



**MBSF**

**Book of Proverbs**

**2023**

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## **Prologue and Warnings - Proverbs 1:1-33**

### **Open It**

1. Who is the wisest person you know?
2. What makes a person foolish or wise?

### **Explore It**

1. Who wrote this section of Proverbs? (1:1)
2. Where does wisdom come from? (1:7)
3. About what sort of enticements did Solomon warn us? (1:8-19)
4. How does wisdom treat those who reject her? (1:24-27)
5. What is the result of accepting wisdom? (1:33)

### **Get It**

1. How is the fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge?
2. What does it mean to fear the Lord?

### **Apply It**

What is one thing you can do to seek wisdom?

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## **Moral Benefits of Wisdom - Proverbs 2:1-22**

### **Open It**

1. Why do people engage in habits that they know will hurt them?
2. What is something you have diligently pursued in life?

### **Explore It**

1. What did Solomon encourage us to do? Why? (2:1-5)
2. How should we look for wisdom? (2:4)
3. What does the Lord do for the upright? (2:7-8)
4. What results from being seduced by an adulteress? (2:18-19)
5. What will happen to the upright and to the wicked? (2:20-22)

### **Get It**

1. Why do people pursue sin when they know it will destroy them?
2. In what way is wisdom like hidden treasure?

### **Apply It**

What is one way you can make wisdom your shield?

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## Further Benefits of Wisdom - Proverbs 3:1-35

### Open It

1. What makes someone successful in life?
2. What is your most valuable possession?

### Explore It

1. What should we do and not do? Why? (3:1-2)
2. What benefits of wisdom did Solomon mention? (3:1-35)
3. What is the relationship between wisdom and personal health? (3:8, 24)
4. How did Solomon describe wisdom and its benefits? (3:13-18)
5. Why shouldn't we envy a violent person? (3:31-32)

### Get It

1. What do we need to do to receive the benefits of wisdom?
2. What is the relationship between wisdom and personal success?

### Apply It

What one thing can you do today to give wisdom its proper place in your life?

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## **Wisdom Is Supreme - Proverbs 4:1-27**

### **Open It**

1. What's one of the best pieces of advice your parents ever gave you?
2. In your opinion what is the most important thing parents can teach their children?

### **Explore It**

1. Why should the reader listen to Solomon? (4:1-2)
2. What did Solomon's father say would happen if he kept his commandments? (4:3-4)
3. What is the value of listening to instruction? (4:13)
4. How do the path of the righteous and the way of the wicked differ? (4:18-19)
5. What did Solomon say about perversity and corrupt talk? (4:24)

### **Get It**

1. What can we learn from our parents?
2. Why is it difficult to listen to instruction?

### **Apply It**

What is something you can do to guard your heart today?

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## **Warning against Adultery - Proverbs 5:1-23**

### **Open It**

1. In what way have you found society encourages or discourages personal discipline?
2. What makes a good marriage work?

### **Explore It**

1. What is this chapter about? (5:1-23)
2. Where do the steps of an adulteress lead? (5:5)
3. What thought does an adulteress give to the long-term consequences of her way of life? (5:6)
4. What happens to the person who does not stay away from the adulteress? (5:11-14)
5. What is one of the reasons a person should stay faithful to his or her spouse? (5:21)

### **Get It**

1. How can adultery destroy a person's life?
2. What can we do to avoid being enticed by adultery?

### **Apply It**

What steps can you take to guard against sexual temptation?

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# **Warnings against Folly and Adultery - Proverbs 6:1-35**

## **Open It**

1. When was the last time you committed yourself to doing something without really thinking about it?
2. What do you think makes it hard to live a disciplined life-style in our society?

## **Explore It**

1. What title would you give to this chapter? (6:1-35)
2. What should we observe, and why? (6:6-8)
3. What happens to sluggards? (6:9-11)
4. How did Solomon describe these commands and teachings? (6:23)
5. How did Solomon distinguish stealing and adultery? (6:30-35)

## **Get It**

1. What can we learn from the ant?
2. What is the difference between laziness and leisure?

## **Apply It**

In what one area of your life will you make an effort to be more disciplined this week?

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## **Warnings against the Adulteress - Proverbs 7:1-27**

### **Open It**

1. What makes sex such a powerful advertising tool?
2. What does our society's obsession with sex tell you about our society?

### **Explore It**

1. What did Solomon urge us to do with his advice? (7:1-5)
2. Whom did Solomon see outside his window? (7:6-7)
3. How did Solomon describe the woman who came out to meet the youth? (7:10-12)
4. What did the adulterous woman do to the youth? (7:21)
5. Why did Solomon tell young men to avoid the adulteress? (7:24-27)

### **Get It**

1. What does it mean to lack judgment?
2. How is each person to blame in an immoral relationship?

### **Apply It**

What specific steps can you take to guard against temptations?

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## Wisdom's Call - Proverbs 8:1-36

### Open It

1. Who or what sorts of things compete for people's attention and loyalty these days?
2. What one possession do you value more than any other?

### Explore It

1. How was wisdom depicted by Solomon? (8:1-3)
2. To whom does wisdom cry out? (8:4-5)
3. To what are wisdom, instruction, and knowledge compared? (8:10-11)
4. Who uses wisdom? (8:15-16)
5. Whom does wisdom love? (8:17)

### Get It

1. In what way is wisdom like precious metals and stones?
2. How is wisdom better than precious metals and stones?

### Apply It

What is something that you have mistakenly valued more than wisdom that you want to restore to its proper place?

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## **Invitations of Wisdom and Folly - Proverbs 9:1-18**

### **Open It**

1. Why do you think some people fall prey to false or deceptive sales tactics?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having lack of judgement or experience?

### **Explore It**

1. How did Wisdom build her house? (9:1)
2. What did Wisdom encourage the simple to do? (9:6)
3. How did Solomon depict Folly? (9:13-15)
4. What invitation did Folly issue, and to whom did she issue it? (9:16)
5. What did Solomon say about Folly's guests? (9:18)

### **Get It**

1. In what way is it dangerous to be naive?
2. How can we be careful to avoid Folly's enticements?

### **Apply It**

What is one step you can take today to pursue wisdom rather than folly?

[illegible]

## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 10:1-32**

### **Open It**

1. Who was the last person to say something encouraging to you?
2. Who is a popular television or movie character you would characterize as being really wicked or evil?

### **Explore It**

1. Who wrote these proverbs? (10:1)
2. How did Solomon describe the wise person? (10:1-32)
3. What did Solomon say about the mouth of the righteous and the wicked? (10:11, 13, 14)
4. How are hatred and love different? (10:12)
5. What did Solomon say about the tongue, the lips, and words? (10:18-21, 31-32)

### **Get It**

1. What does it mean to use our lips, mouth, tongue, and words wisely?
2. How can you nourish another person with your words?

### **Apply It**

What is one way that you can change in order to live more wisely?

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## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 11:1-31**

### **Open It**

1. Who is someone famous you would describe as being a proud person?
2. About what do people usually like to gossip?

### **Explore It**

1. What types of people are discussed in this chapter? (11:1-31)
2. How did Solomon describe the upright, or blameless, person? (11:3-6)
3. How did Solomon contrast the life of the righteous person with the life of the wicked person? (11:7-11)
4. About what fact did Solomon say we can be sure? (11:21)
5. What is the result of trusting in money? (11:28)

### **Get It**

1. In what way do righteous people and wicked people generally get what they deserve?
2. Why are people tempted to trust in riches?

### **Apply It**

What can you do to improve a righteous attitude and character in your life?

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## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 12:1-28**

### **Open It**

1. Why do people gamble and play the lottery?
2. What do you think of people who work hard?

### **Explore It**

1. What does the person who loves discipline also love? (12:1)
2. How did Solomon distinguish a wife of noble character from a disgraceful one? (12:4)
3. What is the result of sinful talk? (12:13)
4. How do the diligent and the lazy person differ? (12:24, 27)
5. What kind of worker is a righteous person? (12:27)

### **Get It**

1. How is your life characterized by diligence or laziness?
2. In what areas do you need to work harder or more diligently?

### **Apply It**

What is one step you will take to use words to heal and encourage others?

## Notes

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## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 13:1-25

### Open It

1. What is something you crave?
2. Why do you think parents should or should not spank their children?

### Explore It

1. What do the unfaithful crave? (13:2)
2. How should we and should we not use money? (13:7)
3. What advantage does a person have who is poor? (13:8)
4. How should a person accumulate wealth? (13:11)
5. What is the person who loves his or her child careful to do? (13:24)

### Get It

1. Why is guarding one's own lips so difficult to do?
2. How do wise teachings turn a person from death?

### Apply It

What is one specific step you will take to guard what you say?

[illegible]

## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 14:1-35**

### **Open It**

1. When do you tend to act without thinking?
2. Why are we tempted to believe the promises in television commercials even when we know they are either untrue or exaggerations?

### **Explore It**

1. On what general areas of life do these verses touch? (14:1-35)
2. What is the difference between a truthful witness and a false witness? (14:5, 25)
3. Where does the way that seems right lead? (14:12)
4. To what does the prudent person give thought? (14:15)
5. What did Solomon say about the fear of the Lord? (14:26-27)

### **Get It**

1. What does it mean to give thought to one's steps?
2. How can we reflect on our steps in life?

### **Apply It**

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[illegible]

## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 15:1-33**

### **Open It**

1. What is something that makes you happy or brings you a lot of joy?
2. From whom is it difficult for you to take criticism? Why?

### **Explore It**

1. How do gentle answers and harsh words differ? (15:1)
2. What do we know about the person who hates and resists correction? (15:10, 12)
3. How do the hot-tempered person and the patient person differ? (15:18)
4. What does the heart of the righteous do with his or her answers? (15:28)
5. What comes before honor? (15:33)

### **Get It**

1. What type of person hates and resists correction?
2. Why must humility come before honor?

### **Apply It**

How did this chapter speak to your heart?

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## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 16:1-33

### Open It

1. What are some plans you have made?
2. How important do you think a person's motives are?

### Explore It

1. What is said in these proverbs about speech? (16:1-33)
2. What happens to the person who commits to the Lord what he or she does? (16:3)
3. What is better than gold and silver? (16:16)
4. What is so good about pleasant words? (16:24)
5. What does gossip do? (16:28)

### Get It

1. How do our plans and choices in life interact with God's plans and choices?
2. How can a person demonstrate commitment to the Lord?

### Apply It

What pleasant words can you speak today?

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## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 17:1-28**

### **Open It**

1. When was the last time you got into a really big argument with someone?
2. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Why?

### **Explore It**

1. When is dry crust better than feasting? (17:1)
2. How can friends build or tear down their friendship? (17:9)
3. What happens to the person who pays back evil for good? (17:13)
4. What does a friend always do? (17:17)
5. What is the benefit of holding one's tongue—even for the fool? (17:28)

### **Get It**

1. Why might it be easier to repeat a matter rather than to cover over it?
2. When is it hard to use words with restraint?

### **Apply It**

What is a step you can take to help you use words with proper restraint?

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## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 18:1-24**

### **Open It**

1. When have you written or been tempted to write something bad about someone?
2. What sorts of gossip did students in your school like to pass when you were younger?

### **Explore It**

1. What main topics are explored in these verses? (18:1-24)
2. In what does a fool delight? (18:2)
3. How does a fool's words affect his or her life? (18:6-7)
4. What is the value of listening? (18:13, 15, 17)
5. What's the difference between a person's closest friends and his or her larger group of friends? (18:24)

### **Get It**

1. Why do people like to share their opinions?
2. What can we do to put a rein on our tongue?

### **Apply It**

How can you use your tongue to help or encourage someone today?

[illegible]

## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 19:1-29**

### **Open It**

1. What have you been especially zealous about at one time in your life?
2. When do you think parents should or should not bail their children out of trouble?

### **Explore It**

1. What do these proverbs say about wealth and poverty? (19:1-29)
2. Why do we need knowledge? (19:2)
3. What's the danger of haste? (19:2)
4. What happens to the person who gets wisdom and understanding? (19:8)
5. To what does the fear of the Lord lead? (19:23)

### **Get It**

1. What is zeal without knowledge?
2. In what area of life do you need to temper your zeal with greater knowledge?

### **Apply It**

What emotionally-charged subject can you learn more about this week?

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## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 20:1-30**

### **Open It**

1. When have you made a commitment or purchase you later regretted?
2. How have you found it easier to understand other people than to understand yourself?

### **Explore It**

1. What is one hazard in drinking? (20:1)
2. What did Solomon say concerning the purposes of a person's heart? (20:5)
3. How does God affect our life? (20:24)
4. What does the Lord search? (20:27)
5. What is the glory of young men and old men? (20:29)

### **Get It**

1. Why is it hard to understand the deep purposes that motivate our thoughts and actions?
2. How is a person of understanding able to draw out the deep purposes of a person's heart?

### **Apply It**

What action can you take to gain a better understanding of the purposes that motivate and guide your life?

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## **Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 21:1-31**

### **Open It**

1. When have you learned from another person's punishment?
2. What sort of things do you crave?

### **Explore It**

1. What themes run through the proverbs in this chapter? (21:1-31)
2. What seems right to people? (21:2)
3. What's wrong with loving pleasure and wine? (21:17)
4. What did Solomon say about cravings? (21:25-26)
5. How are our plans affected by God's will? (21:30-31)

### **Get It**

1. What is the purpose of pleasure?
2. When is it hard for you to guard what you say?

### **Apply It**

In what way can you pursue righteousness and love?

[illegible]

## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 22:1-29

### Open It

1. What do people do to develop a good or bad reputation?
2. What is the best thing your parents or guardians taught you?

### Explore It

1. What is the value of a good name? (22:1)
2. What is the result of training a child properly? (22:6)
3. How do children become wise? (22:15)
4. What did Solomon say about cravings? (21:25-26)
5. Why did Solomon want the reader to listen to what he taught? (22:17-21)

### Get It

1. What is the purpose and goal of parenting?
2. In what ways are parents responsible or not responsible for the way their children turn out?

### Apply It

How can you take greater responsibility for something your parents taught you?

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## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 23:1-35

### Open It

1. What methods of punishment (for example, spanking or time out) did your parents use when you were growing up?
2. What foods do you (sometimes) crave?

### Explore It

1. What is deceptive? (23:1-3)
2. What did the author say about the food of the stingy person? (23:6-8)
3. What did the author encourage the reader to do? (23:17-18)
4. How did the author warn men about prostitutes? (23:26-28)
5. What was the author's advice concerning alcohol? Why? (23:29-35)

### Get It

1. How can food be deceptive?
2. What precautions or "survival tactics" should we practice with regard to alcohol?

### Apply It

How can you be generous rather than stingy with your possessions today?

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## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 24:1-34

### Open It

1. What gives you hope for the future?
2. What sort of people are envied in our society?

### Explore It

1. Whom did the author say not to envy? (24:1-2)
2. What does a person's response to hardship reveal? (24:10)
3. According to what will each person be repaid? (24:12)
4. Why should we not envy wicked people? (24:19-20)
5. What did the author learn from observing the field of the sluggard? (24:30-34)

### Get It

1. Why do we put off doing difficult or unpleasant tasks even when they are important?
2. What lessons can we learn from the life of the sluggard?

### Apply It

In what one area of your life in which you tend to be lazy do you want to make a concerted effort to be more diligent?

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## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 25:1-28

### Open It

1. In what ways have you been criticized lately?
2. In what way is it harder to lose a bad reputation than to earn a good reputation?

### Explore It

1. What relationships are explored in these proverbs? (25:1-28)
2. What should we not betray? Why? (25:9-10)
3. What did Solomon say about words? (25:11).
4. To what did Solomon compare a piece of advice to which someone listens? (25:12)
5. In what ways should a righteous person resist others? (25:26)

### Get It

1. What is difficult about giving advice or constructive criticism?
2. Why would gentle persuasion be better than harsh argumentation when trying to persuade someone?

### Apply It

How can you adjust your style of persuasion or criticism so that it is more gentle, effective, or appropriate?

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## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 26:1-28

### Open It

1. What characters that you're aware of from television, movies, or novels exemplify foolishness, laziness, and wickedness?.
2. What is the funniest practical joke you ever played on someone?

### Explore It

1. What three types of people did Solomon discuss in these proverbs? (26:1-28)
2. How did Solomon describe the fool? (26:6-11)
3. What did Solomon say about practical jokes? (26:18-19)
4. Why should we be suspicious of a wicked person's speech? (26:23-26)
5. What kind of damage can lying and flattery do? (26:28)

### Get It

1. Why is it dangerous to deceive someone else in fun?.
2. In what ways do we need to restrain our jokes and fun so that they are respectful of others?

### Apply It

What can you do to remind yourself to respect others in your fun and jokes?

[illegible]

## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 27:1-27

### Open It

1. Why is it helpful to have good friends?
2. What do you think is the most powerful emotion? Why?

### Explore It

1. Why shouldn't we boast about tomorrow? (27:1)
2. What is better than hidden love? (27:5)
3. How are friends and enemies different? (27:6)
4. In what way should we be loyal? (27:10)
5. Why did Solomon counsel us to give careful attention to our finances? (27:24)

### Get It

1. Why is jealousy such a powerful emotion?
2. How can friends "sharpen" one another?

### Apply It

What friend will you encourage with kind words or helpful counsel today?

[illegible]



## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 28:1-28

### Open It

1. What do you usually do when a street person or beggar asks you for money?
2. What sort of fantasies or desires do television commercials encourage people to pursue?

### Explore It

1. What topics are dealt with in these proverbs? (28:1-28)
2. What type of person is better than a rich person? (28:6)
3. What kind of poor person has the advantage over rich people? (28:11)
4. What promise applies to the person who chases fantasies? (28:19)
5. What should be our response to the needs of poor people? (28:27)

### Get It

1. Why do you think it is better to be poor and blameless than rich and perverse?
2. What does it mean to trust in one's self?

### Apply It

What is one thing you can do this week to help someone in need?

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## Proverbs of Solomon - Proverbs 29:1-27

### Open It

1. About what sort of issues do you tend to be stubborn?
2. What gets you mad?

### Explore It

1. What characters did Solomon talk about in these proverbs? (29:1-27)
2. How do the fool and the wise person deal with anger?
3. When do people cast off restraint? (29:18)
4. What did Solomon say about fear? (29:25)
5. From where do we get justice? (29:26)

### Get It

1. How do you vent your anger and frustration?
2. What is the right way to deal with anger?

### Apply It

How can you better manage the way in which you deal with or express anger?

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## Sayings of Agur - Proverbs 30:1-33

### Open It

1. What is something you enjoy or find fascinating about creation?
2. What have you learned by watching animals or some other part of creation?

### Explore It

1. Who wrote the proverbs in this chapter? (30:1)
2. What two things did the speaker ask of the Lord? Why? (30:7-9)
3. What four things are never satisfied? (30:15-16)
4. What four things are wise though small? (30:24-28)
5. What four things move with stately behavior? (30:29-31)

### Get It

1. What characteristics of God are implied by the speaker's questions and observations?
2. What do you find significant about the author's list of observations from nature?

### Apply It

When can you take the opportunity this week to go outside and observe God's creation?

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# Sayings of King Lemuel and Epilogue - Proverbs 31:1-31

## Open It

1. Why do you think physical beauty is so important to people?
2. Why do you think people should or should not drink alcoholic beverages?

## Explore It

1. Who wrote the proverbs in this chapter, and what process do they take? (31:1)
2. To whom did the author say to give beer and wine? Why? (31:6-7)
3. In what tasks does the honorable wife engage? (31:13-27)
4. How does the noble wife's family respond to her? (31:28)
5. What is deceptive and fleeting? (31:30)

## Get It

1. What are the dangers associated with alcoholic beverages?
2. What can we do to encourage wives and mothers in their God-given responsibilities?

## Apply It

How can you show appreciation to your mother or wife for her hard work and wisdom?

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.