

A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in a light tan color, framing the central text.

# Proverbs

The Fountain of Life

## **Proverbs: The Fountain of Life**

Written by Frank Hamrick with CJ Harris

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# Preface

Have you ever wondered where true wisdom is found? A proper knowledge of God is the key to understanding all of the other great relationships and issues of life. This study, based on the book of Proverbs, begins with a revelation of Jesus Christ, who is true Wisdom. Once a proper foundation has been laid, your journey in wisdom will continue. Along the way, you will learn not only what wisdom is like, but also how it affects your home life, your friendships, your personal character, and all of life!

If you desire to know the fear of the Lord and find wisdom, apply yourself to this study. God has promised great reward for those who diligently study this book. You won't be disappointed.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

### **Student Lesson**

Each chapter begins with a brief introductory reading assignment followed by a Bible study for you to do at home. This student lesson gives an overview of the entire lesson.

### **Teacher's Lesson**

Every chapter also includes an outline that you will complete as your teacher works through the lesson with you. You will be quizzed over the material from both the student and the teacher's lesson, so it is important to listen well and take notes diligently.

### **Developing the Ideas**

At the end of each chapter is a list of topics or activities that are used at your teacher's discretion to help you develop, think about, and apply the principles learned from the student lesson and teacher's lesson.

# ASSIGNMENTS

## **Indexing Proverbs Project**

Your teacher may choose to have you complete a major project as you study Proverbs—to index or classify each verse of Proverbs under one or more of several different categories. When you are finished with this project, you will be able to look up any subject and find in one place all of the passages in Proverbs that deal with that subject. This activity will prove to be very rewarding and valuable, giving you an important tool you can use the rest of your life. If your teacher chooses to use this optional assignment, be sure to keep up with the assignment and do not get behind. It will be much easier to keep up than to catch up!

## **Producing Fruit Project**

Lessons 21–29 deal with developing the character of Christ in your life. During these nine lessons, you will study the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit. You will complete a Producing Fruit Form for each lesson and turn it in to your teacher. The forms you will need are at the end of this book.

## **Quizzes and Tests**

Each lesson has a short quiz which your teacher may use to test your knowledge of the material you have covered for a given lesson. Unit tests provide a comprehensive review of everything you have learned over the course of several lessons. The questions for the quizzes and unit tests cover the material in the student lesson and the teacher’s lesson, so you will need to study both. Your teacher will determine various point values and grading scales.



Unit One:

What is Wisdom?



# Lesson One

## Wisdom Defined and Categorized

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away.”

“Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.”

These and other sayings are called proverbs. They are short, pithy, easy-to-remember statements of common truths. A proverb is a short sentence expressing a well-known truth.

Our Bible devotes one entire book to some of the most powerful proverbs ever known to man. The 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs contain a collection of more than 900 proverbs written by three men: King Solomon, who wrote most of them (Prov. 1:1 and 1 Kings 4:32); Agur (Prov. 30:1); and King Lemuel (Prov. 31:1). Most of these proverbs are simply short, unrelated sentences, but some of them develop a more detailed theme in the form of short paragraphs.

The book of Proverbs is especially instructive and beneficial for young people because it gives them principles for dealing with issues in many practical areas of their lives, including the following:

- Their home
- How to choose friends
- How to handle money wisely
- Character development,
- How to use their tongues wisely
- Their associates
- Dating
- How to treat others properly
- Their thought lives
- The folly of vices and sin

Many areas of our lives are regulated by rules. But rules that are not based on principles are like leaves without trees. A leaf finds its origin in a tree and proves its usefulness when it is attached to a tree. When it is separated from the tree, however, the leaf loses its life, flies aimlessly about, and soon decays, becoming a nuisance to those who must rake their yards. So it is with rules.

Unfortunately, many Christians have been passing on their rules to each succeeding generation without passing along the principles on which the rules were originally based. The result is

that the young people of the new generation conform outwardly to the rules, but they have no firm conviction for obeying them. This, in turn, leads to inconsistency and randomness in making and enforcing rules. This inconsistency leads to either rebellion or a reexamination and revision of the rules, whereby the rules are perverted, annulled, or simply not enforced.

The book of Proverbs is primarily a book of principles. It provides the foundation upon which the rules of life are formulated.

The main purpose of a proverb is to teach. Proverbs 1:2-4 gives five general principles for the book of Proverbs. (Read that passage and see if you can list the five objectives. Your teacher will explain each of them in more detail during the class lesson and discussion.)

As beneficial as proverbs can be, however, one must recognize his or her need of instruction before their full benefit can be realized. When you read or hear a proverb, you must listen attentively to it and think carefully and prayerfully about how it applies to you to gain its full benefit. Doing so will lead to personal growth and “helmsmanship.” Rather than being adrift without a rudder, one who heeds and applies the proverbs will steer his life aright and with a God-honoring purpose.

## TEACHER’S LESSON

### *Overview of Proverbs*

- Content of the Book
  - 31 chapters
  - More than 900 Proverbs
  - Three authors:
    - King Solomon (1:1)
    - Agur (30:1)
    - King Lemuel (31:1)
- Definition of a Proverb
  - A short           sentence           expressing in a           few words            
a           well-known truth

- Summary Outline
  - Chapters 1-9: The definition of wisdom
  - Chapters 10-31: The practice of wisdom

### ***Main Objectives of Proverbs***

- To Know God
- To Know the Word of God
- To Know God's Principles
- To Smooth the Rough Edges of Life
- To Give Purpose to Life

### ***Keys to Understanding Proverbs***

- Recognize Your Need
- Hear— Pay Attention
- Pray
- Dig
- Gather
- See Christ

### ***Benefits of Studying Proverbs***

- Personal Growth
- Helmsmanship

# DEVELOPING THE IDEAS

1. What is a proverb? Give some examples of commonly known sayings or proverbs and explain the rules that come from them.
2. Why was the use of proverbs more important in early history than it is today? Do our modern, high-tech means of communication make the proverbs in the Bible obsolete or of less importance in our lives than they once were?
3. How can a study of Proverbs help you understand the rest of the Word of God?
4. How can we learn from the four “teachers” in Proverbs: wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity?
5. What is helmsmanship?
6. Explain how Bill Borden’s life (described by your teacher) exhibited a definite, God-focused purpose.
7. Begin your indexing of Proverbs. (See instructions under “How to Index Proverbs.”)

## ASSIGNMENTS

During your study of Proverbs this year, you will have various assignments to help you better understand the truths you are learning. Some of these assignments will be short-term assignments specific to each chapter in your textbook. A few of the assignments will be long-term projects.

One such long-term assignment will be memorizing assigned Scripture verses. (Your teacher will explain this assignment more fully.) Another long-term assignment is that of indexing proverbs, organizing the contents of the book into broad subject areas. During each week of the year, you will categorize, or index, one chapter of Proverbs. Your teacher will set periodic dates for this project to be turned in for evaluation. Try to do your indexing faithfully so you don’t get behind. Reminders will be given in some “Developing the Ideas” sections along the way.

## HOW TO INDEX PROVERBS

In a word processing program, type out the list of categories included below placing a page break between each. Be sure to keep multiple copies of the project in case you have computer

troubles. If you choose to do the project by hand, copy each of the following categories at the tops of separate sheets of paper. Place these sheets into a loose-leaf notebook or binder.

Then, beginning with Proverbs 1, index one chapter per week by writing out each verse and its reference under the appropriate heading. (For example, you might write out Proverbs 25:14 on the page you've labeled "Humility" because that verse deals with someone who boasts about having a false gift.)

Some of the verses might fit in more than one category, so you should include such verses in every appropriate category. Also, as you progress with your indexing project, you may find that you must add new categories to your list. If you are doing the project by hand, you will need to add a new page for each category you include. You will find that some categories require more pages than others.

## YOUR INDEX CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES

- I. WISDOM (This will be a *title page* for Section 1, which includes much of Prov. 1–9.)
  - A. What is Wisdom?
  - B. Importance and Blessing of Wisdom
  - C. Types of Wisdom (30:24–28, 31)
  - D. Examples of Wisdom (31:10–16, 25–30)
  - E. Personification of Wisdom (8:22–31)
  - F. How to Obtain Wisdom
  - G. Characteristics of a Fool
  - H. Characteristics of a Wise Man
  
- II. THE GOD OF WISDOM (This will be a *title page* for Section 2, which will draw material from the whole book of Proverbs.)
  - A. The Attributes of God (*title page*)
    1. God Is Wise
    2. God Is Loving
    3. God Is Holy
    4. God Is Just and True
    5. God Is Omniscient (All-Knowing)
    6. God Is Omnipotent (All-Powerful)
    7. God Is Sovereign (Rules All Things)

B. The Works of God (*title page*)

1. God Creates
2. God Judges
3. God Defends and Saves
4. God Guides
5. God Provides
6. God Hears Prayer

III. WISDOM IN DAILY LIVING (This will be a *title page* for Section 3, which includes much of Prov. 10-31.)

A. The Family (*title page*)

1. Parent-Teen Relationship
2. Husband-Wife Relationship

B. Companions (*title page*)

1. Friends
2. Dating

C. Treatment of Others (*title page*)

1. Kindness
2. Thoughtfulness
3. Arguing
4. Understanding
5. Respecting Others
6. Other

D. Finances (*title page*)

1. Borrowing
2. Thrift
3. Debts
4. Loaning
5. Seeking Wealth
6. Dishonest Wealth
7. Tithing

E. Thought Life

F. Taking Vows, Making Agreements

- G. Labor vs. Laziness
- H. Inner Qualities (*title page*)
  - 1. Love
  - 2. Honesty
  - 3. Humility
  - 4. Gladness and Joy
  - 5. Patience
  - 6. Persistence
- I. Vices (*title page*)
  - 1. Drinking
  - 2. Adultery
  - 3. Gluttonous Eating
  - 4. Greed
  - 5. Scoffing
  - 6. Murder and Hurt
  - 7. Punishment for Evil
- J. Speech (*title page*)
  - 1. Talking Too Much or Too Hastily
  - 2. The Speech of the Righteous
  - 3. The Righteous Know What to Say
  - 4. Destructive Speech
  - 5. Lying
  - 6. Gossip
- K. Making Decisions, Seeking Advice