



LESSONS FROM PROVERBS: Pathways of wisdom and righteousness



LESSONS FROM PROVERBS

Session 1: Purpose of proverbs

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Note: It is recommended that the Amplified Version of the Bible be used with this study guide.

SESSION 1: PURPOSE OF PROVERBS

1. Key Scriptures

- a) Proverbs 1: 1-33
- b) Proverbs 2:4-7
- c) Proverbs 8:13
- d) Proverbs 15:33
- e) Proverbs 16:4, 6, 29-30
- f) Proverbs 19:21, 23
- g) Proverbs 20:24
- h) Proverbs 21:1
- i) Proverbs 22:2, 4, 12
- j) Proverbs 23:17-18
- k) Proverbs 24:1-2
- l) Proverbs 30:2-5

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the purpose of proverbs (Pro. 1:1-6)?

- b) What is the beginning and principal part of knowledge and wisdom (Pro. 1:7; Pro. 30:2-5)?

- c) What is the outcome of the fear of the Lord in someone's life (Pro. 8:13; Pro. 15:33; Pro. 16:6; Pro. 19:23; Pro. 22:4; Pro. 23:17-18)?

- d) How are the ways of sinners, driven by greed described (Pro. 1:10-19; Pro. 16:29-30)?

- e) What is the warning against the enticement of sinners (Pro. 24:1-2)? What is their end (Pro. 1:10,18-19)?

- f) How will Wisdom respond to those who accept her counsel (Pro. 1:23; Pro. 2:4-7) and what will be their outcome (Pro. 1:33)?

- g) How will Wisdom respond to those who does not accept her reproof and what will be their outcome (Pro. 1:24-32; Pro. 29:1)?

- h) How is God's sovereignty described (Pro. 20:24; Pro. 21:1; Pro. 16: 4; Pro. 19:21; Pro. 22:2, 12)?

3. Personal application

- a) How do you respond to invitations to do evil?

- b) What is your response to Wisdom?

4. Prayer response

Our Father in heaven

Thank you that the worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and principal part of skillful wisdom. Help me to have the right response when Wisdom calls so that I will not accept any invitation to do evil, but walk in the way of good and wise men. May I trust in your sovereign hand to order circumstances and people according to Your will and to have a heart that is directed by You. Amen.

SESSION 2: DIFFERENT WAYS

1. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 2:1-22
- b) Proverbs 3:1-2, 13-26
- c) Proverbs 12:28
- d) Proverbs 14:6
- e) Proverbs 15:3, 8-11
- f) Proverbs 16:3, 4, 16, 20
- g) Proverbs 19:8, 16, 20
- h) Proverbs 22:17-21
- i) Proverbs 24:3-4

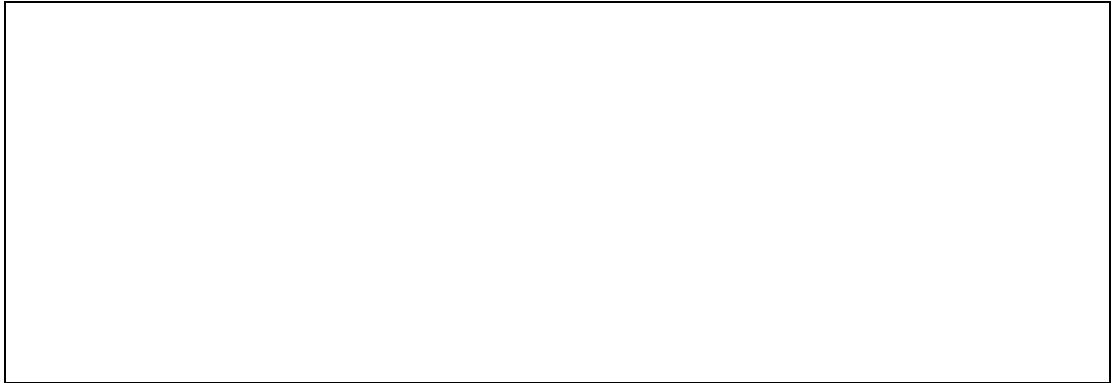
2. Let's reflect

- a) How much is the Lord involved in keeping watch upon evil and good (Pro. 15:3, 8-11; Pro. 16:4; Pro. 22:12)?

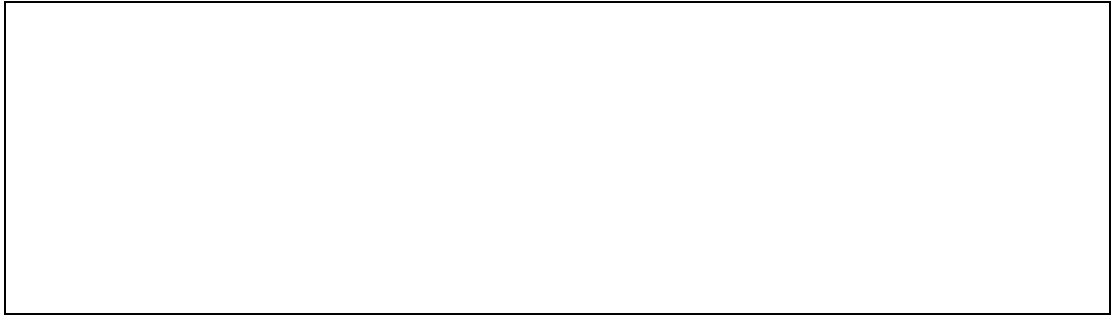
- b) What is the foundation in building a house (Pro. 24:3-4)?

- c) What are the benefits that godly Wisdom provide (Pro. 2: 1-10; Pro. 3:1-2,16; Pro. 16:16, 20; Pro. 19:8, 16)?

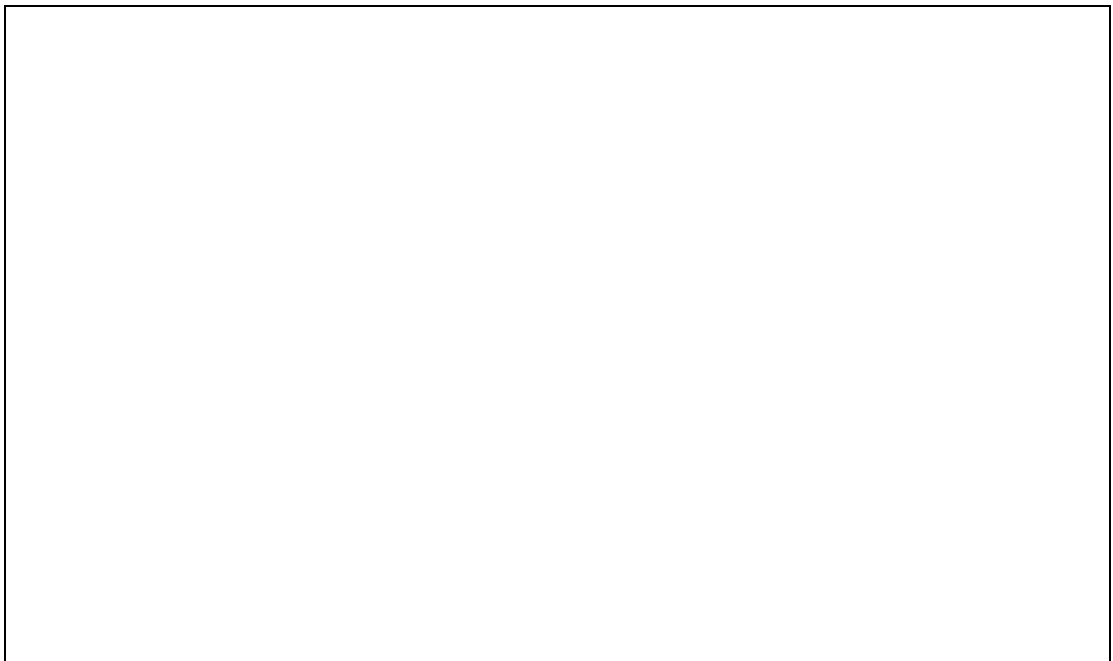
d) How should godly Wisdom be pursued (Pro. 2: 1-4; Pro. 3:13-15, 21; Pro. 16:3; Pro. 19:20; Pro. 22:17-21)?



e) Who is the source of godly Wisdom (Pro. 2:6-7; Pro. 3:13, 15, 19-20; Pro. 19:21)?



f) How is the path of wisdom described (Pro. 2:8-12; Pro. 3:17-18, 21-26; 4:10-13,18; 13:6,9)?



- g) How are the ways of persons, who walk in the way of darkness described (Pro. 4:14-17,19; 13:2)? What will be their outcome (Pro. 2: 22; Pro 13:6; Pro. 14:6)?

- h) In contrast what is the outcome of the righteous (Pro. 2:21; Pro. 12:28; Pro. 16:7)?

3. Personal application

- a) How important is it for you to pursue godly Wisdom?

- b) How clearly do you understand the different pathways in life?

- c) What is your personal source of wisdom?

4. Prayer response

Our Heavenly Father

Thank you that we may know that godly and skillful Wisdom comes from the Lord. You will be a shield to those who walk uprightly and in integrity by guarding their paths. Help me to choose the path of skillful wisdom so that I may understand righteousness, justice and fair dealing in every area and relation. May I always keep in mind that when your wisdom enters my heart, discretion shall watch over me and I shall be delivered me from the way of evil men. Amen.

SESSION 3: PUTTING GOD'S WAYS FIRST

1. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 3:5-12
- b) Proverbs 12:10
- c) Proverbs 18:1-3
- d) Proverbs 20:30
- e) Proverbs 24:27
- f) Proverbs 28:4-5

2. Let's reflect

- a) When will the Lord direct and make straight your paths (Pro. 3:5-6)?

- b) Why is it unwise to separate oneself from God and God's law (Pro. 18:1-3; Pro. 28:4-5)?

- c) What may contribute to health (Pro. 3:7-8)? In which way?

d) How important is your work (Pro. 24:27)?

e) What promise is associated with honoring the Lord with the firstfruits of your income (Pro. 3:9-10)?

f) How can we understand times of discipline (Pro. 3:11-12)? How can this understanding help us during these times (Pro. 3:11)?

g) What is the value of correction (Pro. 20:30)?

3. Personal questions

a) What do you see as different ways of putting the Lord first?

b) How are you putting the Lord first?

c) In which areas of your life may the Lord's ways not be first?

d) What may give you hope during times of discipline?

4. Prayer points

Our loving Father in heaven

Thank you that your Word is so clear on choosing different paths in life. I want to put your ways first and therefore ask that you will guide me in everyday decisions. Help me not to rely on my own insights, but to choose your ways. May the fear of the Lord be my first priority. I want to honour you with my firstfruits and respond correctly during times of discipline, trusting in your wisdom from an eternal perspective. Amen.

SESSION 4: A SOUND HEART

1. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 4:20-27
- b) Proverbs 12:25
- c) Proverbs 13:12
- d) Proverbs 14:26-33
- e) Proverbs 15:13, 15, 30
- f) Proverbs 16:2,4, 6
- g) Proverbs 17:3, 22
- h) Proverbs 18:14
- i) Proverbs 20:9
- j) Proverbs 22:11, 17-21
- k) Proverbs 24:12
- l) Proverbs 27:9, 19

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the outcome of keeping godly wisdom and counsel in the centre of your heart (Pro. 4:20-22; Pro. 22:11)

- b) Why is it important to guard your heart (Pro. 4:23; 12:25; Pro. 13:12; Pro. 14:30; Pro. 15:13, 15, 30; Pro. 18:14; Pro. 20:9; Pro. 24:12)?

- c) With what is the heart compared (Pro. 17:22; Pro. 27:19)?

d) What is the Lord's focus when looking at a person (Pro. 16:2, 6; Pro. 17:3)?

e) What do we need to learn in order to gain a heart of wisdom (Pro. 14:26-27, 33; Pro. 16:4; Pro. 22:17-21)?

3. Personal questions

a) How would you describe the condition of your heart?

b) In which ways are you guarding your heart?

c) How can you develop and keep godly wisdom in the centre of your heart?

4. Prayer points

Our holy Father in Heaven

Thank you that your are not looking at the outward appearance of man, but at the condition of man's heart. Help me to understand the importance of guarding my heart and to keep godly wisdom in the centre of my heart – for godly wisdom brings life and healing. Amen.

SESSION 5: WARNINGS AGAINST TEMPTATION

1. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 2:16-19
- b) Proverbs 5:1-23, 29
- c) Proverbs 6:22-35
- d) Proverbs 7:5-27
- e) Proverbs 15:3, 29
- f) Proverbs 22:14
- g) Proverbs 27:20
- h) Proverbs 31:1-3

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the value of listening to godly Wisdom (Pro. 5:1-2) ?

- b) How is the immoral woman described (Pro. 2:16-19; Pro. 5:3-6; Pro. 7:5-27)? How does immorality ensnare (Pro. 7:21-27; Pro. 22:14)?

- c) What are men warned against (Pro. 5:7-8)? Why (Pro. 5:9-14; Pro. 6:24-35; Pro. 27:20)?

- d) What should rather be done instead (Pro. 5:17-19; Pro. 6:22-23)?

- e) How does God guide and keep man accountable for his moral choices (Pro. 5:21-23; Pro. 15:3, 29)?

3. Personal application

- a) How much do you value the warnings against temptation?

- b) How important is to you to live a godly life and to honour the boundaries of marriage?

4. Prayer response

My loving Father in heaven

Thank you for warning us so clearly against the consequences of immorality and for giving us practical guidelines in your Word to live a moral life. Help me to take the warnings of Scripture to heart and to take decisive action to honour the boundaries of marriage. Amen.

SESSION 6: A DILIGENT WORK ETHIC

1. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 6:4, 6-11
- b) Proverbs 8:1-35
- c) Proverbs 12:9-27
- d) Proverbs 13:4
- e) Proverbs 14:21
- f) Proverbs 15:19
- g) Proverbs 17:2
- h) Proverbs 18:5, 9, 15-16
- i) Proverbs 19:15,24
- j) Proverbs 20:4
- k) Proverbs 22:13
- l) Proverbs 24:30-34
- m) Proverbs 26:13-16
- n) Proverbs 28:19-20
- o) Proverbs 29:18,23-27

2. Let's reflect

- a) Why is diligence in work important (Pro. 6:11; Pro. 12:9, 11, 14, 24, 27; Pro. 13:4; Pro. 14:21; Pro. 18:9; Pro. 19:15; Pro. 20:5; Pro. 22:13; Pro. 29:18, 23-27)?

- b) How are the ways of lazy persons described (Pro. 19:24; Pro. 22:13; Pro. 24:30-34; Pro. 26: 13-16)?

c) How can one develop diligence (Pro. 6:4,6-11; Pro. 18:15)?

d) What role did Wisdom play in creation (Pro. 8:22-30)?

e) Since Wisdom played such a significant role in creation, what shall our response be to Wisdom in our life and work (Pro. 8:22-35)?

f) What role can Wisdom play in our lives to develop prudence and excellent speech (Pro. 8:1-8, 12-13; 13:14)?

- g) What is the outcome of a faithful and wise worker versus foolish and lazy workers (Pro. 14:35; Pro. 15:19; Pro. 17:2; Pro. 18:16; Pro. 20:4; Pro. 28:19-20)?

3. Personal application

- a) How important is diligence in your life and how are you busy developing it?

- b) What is your relationship with Wisdom with regards to your work?

- c) How will you describe your work ethic?

4. Prayer points

Our righteous Father in Heaven

Thank you for giving us this profound insight into the significant role that Wisdom played in creation. I thank you for the promises of blessing that are associated with the pursuit of Wisdom. Please help me to find Wisdom everyday in life and work, so that I may live in your favour and blessing as a diligent worker. Amen.

SESSION 7: WISE (RIGHTEOUS) VERSUS THE FOOLISH (WICKED)

1. Key Scripture

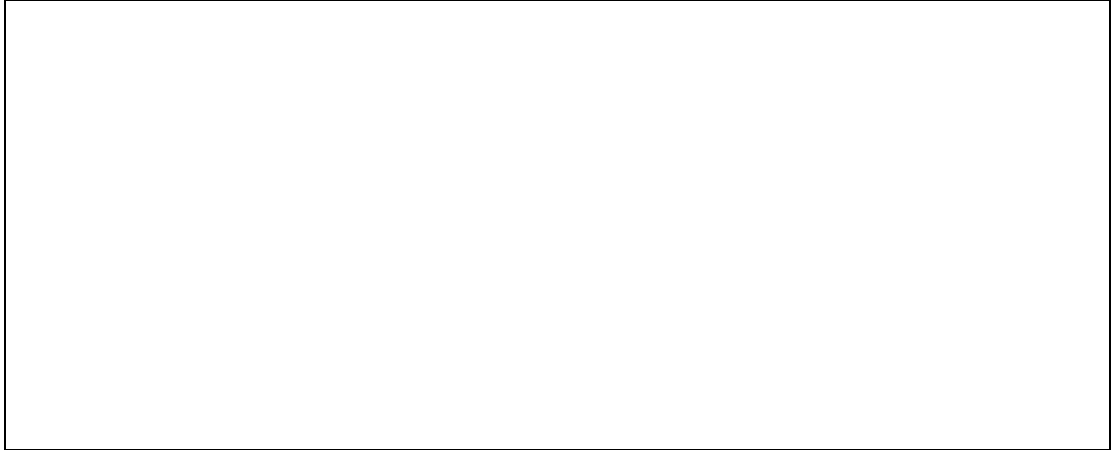
- a) Proverbs 10: 1-9, 11, 14, 16, 24-31
- b) Proverbs 12:1, 3, 5-28
- c) Proverbs 13:3-4, 22
- d) Proverbs 14:8, 22
- e) Proverbs 15:5-12, 22, 32
- f) Proverbs 17:15,26
- g) Proverbs 21:7-8, 10-11, 22, 27
- h) Proverbs 28: 1, 4-5
- i) Proverbs 29:18

2. Let's reflect

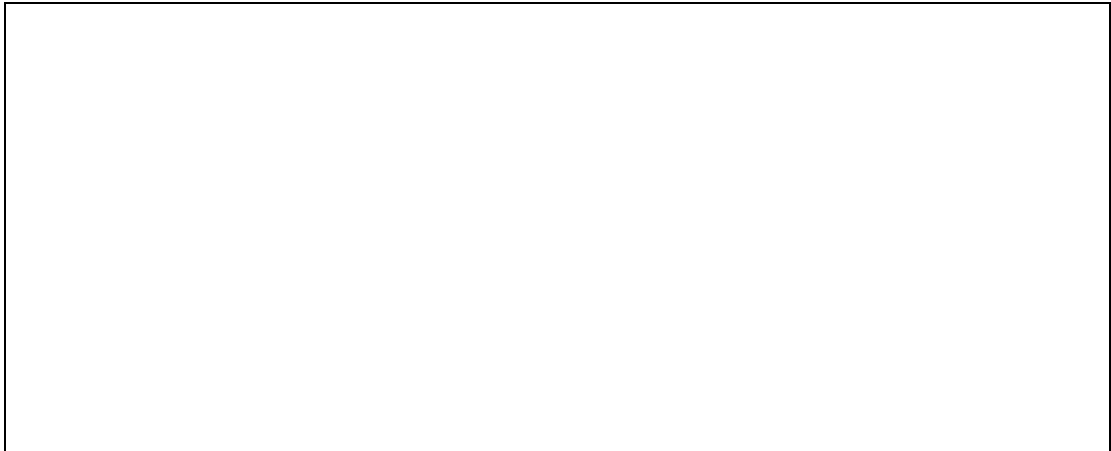
- a) How are the thoughts and purposes of the consistently righteous described in comparison with the design and counsels of the wicked (Pro. 12:5, 17; Pro. 14:8, 22; Pro. 17:4; Pro. 21:7-8, 10, 22; Pro. 28:5; Pro. 29:18)?

- a) What is the difference between a wise (righteous) and a foolish (wicked) person (Pro. 10:1, 8-9, 11, 14, 31; Pro. 12:1,5; Pro. 15:5, 12, 14, 20-21, 31-32; Pro. 21:11; Pro. 28:1, 4)?

b) What is the outcome of wickedness (Pro. 10:2, 7, 16, 24, 28, 30; Pro. 12:3,7; Pro. 21:7)?



c) What is the outcome of righteousness (Pro. 10:2, 6-7, 16, 24, 28, 30; Pro. 12:3, 7: 13:22)?



d) What is the Lord's response to the righteous as opposed to the wicked (Pro. 10:3, 25, 29; Pro. 12:2,8; Pro. 15:8-11, 29; Pro. 21:27)?



- e) What will be the final outcome of the wicked in comparison with the house of the uncompromisingly righteous (Pro. 12:7-8, 21,28; Pro. 14:11-12,32; Pro. 21:16, 18, 20-21); Pro. 24:19-20?

- f) Why is it wrong to justify wickedness and to oppose righteousness (Pro. 17:15, 26; Pro. 24:24-26; Pro. 28:5)?

3. Personal application

- a) Are you choosing the way of the wicked or the way of righteousness? How do you know?

- b) How can you make sure that you will have an everlasting foundation?

c) How often do you consider the outcome of wickedness in comparison to righteousness?

4. Prayer response

Our Heavenly Father

Thank you for your Word and that I can know that you clearly show the way between the wise and the foolish, the righteous and the wicked. Help me to value Godly wisdom and to choose the way of life and gladness, built on an everlasting foundation. Amen.

SESSION 8: RIGHTEOUS HANDLING OF MONEY

1. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 11:1, 4, 25-28
- b) Proverbs 15:6, 16, 17, 27
- c) Proverbs 16:8,11
- d) Proverbs 17:1
- e) Proverbs 20:10, 16,17,21
- f) Proverbs 22:22-23
- g) Proverbs 23:1-8
- h) Proverbs 28:8

2. Let's reflect

- a) What are the Lord's principles in relation with money (Pro. 11:1; Pro. 15:16, 17, 27; Pro. 16:8, 11; Pro. 17:1; Pro. 19:1; Pro. 20:10,17, 21; Pro. 22:22-23; Pro. 23:10-11)?

- b) Why should we NOT associate with greedy or stingy persons or make it our goal to obtain wealth (Pro. 23:1-8; Pro. 28:8; Pro. 30:7-9)?

c) Why should one be careful in giving a pledge (Pro. 17:18; Pro. 20:16; Pro. 22:26)?

d) Can riches provide security? Why or why not (Pro. 11:4, 28; Pro. 15:6; Pro. 19:4, 7; Pro. 28:11)?

e) How do righteous persons respond to the poor in comparison to the wicked (Pro. 14:21,31; Pro. 17:5, 23)?

f) What is the blessing associated with generosity (Pro. 11:25-26; Pro. 19:17)?

3. Personal application

- a) How much is your perspective on money aligned with God's perspective on money?

- b) In which ways are you implementing God's principles related to money?

- c) How important is it for you to be generous?

- d) Who or what is the source of your provision or financial security?

4. Prayer response

Blessed Father in heaven

Thank you that I may find security in your provision. Help me to gain an increasing understanding of your perspective on money so that I may follow your principles diligently – being generous and wise in all my financial decisions. May I never trust in the deceitfulness of riches, but always keep my eyes on you as the only source of all provision. Amen.

SESSION 9: LESSONS FOR LEADERSHIP

1. Key Scripture

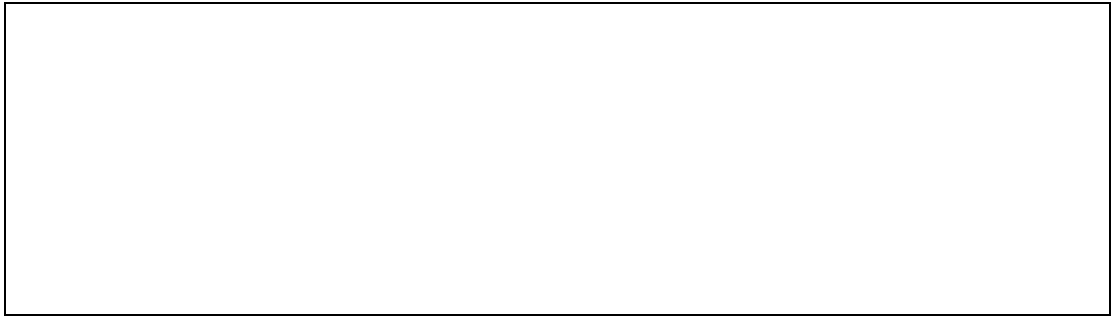
- a) Proverbs 11:14
- b) Proverbs 15:22
- c) Proverbs 16:12-15
- d) Proverbs 20:5,18, 26,28
- e) Proverbs 21:1. 3-7
- f) Proverbs 24:5-6
- g) Proverbs 25:2
- h) Proverbs 28:2, 12, 15-16,28
- i) Proverbs 29:2,4, 12

2. Let's reflect

- a) What role does God play in the life of leaders and how should they respond (Pro. 21:1; Pro. 25:2)?

- b) What are the characteristics of righteous leadership as opposed to wicked leadership (Pro. 28:2, 12, 15-16, 28; Pro. 29:2, 4, 16)?

c) How does God view wicked leadership as opposed to a righteous throne (Pro. 16:12)?



d) How important is it to obtain counsel in making important decisions (Pro. 11: 14; Pro. 15:22; Pro. 20:5, 18; Pro. 24:5-6)?



e) What are important principles to remember related to leaders (Pro. 16:13-15; Pro. 20:26, 28; Pro. 21:3-7; Pro. 25:3-7; Pro. 29:12, 14)?



3. Personal application

a) What are the most important leadership principles that you learned from Proverbs?

b) How do you seek counsel before making important decisions?

c) How do you ensure that your leadership follow righteousness?

4. Prayer response

Our gracious Father in heaven

Thank you for the clarity of your Word, clearly showing us the difference between righteous and wicked leadership. Help me to follow your leadership principles in my areas of influence and to respond correctly to other leaders. Will you change my mind and heart in line with your Word so that I may reflect your wisdom and righteousness in every area of leadership and influence. Amen.

SESSION 10: A VIRTUOUS WIFE

1. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 2:16-19
- b) Proverbs 11:16
- c) Proverbs 12:4
- d) Proverbs 14:1
- e) Proverbs 18:22
- f) Proverbs 19:13

2. Let's reflect

- a) How is the unwise woman described (Pro. 2:16-19; Pro. 11:16; Pro. 12:4; Pro. 14:1; Pro. 19:13)?

- b) In comparison, how is the virtuous woman described (Pro. 31:10-31)?

- c) What are the blessings associated with a prudent wife (Pro. 11:16; Pro. 12:4; Pro. 18:22; Pro. 19:14)?

- d) What are the difficulties in living with an unwise wife (Pro. 25:24)?

3. Personal application

- a) How important are Biblical perspectives on marriage for you?

- b) How much do you seek for godly Wisdom in making life decisions?

4. Prayer response

Our faithful Father in heaven

Thank you for the clear description in your Word between of a prudent woman and wife. Help me to develop these characteristics and to implement Godly wisdom in life decisions. Amen.

SESSION 11: RIGHTEOUSNESS MADE PRACTICAL

1. Key Scripture

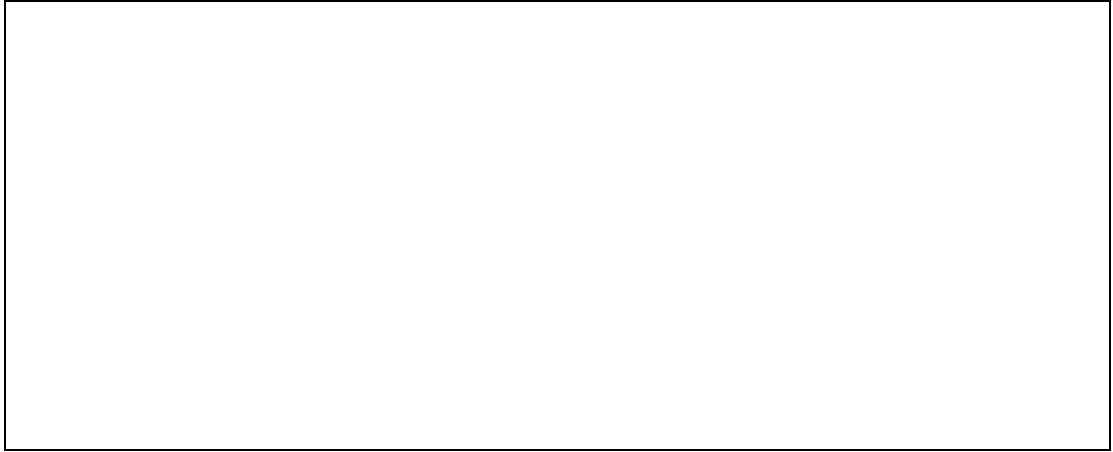
- g) Proverbs 12:10
- h) Proverbs 14:15-16, 21, 31
- i) Proverbs 15:18
- j) Proverbs 16:18-19
- k) Proverbs 17: 12,14
- l) Proverbs 19:11, 19
- m) Proverbs 20:6
- n) Proverbs 21:8,12,15,26
- o) Proverbs 22:1
- p) Proverbs 23:23
- q) Proverbs 25:8-9
- r) Proverbs 27:5-6,9-10
- s) Proverbs 30:19

2. Let's reflect

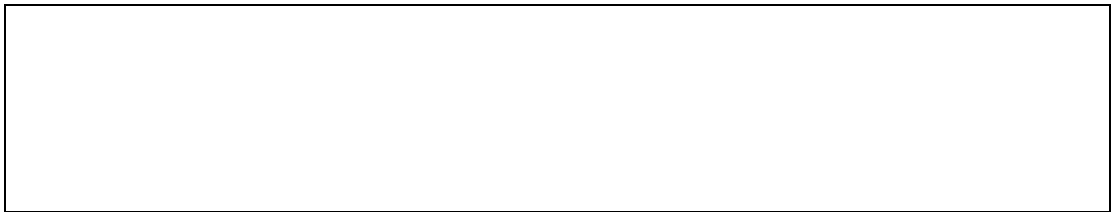
- a) What is the call to righteous persons in relation to truth (Pro. 23:23; Pro. 30:5-6)?

- b) What is the value of being known as a person of righteousness and integrity (Pro. 22:1; Pro. 25:26)?

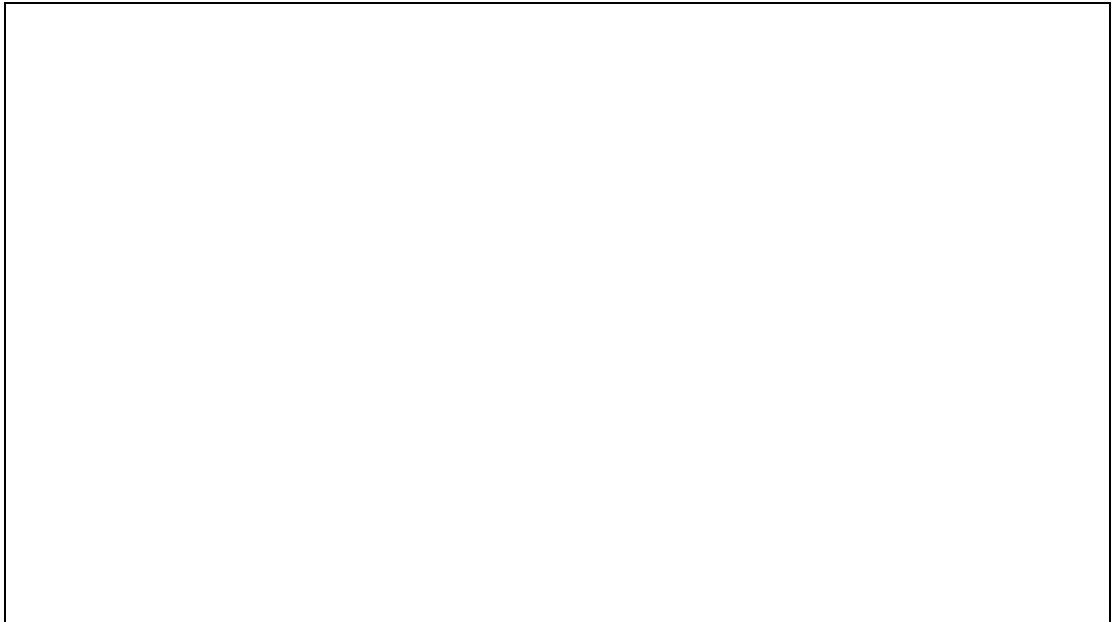
- c) What are key characteristics of the uncompromisingly righteous? (Pro. 20:6-7; Pro. 21:8, 12, 15, 26)?



- d) How do righteous persons treat their animals in comparison to the wicked (Pro. 12:10)?



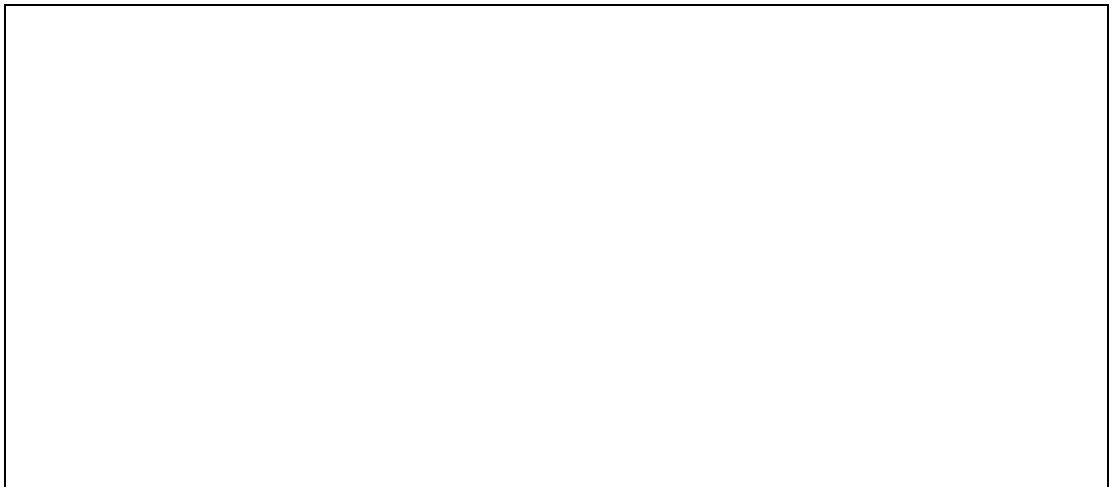
- e) How do wise persons avoid harm in comparison to the foolish (Pro. 14:15-16; Pro. 22:3, 5; Pro. 25: 8-9)?



- f) How do the righteous person control his temper in comparison to the foolish person (Pro. 15:18; Pro. 16:32; Pro. 17:12, 14, 19; Pro. 19:11, 19; Pro. 20:3, 22; Pro. 22:24-25; Pro. 25:28)?



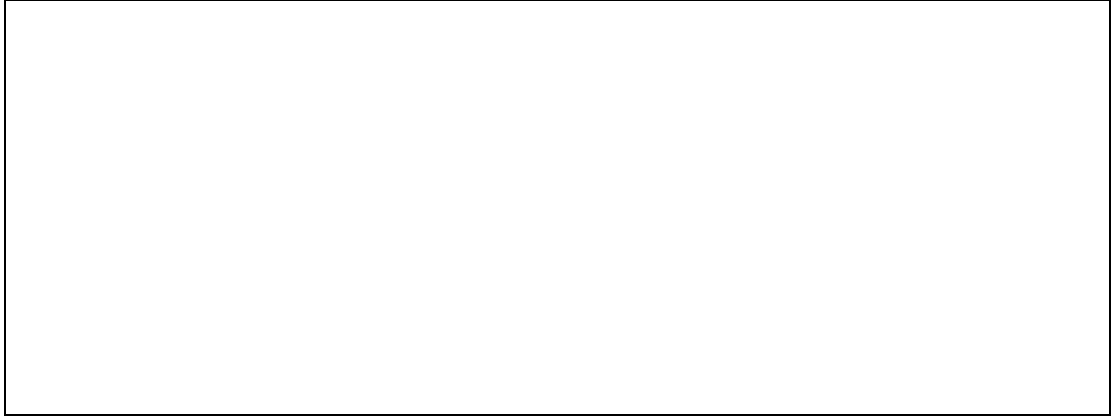
- g) How do the righteous person act within relationships as oppose to a wicked person (Pro. 11: 9, 12-13; Pro. 16:28-29; Pro. 17:9, 17, 27-28; Pro. 24:17-18, Pro. 30:19)?



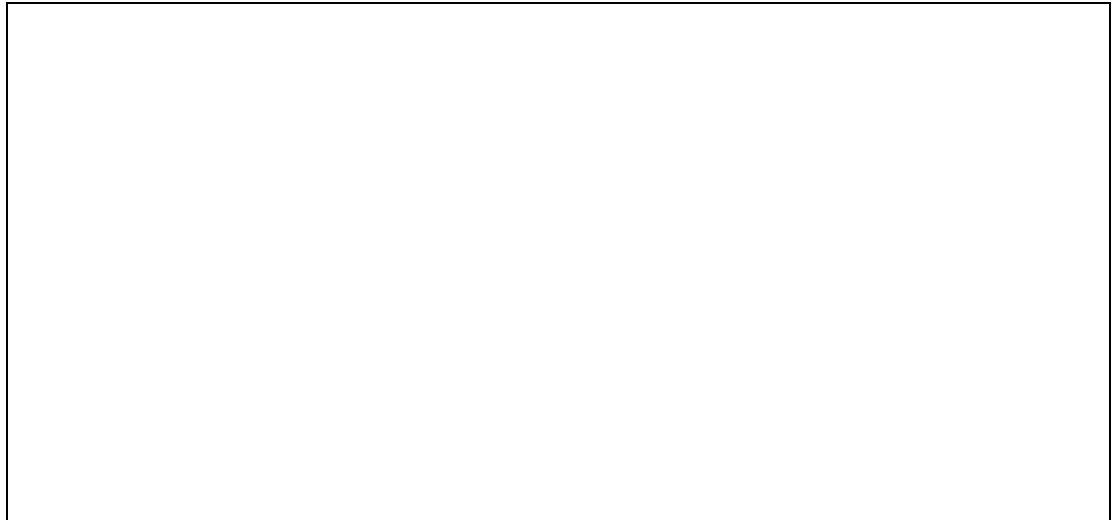
- h) What is the value of having true friends (Pro. 27:5-6,9-10, 17)?



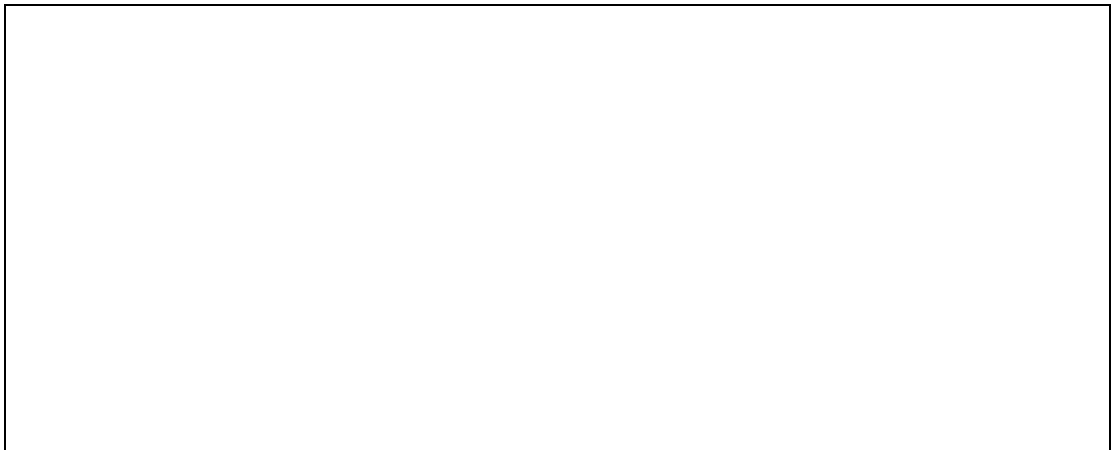
i) What are righteous principles in responding to enemies (Pro. 24:17; Pro. 25:21-22)?



j) Why is humility important (Pro. 16:5, 18-19; Pro. 21:24; Pro. 25:27; Pro. 27:1-2; Pro. 30:12-13)?



k) What are important principles to remember in connection with wine (Pro. 20:1; Pro. 23:20-21, 29-35; Pro. 31:4-7)?



l) What are important instructions in raising children (Pro. 20:11; Pro. 22:6, 15)?

m) What are God's principles related to parents (Pro. 20:20)?

3. Personal application

a) How do you treat animals?

b) How do you assess risks to make good decisions?

c) How do you control your temper?

d) In which ways are you bringing harmony to relationships?

e) How do you treat your parents?

4. Prayer response

Our loving Father in heaven

Thank you for the ability of Your Word to guide me in Your righteousness in every area and relation. Help me to study these principles so that I may apply your commandments in all my relationships and choices. Amen.

SESSION 12: WORDS OF WISDOM

1. Key Scripture

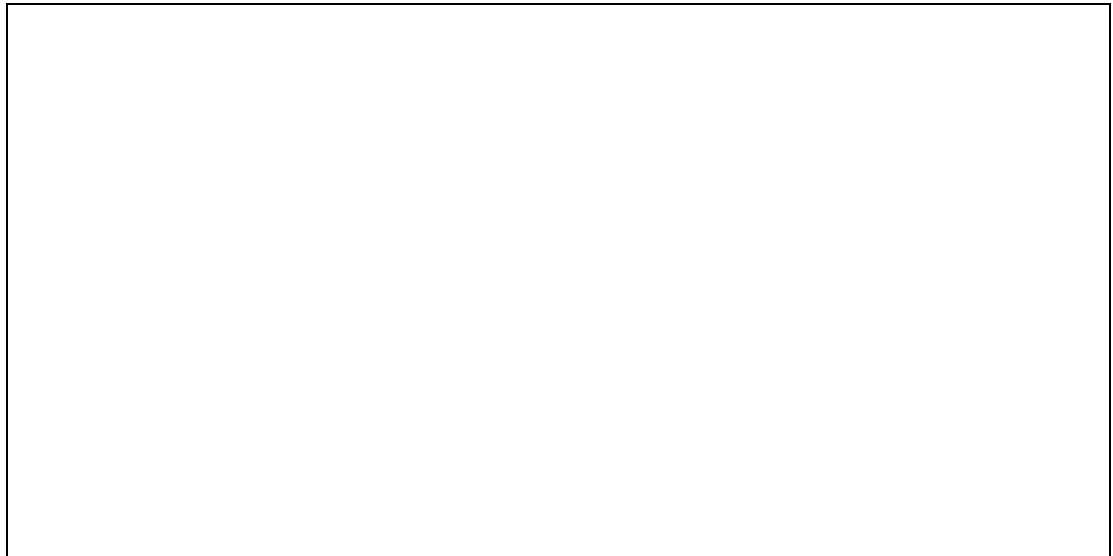
- a) Proverbs 12: 6, 13, 17, 19, 20, 22
- b) Proverbs 13:3-3
- c) Proverbs 14: 5,7,21, 25
- d) Proverbs 15:1, 4, 7, 23,26, 28
- e) Proverbs 16:1, 21, 23
- f) Proverbs 18:4, 6-8, 20-21
- g) Proverbs 25:11-12,15,18

2. Let's reflect

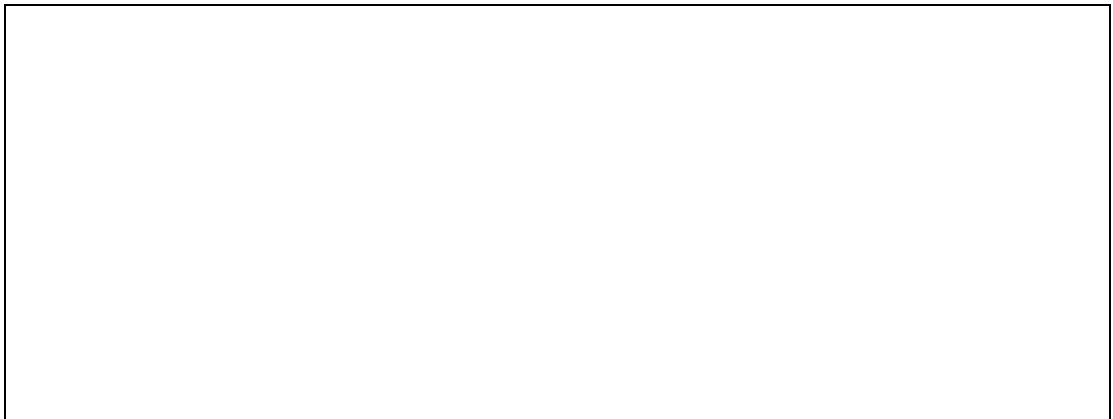
- a) What is the source of wise words (Pro. 16:1, 23)?

- b) What can wise words accomplish as oppose to grievous words (Pro. 15:1, 4; Pro. 16:21, 23-24; Pro. 18:20-21; Pro. 25:11-12, 15, 23)?

- c) How are the words of the wise described as opposed to the words of fools (Pro. 12:6, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22; Pro. 13:3-4; Pro. 14:5, 7, 21; Pro. 15:2, 7, 23; 28; Pro. 16:27, 30; Pro. 18:4,6-8; Pro. 21:6)?



- d) How is a truthful witness described as oppose to a false witness (Pro. 14:5, 25; Pro. 25:18)?



- e) How do the Lord view the words of the pure in comparison to the words of the wicked (Pro. 12:19, 22; Pro. 15:26)?



3. Personal application

a) What is your personal attitude towards the Word of God?

b) How seriously do you regard the application of the Word of God to your life?

c) How diligent are you in applying the Word of God?

d) In which ways can you testify about the blessing of obedience?

4. Prayer response

Our holy Father in heaven

Thank you for the gift of Your Word, teaching us to use wise words. Guide me so that my words may be like a stream of fresh water - sparkling, fresh, pure and life-giving. Amen.