

Iron Sharpening: A Study of the Proverbs
Men's Bible Study: Friday Mornings 6:15 @ Braum's (1-35 and 15th)

Primary Texts:

Bible

Dan Phillips – *God's Wisdom in Proverbs* (pages)

I. Introduction to Proverbs

Week 1: Authorship (1-11, 317-336) [Prov. 1:1]

Week 2: Structure & Style of Proverbs (11-25)

Week 3: Types of Proverbs (26-33)

Week 4: Design and Benefits of Proverbs (35-48) [Prov. 1:2-3]

Week 5: Design and Benefits of Proverbs II (48-64) [Prov. 1:4-6]

Scripture Examples for Study

[Solomon – 1Kings 2:1-4; 3:1-15; 4:29-34]

[narrative vs. poetry – Ex. 14:21-15:12]

[examples from Prov. 16]

[Lady Wisdom – Prov. 8]

[Lady Folly – Prov. 9:13-18]

II. The Foundation of Wisdom

Week 6: What does the Fear of *Yahweh* Involve? (65-83)

Week 7: The Benefits of the Fear of *Yahweh* (83-92)

Week 8: The Opposite of the Fear of *Yahweh* (93-106)

Week 9: Seeking Wisdom (107-120) [Prov. 2:1-4]

Week 10: Finding Wisdom (120-126) [Prov. 2:5-6]

[Jonah and the mariners – Jon. 1:7-16]

[Egyptian midwives – Ex. 1:15-22]

[Pharaoh – Ex. 9:22-35]

[Ezra – Ez. 7:1-10; Neh. 8:1-13]

[Wisdom found – Prov. 2:7-22]

III. Wisdom in Relating to God

Week 11: Trusting Him (127-141) [Prov.3:5]

Week 12: Knowing Him (141-150) [Prov. 3:6]

Week 13: Worshipping Him (150-160)

[Hezekiah – 2Kings 18:1-8]

[Unfaithful Israel – Judg. 2:6-23; Hab. 2:4]

[Cain & Abel – Gen. 4:1-7]

IV. Wisdom in Godly Relationships

Week 14: Friends: Too Few & Too Many (161-167)

Week 15: What to Seek and Cherish in Friends (167-172)

Week 16: What to Beware and Avoid (172-176)

Week 17: Pitfalls to Relationships (176-186)

[King Jehoshaphat – 2Chr. 17-20]

[King Joash – 2Chr. 24]

[King Rehoboam – 1Kings 12]

[Lot – Gen. 13:10-13; 2Pet. 2:7-8]

V. Wisdom in Godly Marriage

Week 18: Foundation of Marriage and Family (187-201)

Week 19: The Husband (201-214)

Week 20: Staying away from the Immoral Woman [Prov. 5-7]

Week 21: Characteristics of a Wise Wife (214-224)

Week 22: Characteristics of a Foolish Wife (224-241)

[Adam & Eve – Gen. 2-3]

[Christ & the Church – Eph. 5:22-33]

[David & Bathsheba – 2Sam. 11; Ps. 51]

[Abigail – 1Sam. 25]

[Job's wife – Job 2:9-10]

VI. Wisdom in Godly Child-Training

Week 23: God's Design for the Family (244-253)

Week 24: Stakes in Child-training: the Good News (253-261)

Week 25: Stakes in Child-training: the Bad News (261-273)

Week 26: The Rod (273-288)

Week 27: The Reproof (288-298)

Week 28: A Final Warning: Proverbs 22:6 (299-306, 354-379)

[Mal. 2:13-16; Ps. 127; Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4]

[2John & 3John]

[Joel & Abijah – 1Sam. 8:1-9]

[Hophni & Phinehas – 1Sam. 3-4]

[Timothy – 2Tim. 1:5; 3:10-16]

[Judg. 21:25]

VII. Wisdom in Daily Living

Week 29: Wisdom in the Workplace I – Prov. 6:6-11; Eccl. 2:24-26 [Temple Builders – 2Chr. 24:8-14]

Week 30: Wisdom in the Workplace II – Prov. 27:18

[Bondservants & Masters – Col. 3:22-4:1]

Week 31: Wisdom in our Finances – Prov. 3:9-10

[The Poor Widow – Mark 12:41-44]

Week 32: Wisdom in our Planning – Prov. 4:25-27

[Eve – Gen. 3:1-7]

VII. A Word to the Wise

Week 33: Review (307-316)

----- Flip over for a list of important Hebrew words in Proverbs and other exegetical helps ----->

Important Hebrew words in opening chapters of Proverbs and their meanings (verbs in gray) (yellow is what Solomon asked of <i>Yahweh</i>)				
Hebrew	Transliterated	Translation (ESV)	Meaning	Reference
לֵב שִׁמְעַ	<i>lev shomea</i>	understanding mind	listening, hearing with a mind to obey	1Kings 3:9
יָדַע	<i>yada</i>	know	an encounter, relationship with the truth; a personal and experiential knowledge, not just intellectual	Prov. 1:2; 3:6
חִכְמָה	<i>chokmah</i>	wisdom	skill for living in the fear of <i>yahweh</i>	Prov. 1:2, 7; 2:6
מוֹסָר	<i>musar</i>	instruction	correction which results in education	Prov. 1:2, 7
בִּין	<i>bin</i>	understand	to discern (between), to show penetrating insight	Prov. 1:2; 2:5
אִמְרֵי בִינָה	<i>imre vinah</i>	words of insight	related to the verb <i>bin</i> above	Prov. 1:2
לָקַח	<i>laqach</i>	receive	to take, acquire, receive	Prov. 1:3; 2:1
מוֹסָר הַשְּׂבִיל	<i>musar haskel</i>	instruction in wise dealing	intelligent, disciplined strength of character	Prov. 1:3
עֲרֻמָּה	<i>ormah</i>	prudence	cleverness, savvy, shrewdness	Prov. 1:4
דַּעַת	<i>daath</i>	knowledge	personal, experiential, relational knowledge (related to the verb <i>yada</i> above)	Prov. 1:4, 7; 2:5, 6
מְזֻמָּה	<i>mezimamah</i>	discretion	the power of making successful plans	Prov. 1:4
שָׁמַע	<i>shama</i>	hear	listening, hearing with a mind to obey	Prov. 1:5
לָקַח	<i>leqach</i>	learning	receiving, adding to, hoarding up the repository of the education (see the verb <i>laqach</i> above)	Prov. 1:5
קָנָה	<i>qanah</i>	obtain	to acquire, to possess as one's own	Prov. 1:5
תַּחְבּוּלוֹת	<i>tachbuloth</i>	guidance	a steering (as of a ship) by pulling the ropes, navigational skills, charting life's course	Prov. 1:5
צָפַן	<i>tsaphan</i>	treasure up	hide, keep, save, treasure up	Prov. 2:1
קָשַׁב	<i>qashav</i>	make attentive	to be rapt, absorbed, captivated	Prov. 2:2
נָטָה	<i>natah</i>	incline	incline, turn (requiring decision and effort)	Prov. 2:2
לֵב	<i>lev</i>	heart	inner man, mind will heart	Prov. 2:2; 3:5
תְּבוּנָה	<i>tevunah</i>	understanding	understanding, insight, discernment (related to <i>bin</i> above)	Prov. 2:2, 3, 6
בִּינָה	<i>binah</i>	insight	(related to <i>bin</i> above)	Prov. 2:3; 3:5
מִשְׁכִּיל	<i>maskil</i>	give thought	give attention to, consider, ponder with an emphasis on the attentive observation, of perception and scrutiny, through which one becomes insightful (related noun means 'poem')	Prov. 16:20
בָּטַח	<i>batach</i>	trust	placing confidence in someone or something to gain firm and solid well-being and security (LXX-"hope")	Prov. 16:20; 3:5
יְהוָה	<i>yahweh</i>	LORD	personal NAME of the Creator God, probably derived from the verb " <i>hayah</i> " (to be)	Prov. 3:5
שָׁעַן	<i>shaan</i>	lean on	to lean on as a staff, figuratively to rely on, to trust	Prov. 3:5
דֶּרֶךְ	<i>derek</i>	way	way, a path worn by constant walking; figuratively the actions or behaviors of men	Prov. 3:6
יָשַׁר	<i>yashar</i>	make straight	to go straight or direct in the way; figuratively straight = morally and spiritually upright	Prov. 3:6

Hebrew verb stems: (verbs in gray above)

- Qal** – simple or basic stem, active in voice
- Niphal** – simple action in passive voice
- Piel** – intensive action in active voice
- Pual** – intensive action in passive voice
- Hiphil** – causative action in active voice
- Hophal** – causative action in passive voice
- Hithpael** – intensive action in reflexive voice

Major types of Proverbs:

- Synonymous** – Line B rewords the thought of Line A
- Antithetical** – Line B contrasts with Line A (but)
- Comparison** – Line A is like Line B (like, as)
- Evaluation** – Line A is better than Line B (better)
- Consequence** – Line B is what happens when you do Line A
- Synthetic** – Line B builds on the thought of Line A