



PROVERBS

Teach Your Children Wisdom

July 7, 2024

1. Introduction to Proverbs

A. Proverbs are principles, not promises.

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
Proverbs 10:4 (ESV)

B. Solomon is the primary author of Proverbs.

And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore,... For he was wiser than all other men...
1 Kings 4:29-31 (ESV)

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.
1 Kings 11:1-2 (ESV)

C. Jesus is wisdom personified.

The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.
Matthew 12:42 (ESV)

(Jesus) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
Colossians 2:3 (ESV)

2. How do I teach my children wisdom?

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,
Proverbs 3:1 (ESV)

Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight,
Proverbs 4:1 (ESV)

A. Teach my children to fear God.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge... Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,... Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow; he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.
Psalm 7:12–13 (ESV)

...the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.
Proverbs 3:12 (NIV)

The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.
Proverbs 10:27 (ESV)

The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death. Proverbs 14:27 (ESV)

Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.
Proverbs 15:16 (ESV)

B. Teach my children to guard their minds.

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)

I will set before my eyes no vile thing... Psalm 101:3 (NIV84)

I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?
Job 31:1 (ESV)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

...take every thought captive to obey Christ, 2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. Mark 7:21–22 (ESV)

C. Teach my children to obey their parents.

My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, Proverbs 6:20–23 (ESV)

The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures. Proverbs 30:17 (ESV)

Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.
Ephesians 6:2–3 (ESV)

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. Proverbs 13:24 (ESV)

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.

Proverbs 23:13–14 (ESV)

D. Teach my children how to select their friends.

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals. 1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)

...Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

1 Corinthians 5:6 (ESV)

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. Proverbs 1:10 (ESV)

If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason;... we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse”— my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood... These men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. Proverbs 1:11–18 (ESV)

E. Teach my children to control their lusts.

...flee youthful passions... 2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)

For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; Proverbs 5:3–5 (ESV)

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; none who touches her will go unpunished... He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. Proverbs 6:27–32 (ESV)

For at the window of my house I have looked out through my lattice, and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense, passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness. Proverbs 7:6–9 (ESV)

And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart... I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen; I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love. Proverbs 7:10, 16–18 (ESV)

With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him. All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life. Proverbs 7:21–23 (ESV)

F. Teach my children to get married and enjoy their spouse.

Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.

Proverbs 5:15 (ESV)

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? Proverbs 5:18–20 (ESV)

G. Teach my children to watch their words.

Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. Proverbs 4:24 (ESV)

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Proverbs 12:18 (ESV)

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight. Proverbs 12:22 (ESV)

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent. Proverbs 10:19 (ESV)

H. Teach my children the value of hard work.

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. Proverbs 6:6–8 (ESV)

How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man. Proverbs 6:9–11 (ESV)

Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men. Proverbs 22:29 (ESV)

I. Teach my children to manage their money.

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9–10 (ESV)

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Proverbs 11:24 (ESV)

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17 (ESV)

Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live. Proverbs 15:27 (ESV)

J. Teach my children to love people.

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you. Proverbs 3:27–28 (ESV)

If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. Proverbs 25:21–22 (ESV)