

UPLOADS FOR VIRTUAL SUNDAY YOUTH BIBLE STUDY – JESUS NEW BREED WARRIORS

24 JANUARY 2021

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS—THE BIBLE PROJECT

[\(2\) Overview: Proverbs - YouTube](#)

[Whoo's Wise? {An Introduction to Proverbs} - \(ohamanda.com\)](#)

1 These are the proverbs of Solomon. He was the son of David and the king of Israel.

*2 Proverbs teach you wisdom and train you.
They help you understand wise sayings.*

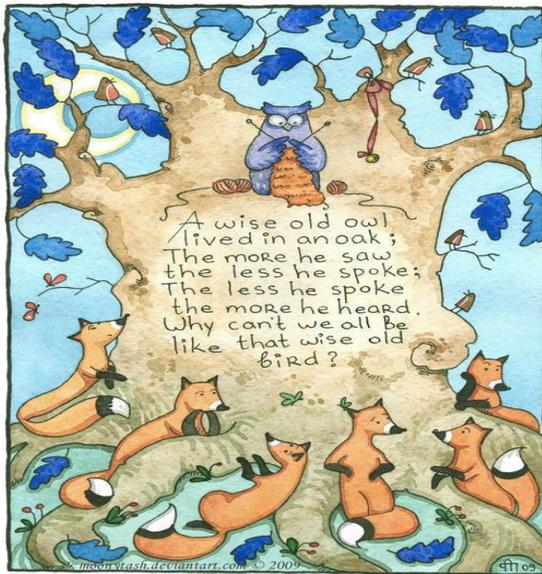
*3 They provide you with training and help you live wisely.
They lead to what is right and honest and fair.*

*4 They give understanding to childish people.
They give knowledge and good sense to those who are young.*

*5 Let wise people listen and add to what they have learned.
Let those who understand what is right get guidance.*

*6 What I'm teaching also helps you understand proverbs and stories.
It helps you understand the sayings and riddles of those who are wise.*

7 If you really want to gain knowledge, you must begin by having respect for the Lord. But foolish people hate wisdom and training.



Summary of the Book of Proverbs

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Proverbs.html>

Author: King Solomon is the principal writer of Proverbs. Solomon's name appears in 1:1, 10:1, and 25:1. We may also presume Solomon collected and edited proverbs other than his own, for Ecclesiastes 12:9 says, "Not only was the Teacher wise, but also he imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs." Indeed, the Hebrew title Mishle Shelomoh is translated "Proverbs of Solomon."

Date of Writing: Solomon's proverbs were penned around 900 B.C. During his reign as king, the nation of Israel reached its pinnacle spiritually, politically, culturally, and economically. As Israel's reputation soared, so did King Solomon's. Foreign dignitaries from the far reaches of the known world traveled great distances to hear the wise monarch speak (1 Kings 4:34).

Purpose of Writing: Knowledge is nothing more than an accumulation of raw facts, but wisdom is the ability to see people, events, and situations as God sees them. In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon reveals the mind of God in matters high and lofty and in common, ordinary, everyday situations, too. It appears that no topic escaped King Solomon's attention. Matters pertaining to personal conduct, sexual relations, business,

wealth, charity, ambition, discipline, debt, child-rearing, character, alcohol, politics, revenge, and godliness are among the many topics covered in this rich collection of wise sayings.

Key Verses: Proverbs 1:5, "Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance."

Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."

Proverbs 4:5, "Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them."

Proverbs 8:13-14, "To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power."

Brief Summary: Summarizing the Book of Proverbs is a bit difficult, for unlike many other books of Scripture, there is no particular plot or storyline found in its pages; likewise, there are no principal characters in the book. It is wisdom that takes center stage" a grand, divine wisdom that transcends the whole of history, peoples, and cultures. Even a perfunctory reading of this magnificent treasury reveals the pithy sayings of the wise King Solomon are as relevant today as they were some three thousand years ago.

Foreshadowings: The theme of wisdom and its necessity in our lives finds its fulfillment in Christ. We are continually exhorted in Proverbs to seek wisdom, get wisdom, and understand wisdom. Proverbs also tells us" and repeats it" that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (1:7; 9:10). Our fear of the Lord's wrath and justice is what drives us to Christ, who is the embodiment of God's wisdom as expressed in His glorious plan of redemption for mankind. In Christ, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3), we find the answer to our search for wisdom, the remedy for our fear of God, and the "righteousness, holiness and redemption" that we so desperately need (1 Corinthians 1:30). The wisdom that is found only in Christ is in contrast to the foolishness of the world which encourages us to be wise in our own eyes. But Proverbs also tells us that the world's way is not God's way (Proverbs 3:7) and leads only to death (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

Practical Application: There is an undeniable practicality found in this book, for sound and sensible answers to all manner of complex difficulties are found within its thirty-one chapters. Certainly, Proverbs is the greatest "how-to" book ever written, and those who have the good sense to take Solomon's lessons to heart will quickly discover godliness, prosperity, and contentment are theirs for the asking.

The recurring promise of the Book of Proverbs is that those who choose wisdom and follow God will be blessed in numerous ways: with long life (9:11); prosperity (2:20-22);

joy (3:13-18); and the goodness of God (12:21). Those who reject Him, on the other hand, suffer shame and death (3:35; 10:21). To reject God is to choose folly over wisdom and is to separate ourselves from God, His Word, His wisdom, and His blessings.

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INTRO TO THE BOOK OF PROVERBS - KIDS

[\(5\) Intro to the Book of Proverbs | Proverbs for Kids #1 - YouTube](#)



12 PROVERBS EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW – CARDS

<https://thepurposefulmom.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/12-Powerful-Proverbs.pdf>

Why is wisdom referred to as a she in Proverbs?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/wisdom-she-Proverbs.html>

Question: "Why is wisdom referred to as a she in Proverbs?"

Answer: In [Proverbs 1:20–33](#) and [Proverbs 8:1–9:12](#), wisdom is personified as a woman who has much to offer—including “enduring wealth and prosperity” and “life”—to anyone who would heed her words ([Proverbs 8:18, 35](#)).



We will look at [Proverbs 8](#) in particular, since it seems to be a jumping-off point for some creative “proof-texting” by cults such as the Jehovah’s Witnesses to arrive at conclusions with no textual warrant. We will cover the three subjects that are often disregarded when considering these verses—figure of speech, genre, and grammatical gender—to focus on the question, why is Wisdom a *she*?

Let’s start with figures of speech. These, by definition, should not be taken literally. For example, “And the Lord said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground’” ([Genesis 4:10](#)). Did Abel’s blood *actually* cry out, audibly, from the ground? No. The Lord was using a figure of speech called personification, or prosopopoeia, to help Cain understand the inescapable nature of sin. We realize that Abel’s blood was inanimate, non-articulate, and in no way capable of speech—its “cry” is just a literary figure. We cannot formulate a doctrine that says blood actually speaks after a person dies. This may sound like common sense, but people can and do invent such teachings! We must be alert to figures of speech, because in figure, God’s exact words will not equal His exact meaning.

In [Proverbs 9:2](#) wisdom is not *literally* a woman who prepares a banquet. Wisdom is an intangible quality, but [Solomon](#) describes it as if it were an actual person—personification, again. But why is Wisdom a “she” and not a “he”? As we answer that, let’s consider genre.

[Proverbs 8](#) is poetry—one of the many [genres](#) found in the Bible. This is important to consider, for, if we do not know *what* we are reading, we will not know *how* we should read it. A reader will always make some sense of the words, but if genre is not considered, the reader will likely miss the author’s intent. For example, if we’re reading *Treasure Island*, it’s important to understand it as a novel, that is, a work of fiction. This understanding will prevent our seeking out the family history of Jim Hawkins as if he were a real person. When reading the Bible, if we do not understand an author’s intent, then we will not understand God’s intent—which, of course, is what matters when it comes to interpreting His Word.

[Proverbs 8](#) is a specific type of poem called an encomium—a poem of praise. Other encomia in Scripture are found in [1 Corinthians 13](#) (in praise of love), [Hebrews 11](#) (in praise of faith), and [Proverbs 31:10–31](#) (in praise of the virtuous wife). We cannot interpret the Bible’s poetry in the same way we do its historical narratives, its prophecies, its apocalyptic passages, etc. For instance, we cannot treat “Love is patient, love is kind” ([1 Corinthians 13:4](#)) in the same way as “When anyone has a swelling or a rash or a shiny spot on their skin that may be a defiling skin disease, they must be brought to Aaron the priest” ([Leviticus 13:2](#)). The first passage is effusive, the latter exacting. These are just two examples of types of writings that must be read with sensitivity to their genre, purpose, and context. So, when we read that Wisdom is a “she,” understand that [Proverbs](#) is heavily artistic; therefore, we are not reading a technical definition of wisdom.

Finally, let’s talk about gender in language. Except for some personal pronouns, English does not use grammatical gender (classifying words as masculine, feminine, or neuter). However, the Hebrew language (in which Proverbs was written) does use grammatical gender, much like Spanish, French, and many other languages do. Herein is our problem. “She,” as we understand it, is not necessarily “she” as it was intended in Hebrew.

Native English speakers are ambivalent concerning grammatical gender. We naturally think of the noun *girl* as feminine and the noun *boy* as masculine, so, when assigning pronouns to these words, we use *she/her/hers* for *girl* and *he/him/his* for *boy*. When we speak of a ship, which has no actual gender, we use neuter pronouns (*it/its*). However, these ships are often named after men (such as the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*). The name of the ship does not affect its gender. To compound matters, mariners usually refer to a ship in feminine terms: *she* is a fine ship, head *her* into port, etc. Gender is somewhat arbitrary in English usage, but this is not the case in many other languages.

In many languages (including Hebrew) most nouns have a strong gender component—but the gender assignment is *grammatical* and does not necessarily indicate the physical gender of the object. In Spanish, a guitar (*la guitarra*) is feminine, and a car (*el coche*) is masculine. This has nothing to do with literal gender. In fact, the Spanish word *masculinidad*, which means “masculinity,” is a feminine noun! Therefore, when translating from Hebrew into English, we must distinguish grammatical gender from our notions of sexual gender.

In English, the word *wisdom* is grammatically neuter, but not so in Hebrew. The Hebrew word is *chokmoth*, and it is grammatically feminine. In Hebrew, it would have been natural to speak of wisdom as a “she.”

As previously mentioned, Solomon used the literary tool of personification to extol the inanimate and abstract idea of wisdom as if it were a real person. By doing so, Solomon communicated a vivid illustration of the blessings of being wise. In personifying wisdom, it was necessary to use the appropriate pronouns. Since a person is not referred to as an “it,” *Wisdom* as an antecedent requires feminine personal pronouns. The grammatical construction is an artifact of the process of personification. In other words, since the word *wisdom* is feminine (in Hebrew grammar), Wisdom personified becomes a “she” to satisfy the demands of diction—not to add information to its object.

There may be a couple other reasons why Solomon portrayed Wisdom as a “she.” In the broader context, Solomon is drawing a careful contrast between wise and foolish choices. Immediately before and after presenting Wisdom as an elegant lady offering riches and satisfaction, Solomon presents a picture of Folly, pictured as a prostitute who promises pleasure but who delivers death ([Proverbs 6:24–7:27](#); [9:13–18](#)). So, the foolishness of immorality is contrasted with the wisdom of virtue. Two parallel illustrations are used, and both involve a virtual woman.

Also, Proverbs shows us Wisdom personified performing activities that are usually associated with a woman (such as preparing a meal, [Proverbs 9:2, 5](#)). This description transcends the technical grammar and further necessitates the feminine pronouns applied to Wisdom.

Solomon was not saying that women are intrinsically wiser than men—that would be reading too much into the use of grammar. And he was definitely not referring to some type of goddess named “Wisdom” or “Sophia.”

It is impossible to tell whether or not Solomon intended a feminine portrayal of wisdom from the outset. Perhaps the feminine underpinnings of the word *wisdom* influenced his choice, or perhaps he just found himself awash in the feminine grammar and ran with it. Either way, the use of *she* was not necessarily driven by any intrinsic femininity of wisdom. As such, men should not be insulted nor women puffed up at its reading.

What should we learn from the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Proverbs-31-virtuous-woman.html>



Question: "What should we learn from the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31?"

Answer: Proverbs is a book based on metaphor. It is packed with word-pictures of universal truths. Throughout Proverbs, wisdom is [anthropomorphized](#) as a woman. As early as [Proverbs 1:20](#), wisdom is compared to a woman who shouts in the streets, chastising fools and scoffers. [Proverbs 31](#) provides a detailed metaphor of feminine wisdom in the context of a family and a community.

The most quoted section, verses 10–31, is a [chiastic poem](#), that is, a poem that cycles through repeated thoughts in a particular order. The chapter speaks of the worth of a good wife to her husband, the manual labor that she does, her fulfillment of responsibilities to those who need her, her ability to provide for her family, and her wisdom in caring for herself so she can share her strength with others. These ideas are presented in a kind of circular pattern throughout the section.

The chapter begins with King Lemuel recounting advice his mother had given him. She exhorted him to not fall to weaknesses that would compromise his position as king, but to care for the poor. One of the weaknesses the king's mother mentioned was the susceptibility of his strength—or “noble character” (31:10)—to be harmed by improper relationships with women. Although verses 10-31 do not directly follow this warning in the original, they do illustrate a fitting description of what kind of woman Lemuel should seek.

¹⁰An excellent wife, who can find?
For her worth is far above jewels.

¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her,
And he will have no lack of gain.

¹²She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.

A good, supportive, trusting wife is a blessing to a man. A woman who partners with her husband, who is reliable and looks out for his interests, gives a man a security that is greatly lacking in the world. She is worth more than a substantial paycheck. To bring in the metaphor, wisdom provides the same benefits—it is worth more than money, you can always trust it to make the right decision, and it provides blessings for those who have it.

¹³She looks for wool and flax,
And works with her hands in delight...

¹⁹She stretches out her hands to the distaff,
And her hands grasp the spindle...

²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.

The wife of [Proverbs 31](#) isn't afraid of work. She gets up in the morning and gets things done. In the time of Solomon, this involved making fabric and sewing clothes, but verse 27 certainly applies directly to us today—taking care of our responsibilities is a characteristic of wisdom.

¹⁵She rises also while it is still night
And gives food to her household
And portions to her maidens...

²¹She is not afraid of the snow for her household,
For all her household are clothed with scarlet.

²⁰She extends her hand to the poor,
And she stretches out her hands to the needy.

Another characteristic of wisdom is the grace to help others. The [Proverbs 31](#) wife ensures that those under her care receive what they need—food, clothing, protection. And she is able to serve others out of the excess of her work and the leaning of her heart. She has so internalized her role as a provider that it extends past her immediate responsibilities and into the community.

¹⁴She is like merchant ships;
She brings her food from afar...
¹⁶She considers a field and buys it;
From her earnings she plants a vineyard...
¹⁸She senses that her gain is good;
Her lamp does not go out at night...
²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them,
And supplies belts to the tradesmen.

Beyond that, she's savvy. She's educated about the world and the world of business. She knows how to use her skills to provide for her family, and she's not afraid to go interact with that world, whether it be as a merchant or a buyer. She knows how to use her strengths to her best advantage, and she fully realizes how valuable her efforts are.

¹⁷She girds herself with strength
And makes her arms strong...
²²She makes coverings for herself;
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing,
And she smiles at the future.
²⁶She opens her mouth in wisdom,
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

The [Proverbs 31](#) woman not only knows her worth, she knows her responsibilities to herself. She would not be able to provide for others if she neglected her needs—both physical and spiritual. She makes sure her appearance reflects her respected position as an influence in her community. Her greatest strength is her wisdom—her accurate judgment about the world and her influence in it. And she is quick to share the wisdom she has gained to encourage others to reach their potential.

²³Her husband is known in the gates,
When he sits among the elders of the land...
²⁸Her children rise up and bless her;
Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:
²⁹"Many daughters have done nobly,
But you excel them all."
³⁰Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.
³¹Give her the product of her hands,
And let her works praise her in the gates.

She knows that, as a partner in her marriage, she has a tremendous influence on her husband's ministry. She can integrate her life—both domestic and professional—with her ministry in such a way that her husband has the freedom to serve. In fact, her reputation is so established, that it bleeds off onto him.

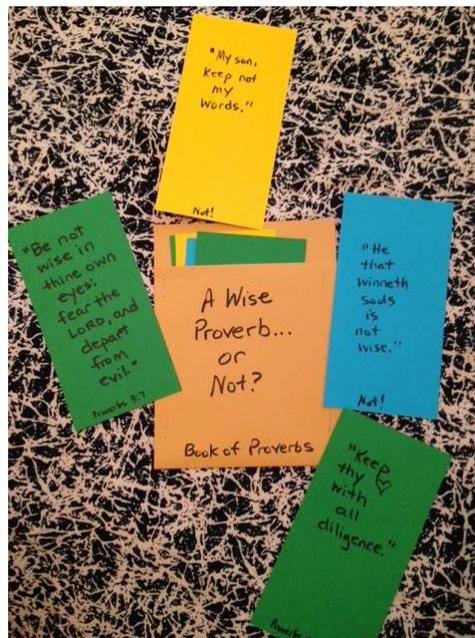
The [Proverbs 31](#) wife is a fierce provider and protector for those she cares about. She is wise to the ways of the world, but lives by the wisdom of God. As in the rest of the Proverbs, these specific examples provide a metaphor for the larger truth. How any individual woman exemplifies these characteristics will depend on her situation, gifts, and abilities. The key is in verse 30, just as it is in the beginning of Proverbs, in 1:7:

But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES:

Older Student" Tips:

- The book of Proverbs was mostly written by King Solomon. Remember he had chosen wisdom when God had asked him what he wanted. God, through Solomon, shared His wisdom with us by writing short truisms or sayings down. Now, we can read these short, usually two lines and learn a great deal.
- Perhaps the theme of Proverbs is "Get wisdom!" There are many verses on different themes though out Proverbs, such as fearing God, how parents can raise their children, how to handle anger, how to be a good friend, the danger of pride, how we should watch our tongues, and the book talks a lot about fools.



ACTIVITY: "A Wise Proverb...Or Not?"

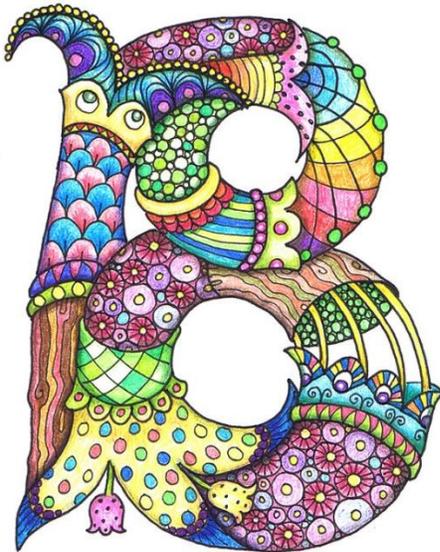
Materials needed: 5" x 12" strip of construction paper, leftover 3" x 5" rectangles of scraps of construction paper (or pre-cut index cards), stapler, staples, crayons, pencils, or markers.

1. Hand out 10-12 cards to each student. (We can use less cards)
2. The student copies a proverb from the Bible on half of the cards.
On the rest of the cards, the student makes up an unwise proverb. Students may take a proverb from the Bible and alter it a bit to make it an unwise proverb.
3. At the bottom of each card, in very small print, write the verse or the word "Not!"
4. When the students are finished writing, set aside.
5. Hand out 5" x 12" strip of paper.
6. Fold paper a little less than in half.
7. Staple on two opposite sides. This is the card pocket.
Write "A Wise Proverb...Or Not?" and "Book of Proverbs" on the outside of the card pocket.
8. Tuck in the finished cards in the card pocket to take home.
Before leaving class, it is nice if the student share their 'proverbs' whether it be with whole class (if the class is small) or with a partner.
9. One student holds up one of the cards, making sure their fingers cover up the tiny verse or the tiny word, "Not!" and test each other to see if they know wise proverbs from unwise proverbs.

CRAFT & ACTIVITY

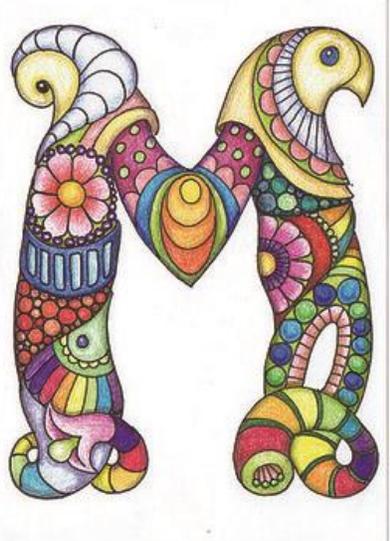
A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver or gold.

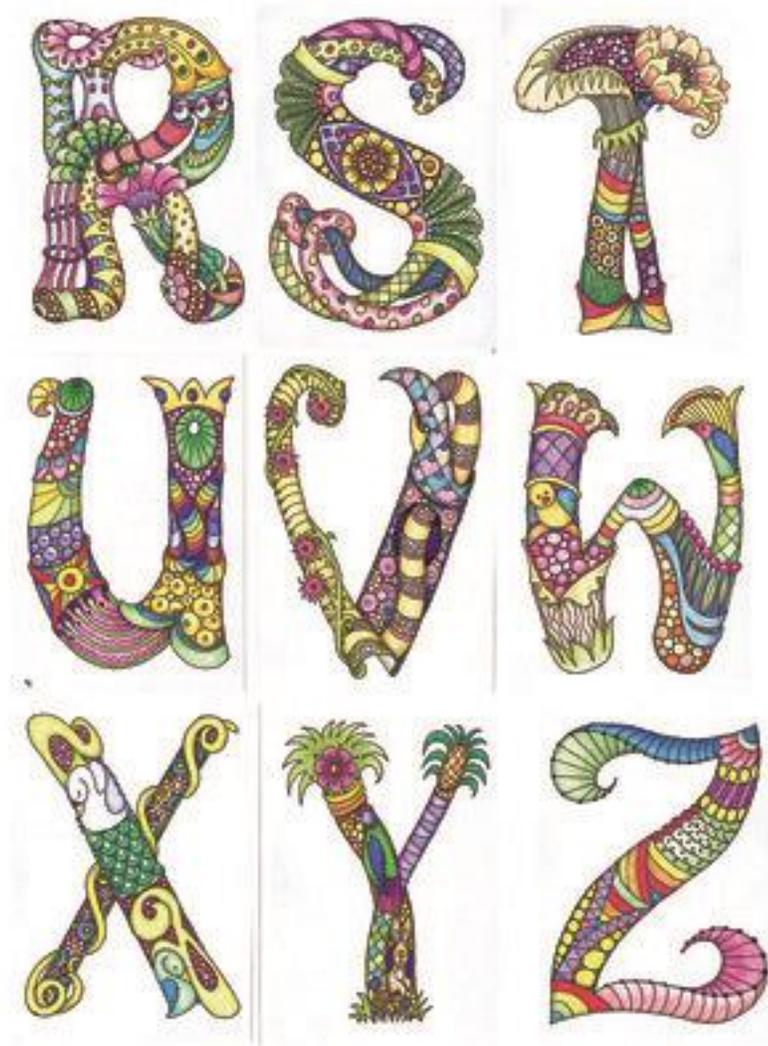
PROVERBS 22:1











Teach Your Children With 12 Powerful Proverbs

by [Irene Koton](#) [May 12, 2019](#)

Every God's Word is an essence of wisdom. It is possible to learn how to be wise which is extremely important in growing children. But listening to wise advice is not enough. Parents need to pay a lot of attention to spiritual growth and development of their children to direct their actions and thoughts. Below are some of the most essential thoughts about God's wisdom parents can use to discuss with their children in order to make a change in their hearts and lives.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

— Proverbs 1:7

Parents are those people who can teach a child what a fear of God is the best possible way. It's so important to understand that fearing of God results in obtaining true wisdom, that is, knowledge of what is reasonable. It is also based more on respect of God and fear of losing His love than feeling scared.

Every parent wants to make their children healthy. Check [top tips on growing healthy children](#).

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

**A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh
word stirs up anger.**

— Proverbs 15:1

Every single word we say has the power to build up or tear down. We know this but when a real-life situation is taking place, we suddenly forget all the wise quotes. It is easy to say painful words in anger, so a child has to be taught to use words for good in any mood, circumstances, and situations.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (NIV)

– Proverbs 18:24

Even if a child has plenty of friends on Facebook, it does not necessarily mean that he is not starving for true friendship. They say a friend is never known till needed. A reliable friend is indeed very rare. Life gives every person a lot of opportunities to find friends, the Book of Proverbs helps to distinguish a good Christian from a false friend.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.

– Proverbs 25:28

Every person has the power to take control over his spirit. A child needs to be taught how to behave when feeling frustrated, disappointed or discouraged. Try to explain to your child in simple words how to practice self-control. Also, the model of the parents' behavior plays no less important role in their child's development.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

– Proverbs 12:1

Being smart is a direct result of developing good character traits, strong moral principles, and high discipline. This verse tells that if a person is willing to be a humble learner and listen to wise advice, she will gain knowledge fast.

[Why is it important to read the Bible?](#) Only you can answer this question. Listen to yourself and make your own decision whether you should read the Bible.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

**Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit
before stumbling.**

— Proverbs 16:18

Why is pride called the root of all sin? Because it causes the rest of the sins like greed, lust, envy and so on. If someone is proud of himself, one day he will experience ruin and disappointment. Every parent has to talk with his child about how to raise from sin even after falling into it many times.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

**The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous
runs into it and is safe.**

— Proverbs 18:10

This quote is put in the middle of the book of Proverbs perhaps not by mistake. It can serve a reminder of how powerful God is in any kind of situations. When a severe storm comes, we need to find a sure shelter. For Christians, this shelter is “Jesus” Who is ready to support them when they are experiencing a lack of faith or trust.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

**Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it
flow the springs of life.**

— Proverbs 4:23

Heart of every person, especially, a child is extremely valuable. Everybody needs to guard his heart as this is a source of every word said. Words can either bless others or cause damage. Teach your children to watch over their hearts to value them and the hearts of others.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

— Proverbs 31:9

Every word we say matters, it affects others in a positive or negative way. Moreover, words can help to achieve justice, defend the rights of the weak and those who suffer. Children need to understand the difference between good and evil. Except this, they need to be courageous to protect those in need of help.

TRENE KOT

STARTING OUT WITH CHANGING YOURSELF

Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases it.

— Proverbs 13:11

It is important to educate a child not only about how to save money, spend wisely but how to make it with no harm to other people. There is a lot of finance related information out there. However, the book of Proverbs is probably a no less valuable source of knowledge than an encyclopedia of finance. It provides advice on how to earn money and even obtain wealth by doing honest work.

**A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor
is better than silver and gold.**

– Proverbs 22:1

There is nothing wrong with having a lot of money. However, children may be confused when they see some people becoming powerful and influential illegally. The book of Proverbs explains that a good reputation cannot be underestimated. Parents should talk with children about the essence of being wealthy. The point is to feel happy with what you do and this activity should not be harmful to any of human beings or living creatures.

**The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; and with
all your acquiring, get understanding.**

– Proverbs 4:7

The main theme of the book of Proverbs is seeking godly wisdom. This is a never-ending process as life is full of surprises that require constant learning.

Conclusion

The book of Proverbs is a great source of wisdom. It helps to teach children how to pursue and achieve this virtue, behave in difficult situations and live from the heart.

A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, favor is better than silver or gold.

PROVERBS 22:1

