

## Lady Wisdom

The opening verses of Proverbs explain the purpose of the book: *“To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice and equity...”* (1:2-3). Wisdom has the power to give prudence to the simple and knowledge to the youth (v. 4), the ability to increase the learning of the wise (v. 5), and the gift of understanding (v. 6). Ultimately, the purpose of Proverbs and the pursuit of wisdom is to choose the way of God instead of the foolish ways of sin. Proverbs 1:7 is somewhat of a “thesis statement” of the book: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* (A great memory verse by the way!)



After these opening verses which form a sort of prologue, the rest of chapters 1-9 form a section of advice given by Solomon as a father to his son. To urge his son towards wisdom, Solomon personifies wisdom as a lady to be desired and loved. This helps to be a memorable way of learning wisdom. As a person is a multi-faceted individual, so are there many facets to wisdom. Personifying wisdom helps in making these lessons attractive and desirable. And personifying wisdom allows Solomon to also personify immorality and folly, and thus demonstrate how one should pursue “Lady Wisdom” instead of the immoral and evil “Lady folly.”

This is a wonderful section that teaches about rebuke, morality, choosing proper friends, and many other lessons that are needed by all people, but especially young men and women. Let us all choose to pursue and love Lady Wisdom!

# “That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



## Proverbs 1-10 The Way of Wisdom

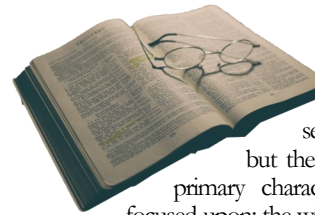
### Overview

This week we return to the poetic wisdom literature of the Old Testament! Alongside Psalms, the book of Proverbs is likely one of the most cherished and well-read sections of the Old Testament. The wisdom contained within its pages is timeless, and even though it is part of the Old Testament, its teachings provide wonderful counsel and guidance to New Testament Christians.

While Proverbs is applicable to everyone, it has a special appeal to the young. The first several chapters (1-9) are a section of poems personifying wisdom (Lady Wisdom). This is done by a father for his son (1:8). Young people (who might be the “simple” mentioned through Proverbs) need guidance, and because of their inexperience they are prone to follow the path of folly and sin. Thus, Proverbs is an excellent resource for young Christians seeking to choose the path of righteousness, and for parents who wish to guide their children towards the way of godly wisdom!

### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Proverbs 1-2  
Tuesday: Proverbs 3-4  
Wednesday: Proverbs 5-6  
Thursday: Proverbs 7-8  
Friday: Proverbs 9-10



### The Characters of Proverbs

Proverbs describes several types of people, but there are essentially three primary character types which are focused upon: the wise, the foolish, and the simple. The wise are those who accept, trust in, and obey God’s Word. Wisdom is not so much about secular knowledge, but about reverential fear of the Lord. It is the wise who are righteous, upright, prudent, etc.. The fool is the one who stubbornly rejects God’s Word, and walks his own path. There are different types of fools mentioned throughout Proverbs, all of whom possess attitudes and characteristics God’s children should avoid. It is the fool who ends up wicked, lazy, evil, etc. Lastly, there is the simple. This may seem derogatory, but it is the simple who Proverbs is really written for. This is one who has not chosen a path yet. Their nature inclines them to be susceptible to the ways of the fool, but there is still hope for them if they will listen to wisdom and choose its path. Which of these character types describes you? Have you chosen the path of wisdom?

### The Authors of Proverbs

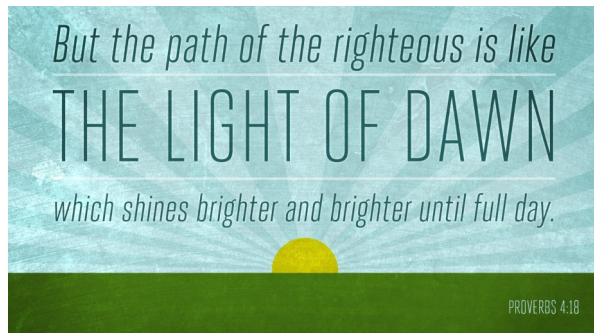
Solomon is the primary author of Proverbs, as stated in Pro. 1:1. This shouldn’t surprise us, for he was especially gifted with wisdom. First Kings 4:32 says Solomon spoke over 3,000 proverbs, and surely many of those are recorded in Old Testament book we love. There do seem to be some others that may have contributed to this book, however.

Similar to Psalms, Proverbs is more of a set of collections that one continuous work. Proverbs 1 through 22:16 are two collections from Solomon. Proverbs 22:17—24:34 are simply noted as “sayings of the wise.” Perhaps these were wise sayings collected and adapted by Solomon. Chapters 25-29 are more sayings of Solomon, and chapter 30 is ascribed as “Sayings of Agur.” Lastly, chapter 31 is ascribed to “King Lemuel.” Scholars disagree as to who Lemuel is—some saying it is Solomon, others arguing it not. Either way, the Holy Spirit provided us with this wonderful chapter, which contains the beautiful teaching about the virtuous woman.



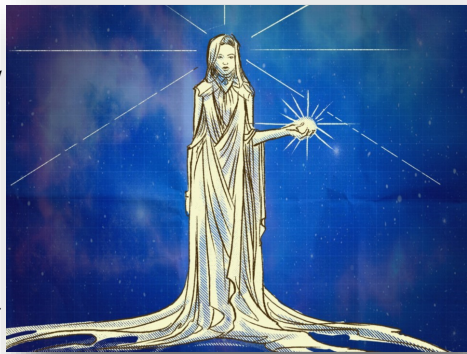
Instead of questions this week, try this activity: After reading each chapter, try and summarize the teaching in your own words. You might even want to break chapters down into smaller sections.

Also, try to pick out one verse from every chapter as a memory verse to work on. This may take some work, but imagine how helpful it would be to have a storehouse of Proverbs held in your heart!



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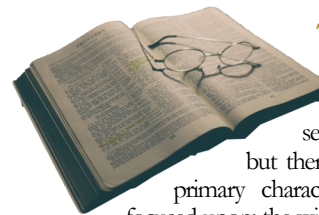
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