

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
3RD-5TH GRADE
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 9

Proverbs 10:1-16



The Proverbs of Solomon

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To take each Proverb and demonstrate its application to the students' lives and to develop verse-by-verse study habits in the lives of the students.

Key Verses

Proverbs 10:1-16—Main Teaching Passage

Luke 6:31

James 1:19

Romans 6:23

Romans 3:23

Memory Verse - Proverbs 10:1

"A wise son brings joy to his father,
but a foolish son brings grief to his mother."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 1:7.

Take some time to define what a proverb is. A good, simple definition is: a short saying that expresses a general truth for practical, godly living.

Up to this point, we have been looking thematically at God's wisdom. We will now begin looking at individual proverbs and seeing how they apply to our lives.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Proverbs 10 begins the series of Solomon's proverbial sayings proper. Rather than giving us general themes about God's wisdom, he now asks us to look at these small chunks of truth and see how we can apply them to our lives. Today we will go verse-by-verse, but going forward we will study various topics that occur throughout the book of Proverbs and see what the book has to say about them.

Verse 1 could be used as a theme verse for this week and will also be our memory verse. A wise son (or daughter) makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother. Looking at each verse, we can see that taking these wise sayings and applying them to our lives will help us not only grow in the Lord but will be a very real blessing to our parents. Note: Plan on devoting no more than 2-3 minutes on each proverb. Otherwise you will definitely run out of time.

In the first half of chapter 10, there are a few repeated themes, such as valuable treasure vs. worthless treasure, wise lips and uses of the tongue, and righteousness and diligence vs. laziness and wickedness. Feel free to take these verses and lump them together to study through them in one shot if you prefer, or you can take them verse by verse individually. Today's "Look" section will comment on each verse or set of verses.

LOOK

Verse 1: There is no greater joy than seeing your child choose to do wise, kind, loving, generous things. A parent has such a great desire to see their child mature and grow that when they see their child demonstrate those things, it brings such joy that they have to share it with everyone they know. On the other hand, when a child is choosing poorly and not making wise choices, it causes parents grief and distress. A simple way to love and bless you parent is to think about your actions and walk in obedience to the Lord.

Verses 2-3: The treasure of wickedness refers to stolen or ill-gotten goods. Coveting others' things and then taking them doesn't give you any lasting benefit. There is only one thing that lasts forever, the Word of the Lord. Everything will fade away, so don't set your eyes on earthly goods. Rather, set your eyes on the things of the Lord. If we seek after the Lord, He will satisfy us beyond compare. If we seek to be satisfied with money or possessions, we will end up empty and unsatisfied.

Verses 4-5: There is a very real wisdom in working hard. Laziness leads to poverty, but hard work leads to profit. You don't harvest wheat or corn from the fields, but you do go to school every day. The Lord asks you

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my
life?

LOOK (Continued)

to do your very best at school because He knows that the harder you work now, the more it will benefit you later.

Verses 6-7: These verses speak about our reputation and how we will be remembered. Righteousness is found in hearing and obeying the Word of the Lord. In this case, if we love our neighbor and do unto them as we would have them do unto us (Luke 6:31), then we will be remembered fondly. If we lie to our neighbors and cheat them they will always remember us with bitterness and enmity.

Verse 8: To prate is to speak foolishly or tediously about something. We should be very careful about speaking on subjects that we really know nothing about. James tells us to be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19). Here we see that the wise person waits to talk, learning all they can about a subject before giving their opinion. The fool just starts blabbering away, even when they don't really know what they are talking about.

Verse 9: Integrity means being upright and whole. A person who has integrity is the opposite of someone who is a hypocrite. They do what they say and they say what they do. This verse tells us that word travels fast about people who say one thing but act in another way.

Verse 10: This is another verse that speaks about the danger of speaking without knowledge. This time however, it also speaks about a sarcastic teaser. The one who "winks the eye" causes trouble. Sometimes we try to make ourselves look good by bringing others down.

Verse 11: The power of the tongue to bless or to curse. We can speak to give life, or we can tease, bully, gossip, and tear down.

Verse 12: The Lord hates strife and discord. He wants to see people unified and restored. The answer to arguments, hatred, hurt feelings, and broken friendships is love.

Verse 13: This verse talks to us about listening to good advice. If we have an issue or problem, we should ask someone who has experience and understanding to help us out. If we listen to those with no experience or understanding, we fail and grow bitter toward the person who advised us.

Verse 14: Learning and growing is a sign that we have wisdom. Again, your calling right now is that of a student. You are to do all things to the glory of God, including math class.

Verse 15: This verse can be interpreted in a couple of different ways. It could be either a reminder that in hard work and success lies security and financial peace, or a misconception of both the rich and poor. The mistake is thinking that our outward circumstances define our inward attitude, "I am happy because I am rich," or "I am sad because I am poor." Rather, like Paul we should learn to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves.

LOOK (Continued)

Verse 16: Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death. It also tells us in Romans 3:23 that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Sadly that means that all stand under the judgment of God. Praise the Lord that the free gift of God is eternal life. The labor of righteousness that leads to life, for us, is surrendering Christ.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Proverbs 10:1.

Have each student take one Proverb that we studied this week and ask how they can take that wisdom and apply it to their own lives.

Pray: Ask the Lord to bless the students with wisdom and grace. Ask Him to help us all to use the things that we are learning to grow in Him.

Parent Question: Why does it bless parents to see their child making wise choices?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Proverbs 10:1-16 by David Guzik

CONTRASTING LIVES, CONTRASTING DESTINIES

[Proverbs 10:1](#)

The proverbs of Solomon:

A wise son makes a glad father,

But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

a. **The proverbs of Solomon:** [Proverbs 10](#) begins a new section of the book. In some sense, the first nine chapters have been an introduction. It can be said that the collection of Solomon's proverbs begins here as a series of two-phrase, single verse, wisdom sayings. This arrangement continues through [Proverbs 22:16](#). From the start of [Proverbs 10:1](#) through at least [Proverbs 22:16](#), this commentary will treat each proverb individually.

i. We sense *some* kind of arrangement in these proverbs; they may be sometimes grouped in sets of two, three, or four proverbs linked by a theme. For example, [Proverbs 10:4](#) and [10:5](#) may have been arranged next to each other because both deal with the theme of hard work.

ii. Yet understanding the manner and nature of the arrangement is difficult if not impossible, and different commentators often see different arrangements. In this look at Proverbs, any such connections between individual proverbs are left to the reader to make, and each verse will be treated as its own proverb.

iii. "No exposition is possible save to take each proverb and consider it in its separate value. In the majority of instances this is unnecessary, because they are self-evident expositions of one abiding truth." (Morgan)

b. **A wise son:** Solomon himself was the ultimate **wise son**, receiving and valuing wisdom above all other things ([1 Kings 3](#)). When King David saw this heart in his son, it no doubt made him **a glad father**.

c. **A foolish son:** Many of the proverbs work on the principle of contrast. This proverb contrasts the **foolish son** with the **wise son**. Ironically, we could say that Solomon ultimately turned out to be **a foolish son** ([1 Kings 11](#)), though it was long after the death of **his mother**.

d. **Is the grief of his mother:** Our wisdom or folly affects more than ourselves. Wisdom benefits more than the individual, and folly grieves more than the individual.

i. **The grief of his mother:** "The occasion of her great sorrow, which is decently ascribed to the mothers rather than to the fathers, because their passions are most vehement, and make deepest impression in them." (Poole)

[Proverbs 10:2](#)

Treasures of wickedness profit nothing,

But righteousness delivers from death.

a. **Treasures of wickedness profit nothing:** We are reminded of the parable Jesus told of the rich fool ([Luke 12:16-21](#)). That rich fool gathered great wealth but was not *rich toward God* ([Luke 12:21](#)).

b. **Righteousness delivers from death:** Being right with God brings a benefit that money can't buy.

[Proverbs 10:3](#)

**The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish,
But He casts away the desire of the wicked.**

a. **Will not allow the righteous soul to famish:** This is one of the blessings that money can't buy that we might think of from the previous verse. Significantly, the principle is directed to the **soul**. The **soul** can flourish even when the body is afflicted.

b. **He casts away the desire of the wicked:** Ultimately, to be **wicked** and in opposition to God is to have desire frustrated. To be righteous and to inherit eternal life is to have desire fulfilled.

[Proverbs 10:4](#)

**He who has a slack hand becomes poor,
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.**

a. **A slack hand:** This describes the lazy man or woman, who does not put forth their hand energetically to do their work. We should do all that we can heartily, as unto the Lord ([Colossians 3:23](#)).

b. **The hand of the diligent makes rich:** Hard work is normally rewarded, and prosperity often comes to those who work for it.

i. "Industry was the law of paradise ([Genesis 2:15](#)), and although it now bears the stamp of the Fall ([Genesis 3:19](#)), it is still a blessing and under God's providence brings **wealth**." (Bridges)

[Proverbs 10:5](#)

**He who gathers in summer is a wise son;
He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.**

a. **He who gathers in summer:** The ant was previously presented as an example of hard work in the summer ([Proverbs 6:6-8](#)). The idea here is of a **wise son** who shows his wisdom by working hard.

i. **Gathers in summer:** "A well chosen season is the greatest advantage of any action, which, as it is seldom found in haste, so it is too often lost in delay. The men of Issachar were in great account with David, because 'they had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do,' and when to do it; [[1 Chronicles 12:32](#)]." (Trapp)

ii. "Joseph seized his opportunity to prepare and preserve his life for an otherwise barren future ([Genesis 41:46-57](#); cf. [John 9:4](#))." (Waltke)

b. **He who sleeps in harvest:** To sleep when there is work to be done is laziness and folly, and **causes shame** to self and to others.

i. "All the work of the field should be done in the *season suitable to it*. If *summer* and *harvest* be neglected, in vain does a man expect the fruits of *autumn*." (Clarke)

ii. "It is as much the will of God that the young should gather knowledge as that the farmer should gather his harvest." (Bridges)

[Proverbs 10:6](#)

**Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.**

a. **Blessings are on the head of the righteous:** This was especially true in the context of the old or Mosaic covenant, where God promised to bless obedience and curse disobedience ([Deuteronomy 27-28](#)).

b. **Violence covers the mouth of the wicked:** Instead of blessing, **violence** will come to **the wicked**.

i. “But it is simpler to take it as the man’s evil, written, as we say, all over his face.” (Kidner)

Proverbs 10:7

**The memory of the righteous is blessed,
But the name of the wicked will rot.**

a. **The memory of the righteous is blessed:** The heroes of faith in [Hebrews 11](#) are good examples of righteous men and women whose memory is **blessed**.

b. **The name of the wicked will rot:** If the wicked are remembered at all, it will be as a stinking, rotten thing. Our present path in a **righteous** direction or in a **wicked** direction will end either in blessedness or rottenness, each answering to the path. Every man and woman can choose if they will be remembered to praise or remembered to shame.

i. “The very name of the wicked is as offensive as putrid carrion.” (Clarke)

Proverbs 10:8

**The wise in heart will receive commands,
But a prating fool will fall.**

a. **The wise in heart will receive commands:** Wisdom gives the humility to be instructed and to **receive commands** from God and those in rightful authority.

i. **Will receive commands:** “*i.e.*, Submit to God’s holy word without replies and cavils. This is check to the brave gallants of our age, which exercise their ripe heads and fresh wits in wrestling with the truth of God, and take it for a glory to give it a foil.” (Trapp)

b. **A prating fool will fall:** Here, the **fool** is the opposite of the **wise in heart**. In their disobedience they **will fall**.

i. **A prating fool:** “In the Hebrew he is called a fool of lips, either because he discovers the folly of his heart by his lips, and thereby exposeth himself to the mischief here following; or because he is without heart, as is said of Ephraim, [Hosea 7:11](#), or his heart is little worth, as is said here, [Proverbs 10:20](#); or because he speaks rashly, without any consideration.” (Poole)

Proverbs 10:9

**He who walks with integrity walks securely,
But he who perverts his ways will become known.**

a. **He who walks with integrity walks securely:** The man or woman who lives with nothing to hide, with no double life, can walk with **integrity**. There is no anxiety from the fear of having sin and compromise discovered.

i. There is a story — sometimes attributed to the British author Conan Doyle — about a man who sent a letter to others with only these words: *All is discovered; flee at once*. He said a businessman who received the letter fled at once and was never seen again. **He who walks with integrity** lives free from the fear of such discovery.

b. **He who perverts his ways will become known:** The man or woman who walks a crooked life will have it revealed. Jesus said, *there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known* ([Matthew 10:26](#)).

Proverbs 10:10

**He who winks with the eye causes trouble,
But a prating fool will fall.**

a. **He who winks with the eye causes trouble:** The idea of **winks** here is of one who does not take wickedness and folly seriously.

i. **Winks with the eye:** “That secretly and cunningly designs mischiefs against others, as this phrase is used, [Psalms 35:19](#); [Proverbs 6:13](#).” (Poole)

b. **The prating fool will fall:** The **fool** will continue along their path until they **fall**.

[Proverbs 10:11](#)

**The mouth of the righteous is a well of life,
But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.**

a. **The mouth of the righteous is a well of life:** A **righteous** man speaks life-giving words, most often to others and sometimes to himself.

i. “The dependence of life on water is experienced existentially all over the earth, especially in the ancient Near East, where it is in short supply. Flowing well water is particularly precious (cf. [Jeremiah 2:13](#)), and people gather around it. The open, benevolent speech of the righteous is just as necessary for a community, offering everyone abundant life — temporal, intellectual, moral, and spiritual.” (Waltke)

b. **Violence covers the mouth of the wicked:** The **wicked** man or woman brings harm and hurt with their words. They take away life.

[Proverbs 10:12](#)

**Hatred stirs up strife,
But love covers all sins.**

a. **Hatred stirs up strife:** The constant stirring up of **strife** and controversy is evidence of **hatred**.

i. **Stirs up strife:** “Upon every slight occasion, by filling men with suspicions and surmises, whereby they imagine faults where there are none, and aggravate every small offence.” (Poole)

b. **Love covers all sins:** Peter quoted this in [1 Peter 4:8](#). We could say this is true in two senses, in that love covers the sins of others, and that love covers the sins of the one who loves. **Hatred** brings trouble, but **love** brings healing.

i. There certainly is a place for the confrontation and exposure of sin. “This stress on reconciliation is balanced by other passages warning us against hushing up our own sins ([Proverbs 28:13](#)) or shirking the giving of a rebuke (e.g. [Proverbs 27:5](#), [6](#)).” (Kidner)

ii. “In this collection ‘conceal’ is not used in the bad sense of maliciously hiding something (unlike [Proverbs 10:6](#), [11](#)) but in a good sense of forgiving or not finding fault ([Proverbs 11:13](#); [12:16](#), [23](#); [17:9](#); [28:13](#); note especially [Proverbs 10:12](#)).” (Garrett)

iii. **Covers all sins:** “On the contrary, love conciliates; removes aggravations; puts the best construction on every thing; and pours *water*, not *oil*, upon the *flame*.” (Clarke)

iv. “**Love covers**, overlooks, speedily forgives, and forgets. Full of candor and inventiveness, it puts the best construction on doubtful matters and does not expose the faults of a brother. Oh, let us put on the Lord Jesus in his spirit of forbearing, sacrificial love, and let us forgive as we have been forgiven by Christ.” (Bridges)

[Proverbs 10:13](#)

**Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding,
But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.**

a. **Wisdom is found:** When a person has wisdom, it will be found on their **lips**. The words they speak reveal the wisdom they possess, as Jesus said: *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks* ([Matthew 12:34](#)).

b. **A rod is for the back:** The ones who lack wisdom must be corrected by pain, represented by **a rod** used to strike those who misbehave.

i. “A rod (*sebet*) denotes a part of a tree from which a staff or weapon could be made.” (Waltke)

ii. “He that *can learn*, and *will not learn*, should be *made to learn*. The rod is a most powerful instrument of knowledge. Judiciously applied, there is a lesson of profound wisdom in every *twig*.” (Clarke)

Proverbs 10:14

**Wise people store up knowledge,
But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.**

a. **Wise people store up knowledge:** Wisdom takes knowledge and makes it accessible for the future. This can be done in many ways — memorization, note taking, and the use of modern digital technology.

b. **The mouth of the foolish is near destruction:** The foolish man is a contrast to the wise man, and his rejection of **knowledge** puts him **near destruction**.

Proverbs 10:15

**The rich man's wealth is his strong city;
The destruction of the poor is their poverty.**

a. **The rich man's wealth is his strong city:** This principle observes that wealth gives a measure of protection and provision in this world to the **rich** man.

i. “Half of the ten occurrences of *wealth* (*hon*; see [Proverbs 3:9](#)) in Solomon's proverb instruct the youth to prize it ([Proverbs 12:27](#); [13:7](#); [19:14](#); [29:3](#); cf. [19:4](#)), and the other half not to trust it.” (Waltke)

b. **The destruction of the poor:** In this world, poverty puts the poor man at a great disadvantage, sometimes leading to their **destruction**.

i. “This is a plain recognition of the power of wealth, and the paralysis of poverty. It is a wholesome corrective to much nonsense talked today about the blessings of poverty. Wealth may become a curse, but poverty is inherently a destruction.” (Morgan)

ii. “You may be called to forgo wealth; you must certainly rate it below honesty. But don't affect to despise it; don't embrace poverty out of laziness or romanticism.” (Kidner)

Proverbs 10:16

**The labor of the righteous leads to life,
The wages of the wicked to sin.**

a. **The labor of the righteous leads to life:** For the **righteous** man or woman, **labor** is life-giving and **leads to life**. They understand that our calling to co-labor with God ([1 Corinthians 3:9](#)) is a life-giving gift.

b. **The wages of the wicked to sin:** Wickedness has a “reward,” and it is **sin** and the judgment due to it ([Romans 6:23](#) — *the wages of sin is death*).