the only ones involved in pursuing marriage, but God is at work in all of life.

This reveals that God loves to give good gifts, even to the undeserving.

The fact that any sinner can possibly obtain "favor from the LORD" shows just how merciful God is. He has every right to destroy us, but instead brings favor, ultimately in the person and work of Jesus.

² Here's a helpful article: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/train-up-a-child-in-the-way-he-should-go>

APPLICATION

1. We may be tempted to celebrate the notion of “family first”, but Jesus challenges us to put Him and His mission at the top of our priorities. In what ways have you put family before Jesus?
2. Our families can be sources of profound pain and distrust. If you’re a Christian, how has God’s adoption of you through your faith in Jesus brought healing and redemption to this pain?
3. Proverbs frees us to see “success” in our families differently - it’s not a great job, happy family, good education, or athletic ability that ultimately matters. With this in mind, what are some ways we can encourage one another when we feel like failures because family is difficult?
4. Read Romans 8:15-18. What will we do to help one another remember and believe that, if we have trusted Jesus, we are God’s kids?

PRAYER

Thank God for adopting by grace through faith in Jesus.

Offer Jesus your family-related burdens, confessing any fears or doubts you have about family.

Ask the Spirit to make your group more trusting, more vulnerable, and more holy so that you can live like family.

Week 15

THE TONGUE: TALKING, TYPING, & TEXTING

PROVERBS 12:18; 18:21; 26:28; 29:5

SUMMARY

One of the Bible's frequent warnings has to do with the *tongue*, or how we communicate. Jesus even warned that the person who angrily calls someone a "fool" is, without repentance and faith, in danger of hell.³ As one theologian put it, *"Examining one's attitudes and speech are just as important as refraining from homicidal violence."*⁴

But our TV's, social media, texts, and blogs are filled with unexamined foolish speech. As we develop more ways to communicate, we devise more ways to sin. The stakes are incredibly high. As James writes, *"With [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God."*⁵ Our unwise communication, then, is a personal offense against the Holy One. We need His wisdom to bring us to forgiveness and perform desperately needed transformation.

³ See Matthew 5:22.

⁴ Jonathan Pennington, *The Sermon on the Mount and Human Flourishing*, page 183.

⁵ James 3:9.

GROUP INTRO

Several of the most popular websites, blogs, and TV news shows are filled with slander, deception, and exaggerations. Why do you think we enjoy this kind of foolish speech?

TEXT

1. Read Proverbs 12:18; 18:21; 26:28; and 29:5. How is the impact of foolish communication described? Why? What images come to mind when you read these descriptions?

Leader help: The impact is described as stabbings, death, ruin, and entrapping. Our communication has a big impact; foolish words can tear apart trust, ruin reputations, reenforce lies, and lead people to believe false ideas about God.

2. What different kinds of foolish communication are highlighted in these proverbs? How are these kinds of communication different from God's?

*Leader help: **Rash words** (could be translated "thoughtless speech", see Psalm 106:32-33 for an example), **Lies**, **Flattery** (false or deceptive affirmation; see 1 Thessalonians 2:5).*

God is always truthful and His Word is the very standard of truth (John 17:17). God's words are also sustaining and life-giving (Psalm 119:11). We can bank everything on God's words because He is good, gracious, and righteous.

3. In the story of the Bible, what are some key moments that show how God communicates and what He communicates? What does this tell us about Him?

Leader help: Some key moments include:

God speaking creation into existence (Gen. 1:3); God commanding humanity to be fruitful and multiply (Gen. 1:28); God cursing the devil and creation (Gen. 3); God making a covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15); God speaking through His prophets (Isaiah 6:8-9); God "communicating" through Jesus, the eternal Word (see John 1:14; Hebrews 1:1-3).

God communicates personally, truthfully, and clearly through His Word, speaking life for the good of undeserving sinners. He also speaks warnings and woes about His justice for those who won't repent. Ultimately, God has spoken a message of grace, truth, and mercy through Jesus.

4. Look again at Proverbs 12:18. How can the "tongue of the wise" bring healing to a person or a community?

Leader help: The one who speaks wisely is one who fears the LORD, and someone who fears God will know and communicate His truthful words. God's words bring healing to us by calling us to turn from the destruction of sin, by clarifying what's true and what's false, by telling us who God is and what He is like, and by reminding us of our value, dignity, and worth in God's sight.

APPLICATION

1. Look again at Proverbs 12:18; 18:21; 26:28; 29:5. Of the foolish kinds of communication, which are you most often tempted towards? Why?
2. How can the gospel help us be wiser in our communication?

Leader help: If God did not speak wrath and condemnation, but grace, to us, we are free from guilt, shame, and fear, and empowered by His Spirit to walk in the freedom of wise speech. We are now ambassadors for Jesus, speaking about the reconciliation available through faith in Him. We can also trust that God will either put deserved condemnation on Jesus or on those who refuse to repent, and we therefore don't need to use our words to tear others down.

3. Think of a time in your life when a biblically wise person spoken life-giving truth to you. What was the impact of this? How did their words help you?
4. The church must be a place where foolish slander, accusations, flattery, deception, and other evil communication is continually repented of; how can we make our group a place where wise communication thrives and we repent of foolish communication?

5. Think of the media you consume on a weekly basis (social media, TV, movies, blogs, etc.). Are any of these impacting how you view others or speak to/type about/text others? Are you willing to get rid of these for the sake of faithfulness to Jesus? Why or why not?

PRAYER

Confess to God the specific ways you have foolishly communicated, and the inner motivations that drive you to do this.

Praise God for providing warnings, wisdom, and grace through Proverbs.

Ask the Holy Spirit to transform how you think about, speak about, and talk to those around, especially those with whom you disagree.

Week 16

PROVIDENCE

PROVERBS 16:1, 4, 9, 33

SUMMARY

To see and know God as the one who is in control of *everything* is to live with wisdom.

Scripture makes it clear that God is sovereign, not just over what's good and helpful, but over what's evil and seemingly insignificant. As B.B. Warfield put it, *"nothing, however small, however strange, occurs without His ordering."*⁶

God's sovereign, authoritative ordering and governing of the universe is called "providence". This means that there's no such thing as chance, fate, or luck. This is good news for those who fear the LORD.

So how do the wise relate to God's providence? Our brief study of providence from the perspective of Proverbs will help us know the wisest, most joyful way to live our lives under God's sovereign direction, even when His decisions make no sense.

⁶ Quoted in *The Sovereignty and Supremacy of King Jesus* by Mike Abendroth, page 73.

GROUP INTRO

How do you feel knowing that everything in your life - from the smallest events to the most impactful moments - is directed by God? Why?

TEXT

1. Read Proverbs 16:1 and 16:9 together. What do these proverbs tell us about God and what do they tell us about humanity?

Leader help: They reveal God's absolute sovereignty, as well as His ability to know the innermost desires and will of every person.

They reveal humanity's capacity or ability to make meaningful decisions while also revealing that we are not sovereign - our decisions still somehow exist and occur under God's providence.

2. Read James 1:13-14. How does this passage impact our reading of Proverbs 16:1 and 16:9?

Leader help: James tells us that God does not commit evil or tempt people to commit evil, and is therefore not responsible for our sin. The way this works out is a mystery to us, but as Christians we must trust that God has ultimately good reasons for permitting evil. See also Ephesians 1:11.

3. Read Proverbs 16:4 together. What does this tell us about God's governing or ruling of everything? How is this better than something impersonal such as fate, luck, or chance?

Leader help: This tells us that God has intention and purpose for all that He does or allows, which in turn helps us live with trust and gratitude, even when God's direction of our lives hurts or doesn't make sense.

Since God is personal, holy, and gracious, we can trust that He is doing something in line with His character. For those who love God, He works out all things together - like a master craftsman - for our good (see Romans 8:28).

4. Read Proverbs 16:33. What is "the lot" and what was its purpose? Why don't Christians use the lot anymore?

Leader help: In the Old Testament, God's people were sometimes commanded to cast lots - a way of using two objects to know or see what God's will was in a specific situation. For example, the priest in Leviticus 16:8 cast lots to find out which goat out of two goats would be sacrificed to God.

The last occurrence of God's people casting lots is found in Acts 1:26, right before the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Christians are now guided by the Spirit instead of casting lots. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity - He indwells Christians the moment they have saving faith in Jesus, giving them wisdom, power, assurance, and more, working through the Bible, Christian community, and the conscience to guide decisions. Ultimately, all decisions happen only if and when God permits.

5. Where in Scripture do we see God's providence, specifically God allowing sin for good purposes and His own glory? How does this help Christians endure suffering?

Leader help: Genesis 50:20; Acts 4:27-28. The fact that God can use the most wicked acts in human history (the betrayal, abusing, and murder of Jesus) to do the best thing in human history (atone for the sins of His people) can bring us great comfort in our own suffering.

APPLICATION

1. Why is it personally good news to you that the God of the Bible really does control everything?
2. Describe a time in your life when God in His providence allowed or did something that was painful or confusing but ultimately good.
3. How can we use the truth of God's providence as a bridge to tell someone the good news of Jesus?
4. How are you tempted to try to sway, persuade, or control God when He is directing your life in ways that you don't like? How can we lovingly challenge one another when we do this?

PRAYER

Praise God for His providential care of you throughout your life.

Admit to God any specific ways you are currently not trusting in Him.

Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance where you or other group members need it.

Ask God to help you proclaim the good news using God's providence as a bridge.

Week 17

FRIENDSHIP

PROVERBS 17:17; 18:24; 27:6,17

SUMMARY

Friendship is at the core of the gospel, for it's because of Jesus's love for us that we get to hear Him say to us, just like He said to His first disciples, *"No longer do I call you servants [...] but I have called you friends."*⁷ The Lord changes our identity from enemies of God to friends of God.

What does wisdom offer in relation to friendship? In Proverbs, God takes friendship beyond shared interests or similar personalities into a life of sacrifice and faithfulness. As we surrender more of ourselves to Him and His wisdom, He transforms us into people willing to go beneath the surface of life, people willing to set aside self-protection for the sake of depth and love. He makes us more like the Lord Jesus, the best and truest Friend of all.

As Drew Hunter put it, *"Friendship should be more like a submarine, holding few and going deep."*⁸

⁷ John 15:15.

⁸ Drew Hunter, *Made for Friendship*.

GROUP INTRO

We live in a culture dominated by loneliness, even within the church. Why do you think loneliness is so prominent?

TEXT

1. Read Proverbs 17:17 and Proverbs 18:24. According to these two proverbs, what are some characteristics of a true friend?

Leader help:

Note: Prov. 17:17 doesn't mean a friend always loves, but that a friend's love is consistent, and even becomes stronger in adversity (when a friend becomes like family).

Friends share struggles/adversity. Friends are like family in that they're willing to bear burdens with you. Friendships may experience times of distance or diminishment, but true friends pursue and remain active in one's life over the long haul.

2. Based on what Proverbs 17:17 and Proverbs 18:24 tell us about friends, what might God-honoring friendship look like? Why is it wise to pursue God-honoring friendship?

Leader help: Those who want to honor Jesus with their friendships will be willing to extend love and stay close, even when things get hard. When friends do this for one another, it reflects God's character. The Bible assumes that we will experience adversity and trials, as well as situations requiring counsel - in those times, friendships are a gift.

3. Read Proverbs 27:6 and Proverbs 27:17. How are the wounds of a friend or the sharpening words/actions of a friend a demonstration of love and faithfulness?

Leader help: Jesus Himself says in Revelation 3:19 that He reproveth and disciplines those whom He loves. Since sin corrupts our entire being, we're prone to thinking or doing foolish things. Someone who loves us will be willing to warn us when we've stepped off the path of wisdom.

4. Read John 15:9-13. How does Jesus's love open the path to wise, God-honoring friendship?

Leader help: Since Jesus loved us simply because He chose to, and has now secured our eternity with Him through His life, death, and resurrection, there's nothing that can ultimately separate us from eternal joy. Having this kind of love and security frees us to be known, vulnerable, and sacrificial in our friendships with others.

APPLICATION

1. How is the gospel the ultimate picture of faithful friendship?
2. What are some ways you can cultivate God-honoring friendship in the church?

3. How can the friendship of Jesus help us in the pain of our loneliness, rejection, or relational loss?
4. Do other Christians see you as someone willing to receive and grow from loving rebuke or exhortation? Why or why not?
5. What gets in the way of wise friendship in your own life?

Leader help: One thing that may get in the way of friendship is a selfish or individualistic view of the church, life, etc. With this in mind, it may be helpful to highlight the self-sacrificial love of Jesus, and how His model of friendship - which was merciful and others-focused - serves as a picture of friendship.

PRAYER

Thank God for the gift of friendships.

Lament any loneliness you may be experiencing, or witnessing, within the body of Christ.

Ask Jesus to help you truly trust Him as your ultimate best Friend.

Ask the Spirit to make you willing to be vulnerable, honest, and sacrificial for the sake of others.

Week 18

THE GIFT OF WRITTEN WISDOM

PROVERBS 30

SUMMARY

Chapter 30 is a part of Scripture that is, in one theologian's words, "just plain weird."⁹ What makes it strange is the disjointed, not-obviously-theological statements, written by someone not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. Yet this is God's Word, so it has incredible value, even if we can't see it right away.

Agur's point? Human wisdom has limitations, and to live in the fear of the LORD is to accept those limitations. The wise person will confess his folly, trust God, and bank everything on His Word. Agur's argument is summarized in verse 32: if you've lived in pride, now is the time to humble yourself, be quiet before God, and acknowledge Him as the Holy One.

Yet there is only one who has truly and perfectly lived before God with true humility and trust: the Son of God, who came down from heaven for us.

⁹ Alex Kirk, "When Scripture Gets Weird", for www.thegospelcoalition.org.

GROUP INTRO

In Romans 12, the Apostle Paul tells us that transformation comes through the renewal of our minds. How has the book of Proverbs changed the way you think?

TEXT

1. Read Proverbs 30:1-3. What mindset is Agur demonstrating in these verses? Where else in Proverbs does this mindset show up?

Leader help: Agur is showing what it looks like to humble himself. He's weary from trying hard to live life on his own terms, only to realize he's lived like a fool since he didn't know God.

This mindset is what anchors the entire book of Proverbs, starting in Proverbs 1:7 - in order to get wisdom, we must be in relationship with God, which means we must acknowledge our needs for salvation and wisdom, and God's provision of both in Jesus.

2. Agur points to God and His Word as the answer to his weariness and foolishness in verses 4-6. How does the Bible ultimately address our deepest needs for strength and wisdom?

Leader help: Ultimately Scripture is the revealing of God's salvation in and through Jesus, who satisfies our deepest desires and needs. Principles, rules, and guidance are helpful, but they aren't transformative; a true relationship with Jesus by faith in His life, death, and resurrection is, because the Spirit indwells all who have faith.

3. What kinds of people are described in verses 11-14? Which of these characteristics do you see most often in the world around you? What does verse 17 warn in light of these characteristics?

Leader help: Verses 11-14 describe sins such as dishonoring parents (11), self-righteousness (12), arrogance/pride (13), and oppressive greed (14).

The warning of verse 17, using the imagery of the eye from verses 12-13, is a warning about retributive justice - or the principle of "eye for an eye" that we find in the Old Testament Law. God is just and brings the appropriate punishment for sin. In this case, the warning applies to those who, in their pride and arrogance, completely dishonor their parents - they themselves are threatened with the dishonorable lack of burial, with their bodies instead being picked apart by birds.

4. Verses 18-31 contain various sayings relating to love, social situations, wise behavior, and leadership. Why do you think God has persevered wisdom that applies to so many different areas of life? What does this tell us about God?

Leader help: God cares about all areas of our lives, and wants thriving for us in those areas, whether we find ourselves pursuing romance, navigating weird social circumstances, or leading big teams. This shows us God's grace and His omnipresence.

APPLICATION

1. Read Colossians 3:16. If you're a Christian, you play a role in helping others make wise decisions, as well as pointing people to the ultimate wise one, Jesus Christ. Who in your life can you help know God's wisdom this week? How might God be inviting you to point them to Jesus?
2. Proverbs 30:5-6 reminds us how crucially important the Bible is, ultimately because the Bible reveals Jesus. How is your own relationship with Jesus? What can you do to develop more trust in Him and His Word?
3. Read Proverbs 30:2-3 and Proverbs 30:32. When can you choose to take this humble posture in your own life and what might be the benefit to others if you do?
4. Describe a time in your life when God's Word proved true. How did this help you trust Jesus more?

PRAYER

Worship God for giving us His Word and for His trustworthy, faithful character.

Confess your own arrogance and pride in situations where you did not seek God's wisdom.

Pray for God's mercy upon those who curse their parents, live with self-righteousness, and live in arrogance. Ask God to save them.

Adopt Proverbs 30:7-9 and personalize it as a prayer of your own. Ask God to help you be content in all that He has given you here, and what He has promised to those who trust Jesus.

Additional Help with Proverbs

Visit our Proverbs website:

www.LSchurches.com/Proverbs

or visit one of the links listed below.

Resource Type	Link
Sermon Audio	Sermons by Chapter (Monergism.com)
Theological Essay	Essay on Wisdom
Theological Article	Where's Jesus in Proverbs?
Quotes	Quotes on Wisdom
Article/Interview	Tim Keller on Proverbs
Theological Article	Misinterpreting Wisdom Literature
Theological Article	Proverbs: A Christian View
Sermons/Commentary	Spurgeon on Proverbs
Video Hebrew Word Study	Daily Dose of Hebrew: Proverbs 1
Proverbs 30 Article	Understanding Agur
Proverbs 31	Where to Find the Real Proverbs 31 Woman