



Proverbs for Everyday Life

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WEST END CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Foreword

In many ways, this has been the most challenging class book I have put together, even though the lessons have no commentary or explanations. It is no small task to determine which topics to discuss from Proverbs (in 12 lessons) while arranging and excluding the specific verses associated with the topic.

My goal in this workbook (“Discussion Book”) is to create a GUIDE as we DISCUSS together the observations from Proverbs regarding everyday life. Admittedly, we are barely scratching the surface of what this profound book has to offer on daily living.

SCHEDULE		<i>Proverbs and...</i>
Lesson One	Jan. 4	The Value of Wisdom
Lesson Two	Jan. 11	Our Words
Lesson Three	Jan. 18	Generosity
Lesson Four	Jan. 25	Pride
Lesson Five	Feb. 1	Depression
Lesson Six	Feb. 8	Difficult People
Lesson Seven	Feb. 15	Laziness
Lesson Eight	Feb. 22	Family
Lesson Nine	Mar. 1	Sexual Purity
Lesson Ten	Mar. 8	Honesty
Lesson Eleven	Mar. 15	Anger
No Class	Mar. 22	Our Gospel Meeting
Lesson Twelve	Mar. 29	Money

Lesson 1 – “The Value of Wisdom”

DISCUSSION

1. Are you a wise person or a fool? How will you know?
2. Now notice how God defines the two in **PROVERBS**...
 - a. Wise person
 - (1) Lives by excellent advice (1:2-4)
 - (2) Respects God (1:7; 3:7-8)
 - (3) Possesses the kind of foresight God had in creation (3:19-20; 24:5-6)
 - b. Foolish person
 - (1) Does not listen to instruction (1:7) or receive correction (12:1, 15)
 - (2) Does not learn from pain (17:10) or try to avoid it (18:6)
 - (3) Does not care to improve (18:2) or see their error (14:6; 17:12)
3. We all make mistakes and must learn, but fools scoff at self-improvement (13:1; 21:24)
 - a. God says it is a waste of time to help those who won't seek wisdom (16:22)
 - b. They do not appreciate correction (23:9) and will ruin us if we try (26:4)
4. Proverbs warns of several consequences that await the fool:
 - a. Their ignorance becomes evident to others (12:16; 13:16)
 - b. Their speech reflects poor judgment (12:23; 14:33)
 - c. Their lives will be unnecessarily more difficult (19:29; 26:3; 10:1)
5. **Therefore, our GOAL should be to live with greater insight and understanding (4:7)**
 - a. The only condition is that we LISTEN to wisdom because of its value (3:13-15)
 - b. It leads to long life (3:16), peace (3:17), happiness (3:18), and honor (4:8-9).
 - c. Thus, will we be a wise or a fool with whatever choices we have left?

OBJECTIVE: Examine specific proverbs (in 12 lessons) to find peace, happiness, honor, and WISDOM for everyday life in the various circumstances we face.

LESSON 2 – Our Words

1. Why is it important to use our words wisely?
 - Pro. 13:2-3; 21:23
 - Pro. 18:6-7, 21

2. What blessings can we find by using our words wisely?
 - Pro. 10:11; 15:23
 - Pro. 17:14; vv. 27-28

3. What are the dangers of saying whatever we want?
 - Pro. 10:19-20
 - Pro. 29:11

4. In what ways will we use our words when we commit to a nobler character?
 - Pro. 20:19; 27:6
 - Pro. 16:13; 22:11

5. What are the effects of gossip?
 - Pro. 16:28; 17:9
 - Pro. 26:20-22

6. How can we use our words more carefully?
 - Pro. 15:28
 - Pro. 18:13, 17

LESSON 3 – Generosity

1. What is generosity?
 - Pro. 22:9
 - Pro. 14:21, 31

2. What is the value in being a generous person?
 - Pro. 11:24-26
 - Pro. 13:7

3. What difficulties do poor people face?
 - Pro. 14:20; 19:7
 - Pro. 22:16

4. How does God view generous people?
 - Pro. 19:17; 31:20
 - Pro. 3:9-10

5. What happens to people who refuse to share?
 - Pro. 21:13
 - Pro. 23:6-8

6. What are some errors to avoid in generosity?
 - Pro. 3:27-28
 - Pro. 25:14

LESSON 4 – Pride

1. What does it mean to be haughty?
 - Pro. 21:4, 24
 - Pro. 20:6

2. How does God view pride?
 - Pro. 6:17; 8:13
 - Pro. 15:25; 16:5

3. What can pride do to us?
 - Pro. 11:2; 16:18
 - Pro. 13:10; 28:25

4. Why do people become arrogant?
 - Pro. 15:12
 - Pro. 30:21-23

5. How do we overcome pride?
 - Pro. 8:13; 22:4
 - Pro. 27:2; 25:27

6. How will a person of humility approach life?
 - Pro. 27:1
 - Pro. 16:19; 22:1; 29:23

LESSON 5 – Depression

1. What is a “broken spirit” and how does it affect us?
 - Pro. 15:13
 - Pro. 17:22

2. What are some challenges with matters of the heart?
 - Pro. 14:10, 13
 - Pro. 18:14
 - Pro. 25:20

3. What helps anxiety?
 - Pro. 3:21-24
 - Pro. 12:25; 15:30
 - Pro. 27:9
 - Pro. 28:1

4. What is the value of having a merry heart?
 - Pro. 15:13, 15
 - Pro. 17:22

5. How can the following verses help us with matters of the heart?
 - Pro. 16:3
 - Pro. 17:3; 20:27

LESSON 6 – Difficult People

1. What causes conflicts between people?
 - Pro. 10:12; 21:10
 - Pro. 26:20-21

2. What happens when we respond to conflicts with hatred?
 - Pro. 10:18
 - Pro. 26:27 (see vv. 24-26)

3. How can we minimize conflicts with others?
 - Pro. 18:13, 17
 - Pro. 25:17
 - Pro. 26:17

4. How does a wise person respond to conflicts with others?
 - Pro. 20:3; 11:12
 - Pro. 10:19; 29:11

5. How can we find peace in the midst of conflicts?
 - Pro. 19:11
 - Pro. 15:1-2; 17:14

6. How does God want us to treat those who hate us?
 - Pro. 25:21-22
 - Pro. 24:17-18

LESSON 7 – Laziness

1. What are some characteristics of a lazy person?
 - Pro. 21:25
 - Pro. 19:15, 24

2. What does nature teach about the importance of being industrious?
 - Pro. 6:6-8
 - Pro. 20:4

3. What impact does a lazy person have on others?
 - Pro. 10:26
 - Pro. 18:9 (contrast 25:13)

4. What impact does a lazy person have on himself?
 - Pro. 12:24; 15:19
 - Pro. 26:13-16

5. What are some remedies to laziness?
 - Pro. 6:9-11
 - Pro. 24:30-34

6. What are the benefits of being responsible and industrious?
 - Pro. 10:4; 12:24
 - Pro. 12:11; 20:13

LESSON 8 – Family

1. How does God view the home?
 - Pro. 18:22
 - Pro. 15:6

2. How can we bless our family?
 - Pro. 24:3-4
 - Pro. 20:7; 17:6
 - Pro. 19:14; 31:27-28
 - Pro. 10:1; 15:20

3. How can we bring pain to our family?
 - Pro. 11:29
 - Pro. 14:1; 21:9, 19
 - Pro. 17:21, 25

4. What responsibilities do we have in the home?
 - Pro. 23:22
 - Pro. 22:6; 29:15

5. What are the most important qualities of a happy home?
 - Pro. 15:16-17
 - Pro. 17:1

LESSON 9 – Sexual Purity

1. What are the challenges in convincing someone to practice sexual purity?

➤ Pro. 5:1-6

2. What are some consequences for being sexually impure?

➤ Pro. 5:9

➤ Pro. 5:10

➤ Pro. 6:26

➤ Pro. 6:27-29

➤ Pro. 6:30-32

➤ Pro. 6:33

➤ Pro. 6:34-35

3. What is the behavior of someone who is sexually impure?

➤ Pro. 6:24-25

➤ Pro. 7:10

➤ Pro. 7:11-12

➤ Pro. 7:18-20

4. How can a person practice sexual purity?

➤ Pro. 5:15-20

➤ Pro. 6:20-24

➤ Pro. 7:6-9

LESSON 10 – Honesty

1. How does God view honesty?
 - Pro. 6:16-19
 - Pro. 12:22; 19:5

2. Why are tempted to be dishonest?
 - Pro. 26:18-19
 - Pro. 26:24-26

3. In what ways can we deceive people in business deals?
 - Pro. 11:1; 16:11
 - Pro. 28:8

4. Read Pro. 11:3-6
 - What is integrity?
 - How does it protect a righteous person?

5. Why is it better to be poor than to lose our integrity?
 - Pro. 16:8; 28:6
 - Pro. 10:9; 20:7

6. Give examples of how we can commit the following:
 - Pro. 14:5
 - Pro. 29:5

LESSON 11 – Anger

1. How do angry people impact others?
 - Pro. 21:19
 - Pro. 22:24-25

2. What can happen when we do not control our anger?
 - Pro. 14:17
 - Pro. 15:18
 - Pro. 19:19
 - Pro. 29:22

3. What are the benefits of controlling our anger?
 - Pro. 16:32
 - Pro. 17:27-28

4. How is possible to have more control over our anger?
 - Pro. 14:29
 - Pro. 19:11
 - Pro. 21:23; 29:11

5. How should we respond when someone is angry with us?
 - Pro. 15:1-2; 25:15
 - Pro. 21:14

LESSON 12 – Money

1. How does money influence people's behavior?
 - Pro. 14:20; 19:4
 - Pro. 28:20, 22

2. How does God want us to make an increase financially?
 - Pro. 11:1; 16:11
 - Pro. 10:4-5; 13:11
 - Pro. 22:29

3. How does God want us to use our money?
 - Pro. 3:9-10
 - Pro. 14:21, 31
 - Pro. 13:22; 31:16

4. What happens when we are unethical in our use of money?
 - Pro. 15:27; 17:23
 - Pro. 23:10-11

5. What profound financial advice is found in these verses?
 - Pro. 6:1-5
 - Pro. 22:26-27
 - Pro. 23:4-5
 - Pro. 27:23-27