

FIRST DAY:

- **Review the lecture, Read the notes and the references**

SECOND DAY:

Read Proverbs 1

Prologue: Purpose and Theme

[Pr 1:1] The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

[2] for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;

[3] for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;

[4] for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—

[5] let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—

[6] for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

[7] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Exhortations to Embrace Wisdom

Warning Against Enticement

[8] Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

[9] They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

[10] My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them.

[11] If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul;

[12] let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

[13] we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder;

[14] throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"—

[15] my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;

[16] for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

[17] How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds!

[18] These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves!

[19] Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it.

Warning Against Rejecting Wisdom

[20] Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares;

[21] at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:

[22] "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?"

[23] If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.

[24] But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand,

[25] since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke,

[26] I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you —

[27] when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

[28] "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me.

[29] Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD,

[30] since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,

[31] they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

[32] For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them;

[33] but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

THIRD DAY**Read Proverbs 14 and 16**

[14:1] The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

[2] He whose walk is upright fears the LORD, but he whose ways are devious despises him.

[3] A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.

[4] Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest.

[5] A truthful witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies. [6] The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning.

[7] Stay away from a foolish man, for you will not find knowledge on his lips.

[8] The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

[9] Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.

[10] Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.

[11] The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tent of the upright will flourish.

[12] There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

[13] Even in laughter the heart may ache, and joy may end in grief.

[14] The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good man rewarded for his.

[15] A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

[16] A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

[17] A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.

[18] The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

[19] Evil men will bow down in the presence of the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

[20] The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.

[21] He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.

[22] Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.

[23] All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

[24] The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly.

[25] A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.

[26] He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

[27] The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

[28] A large population is a king's glory, but without subjects a prince is ruined.

[29] A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

[30] A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

[31] He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

[32] When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous have a refuge.

[33] Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known.

[34] Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

[35] A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant incurs his wrath.

Proverbs 16

[16:1] To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue.

[2] All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

[3] Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

[4] The LORD works out everything for his own ends— even the wicked for a day of disaster.

[5] The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

[6] Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.

[7] When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

[8] Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

[9] In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

[10] The lips of a king speak as an oracle, and his mouth should not betray justice.

[11] Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; all the weights in the bag are of his making.

[12] Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness.

[13] Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.

[14] A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will appease it.

[15] When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.

[16] How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!

[17] The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life.

[18] Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

[19] Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

[20] Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

[21] The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.

[22] Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools.

[23] A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

[24] Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

[25] There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death.

[26] The laborer's appetite works for him; his hunger drives him on.

[27] A scoundrel plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.

[28] A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

[29] A violent man entices his neighbor and leads him down a path that is not good.

[30] He who winks with his eye is plotting perversity; he who purses his lips is bent on evil.

[31] Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.

[32] Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

[33] The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

FOURTH DAY

Read Proverbs 28 and 29

[28:1] The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

[2] When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a man of understanding and knowledge maintains order.

[3] A ruler who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no crops.

[4] Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law resist them.

[5] Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.

[6] Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

[7] He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.

[8] He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor.

[9] If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

[10] He who leads the upright along an evil path will fall into his own trap, but the blameless will receive a good inheritance.

[11] A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.

[12] When the righteous triumph, there is great elation; but when the wicked rise to power, men go into hiding.

[13] He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

[14] Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

[15] Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people.

[16] A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment, but he who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long life.

[17] A man tormented by the guilt of murder will be a fugitive till death; let no one support him.

[18] He whose walk is blameless is kept safe, but he whose ways are perverse will suddenly fall.

[19] He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.

[20] A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

[21] To show partiality is not good — yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread.

[22] A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.

[23] He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

[24] He who robs his father or mother and says, “It’s not wrong”— he is partner to him who destroys.

[25] A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

[26] He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

[27] He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

[28] When the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding; but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive.

Proverbs 29

[29:1] A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed —without remedy.

[2] When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.

[3] A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

[4] By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down.

[5] Whoever flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his feet.

[6] An evil man is snared by his own sin, but a righteous one can sing and be glad.

[7] The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

[8] Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.

[9] If a wise man goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace.

[10] Bloodthirsty men hate a man of integrity and seek to kill the upright.

[11] A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

[12] If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.

[13] The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives sight to the eyes of both.

[14] If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will always be secure.

[15] The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

[16] When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous will see their downfall.

[17] Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

[18] Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

[19] A servant cannot be corrected by mere words; though he understands, he will not respond.

[20] Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

[21] If a man pampers his servant from youth, he will bring grief in the end.

[22] An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

[23] A man’s pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

[24] The accomplice of a thief is his own enemy; he is put under oath and dare not testify.

[25] Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

[26] Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that man gets justice.

[27] The righteous detest the dishonest; the wicked detest the upright.

FIFTH DAY:**Read Proverbs 30-31****Sayings of Agur**

[30:1] The sayings of Agur son of Jakeh—an oracle: This man declared to Ithiel, to Ithiel and to Ucal:

[2] “I am the most ignorant of men; I do not have a man’s understanding.

[3] I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

[4] Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands?

Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know!

[5] “Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

[6] Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

[7] “Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:

[8] Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread.

[9] Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

[10] “Do not slander a servant to his master, or he will curse you, and you will pay for it.

[11] “There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers;

[12] those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth;

[13] those whose eyes are ever so haughty; whose glances are so disdainful;

[14] those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind.

[15] “The leech has two daughters. ‘Give! Give!’ they cry. “There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, ‘Enough!’:

[16] the grave, the barren womb, land, which is never satisfied with water, and fire, which never says, ‘Enough!’

[17] “The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.

[18] “There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand:

[19] the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a maiden.

[20] “This is the way of an adulteress: She eats and wipes her mouth and says, ‘I’ve done nothing wrong.’

[21] “Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up:

[22] a servant who becomes king, a fool who is full of food,

[23] an unloved woman who is married, and a maidservant who displaces her mistress.

[24] “Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise:

[25] Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;

[26] coneys are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags;

[27] locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks;

[28] a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings’ palaces.

[29] “There are three things that are stately in their stride, four that move with stately bearing:

[30] a lion, mighty among beasts, who retreats before nothing;

[31] a strutting rooster, a he-goat, and a king with his army around him.

[32] “If you have played the fool and exalted yourself, or if you have planned evil, clap your hand over your mouth!

[33] For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife.”

Proverbs 31**Sayings of King Lemuel**

[31:1] The sayings of King Lemuel—an oracle his mother taught him:

[2] “O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows,

[3] do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings.

[4] “It is not for kings, O Lemuel— not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer,

[5] lest they drink and forget what the law decrees and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.

[6] Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish;

[7] let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.

[8] “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

[9] Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Epilogue: The Wife of Noble Character

[10] A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

[11] Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

[12] She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

[13] She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.

[14] She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.

[15] She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls.

[16] She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

[17] She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

[18] She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

[19] In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

[20] She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

[21] When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

[22] She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

[23] Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

[24] She makes linen garments and sells them and supplies the merchants with sashes.

[25] She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

[26] She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

[27] She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

[28] Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

[29] “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

[30] Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

[31] Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Sixth Day

Review Proverbs 1, 14, 16, 28, 29, 30, 31.
(See above scriptures)