

Sayings for Life



A word cloud of various terms and phrases. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with some larger than others. The colors of the words are diverse, including shades of green, blue, red, purple, orange, and pink.

Words included in the cloud:

- misunderstanding
- helpful
- acceptance
- wound
- praise
- fearful
- patient
- encouragement
- listen
- resolve
- well meaning
- healing
- powerful
- truth
- rebellious
- understanding
- love
- anger
- silence
- sensitivity
- crushing
- hurt
- gossip
- angst
- restraint
- time out
- rebuke
- kind
- honesty
- raw
- dangerous
- regret
- character
- compassionate
- gossiper
- honest
- wound
- forgive
- jealous
- lost
- mean
- integrity
- tenderness
- foolish
- folly
- flattery
- gentle
- humiliate
- humble
- correct
- receive
- favouritism
- wish
- mean
- jealous
- lost
- regret
- integrity
- re
- character
- peace
- wisdom
- uplifting
- volcanic
- questioning
- faithfulness
- confused

Why Proverbs?

Sayings are all around us. They're the words that slip off our tongues without us even thinking sometimes. "The early bird gets the worm", "Better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all"; and on the back of my Adelaide bus ticket, "You can't get anywhere unless you start".

Sayings are everywhere and every culture in the world has them. They're collected wisdom, often over centuries. Sometimes they are the quick reminder or pep talk you need. Other times they are a life mantra. Their genius is in the way they capture an idea in a succinct and memorable way. What can't be denied is that they have shaped the character of the people who collect them and use them.

So why read Proverbs, the sayings of the Bible? The beginning of the book of Proverbs gives this reason.

for attaining wisdom and discipline;
for understanding words of insight;
for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life,
doing what is right and just and fair;
for giving prudence to the simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young —
let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance —
for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

Proverbs 1:2-6

Proverbs is a window into the collected wisdom of people who've followed the God of the Bible. Whether you believe there is a God, have followed Him all your life or tapped in from time to time, Proverbs is a fascinating window into what God thinks is wise.

How to use this Booklet

This booklet will take you through a number of topics, from friendship, wisdom, speech, family to wealth and look at what wisdom God brings to the situation in the book of Proverbs. There will be a number of proverbs on the topic, a quote from Jesus and an introduction from a worker on how being Christian has shaped their understanding of that topic.

There's a couple of discussion questions for each topic. Questions to get you thinking as you read this booklet on the bus or train to work or to chat with friends over coffee or as part of a book club.

If you'd like to read and discuss this with someone please don't hesitate to get in contact with us (our details are at the end of this booklet).

Adelaide City Bible Forum Team

ADELAIDE
citybibleforum 

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Friendship



Janet Steicke

Health Professional for a NGO.

I never cease to be amazed that God loves me - as I am with all my 'stuff'. God sent Jesus for the one purpose of laying down his life for us, for me, for my freedom, so I can be free to love. The greatest way I can be free to love is to love as Jesus loved - to 'lay down my life' (John 15:12-13). What does that look like for me? Listening - really listening - to a friend over the phone when I'd rather be watching TV. Having a lonely neighbour over for a meal

when I don't feel like it. Giving up my 'me time' to look after a friend just out of hospital. This is what Jesus calls us to do and how friendships are made and cemented.

And when I get hurt by a friend? Feeling offended by a friend is horrible but often the offense is done unwittingly as it may be a part of that person's personality etc. I used to get into my self pity thing and want to 'hurt' the offender as I had been hurt. Covering an offense (Proverbs 17:9) means forgiveness to me. I can only do so much forgiving on my own. Most of it takes superhuman effort - supernatural Jesus effort! When I ask Jesus to help me forgive that person, to deal with any injustice that may be there - He does. Jesus covers over the offense because on the cross Jesus took the 'fall' for my friend...and for me. He deals with everything! What a relief - that I can let go, let God cover over the offense and our friendship can remain intact.

What rings true for you from these quotes?

What do you find surprising from these quotes?

What would you take on board from this advice?

Proverbs

- 13:20** He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.
- 17:9** He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
- 18:24** A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- 26:18-19** Like a madman shooting firebrands or deadly arrows is a man who deceives his neighbour and says, "I was only joking!"
- 27:6** Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. "

Jesus (John 15:12-13)

Other helpful proverbs:

3:27-30; 11:13; 14:20; 19:6; 22:24-25; 25:17; 25:19; 27:17



Wisdom



Tim Cooper

Managing Director of Coopers Brewery

Proverbs apply as much to us today as they did more than 2500 years ago.

We should try to put God at the forefront of all we do (Proverbs 21:2). It is too easy to be distracted by our daily activities, the pressures of daily work. We so often try to control our lives and forget that God knows best, that God must be first in our lives.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline (Proverbs 1:7).” We see every day the confusion and disharmony in the world as people struggle without a moral compass. On the other hand, God knows us and what makes us who we are.

“Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise (Proverbs 20:1).” Moderation is important for us to remain vigilant in life, so that we can continue to learn from God and show humility to our neighbours. Thomas Cooper, the founder of Coopers, was a Methodist lay preacher- the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, apparently regarded beer, to be taken at home, as beneficial. He wrote in May 1864 to his brother “This is the first time in the history of the Colony that there has been a Brewery brewing only Malt & hop & a good honest Ale. I wonder nobody began it before, surely the Lord reserved that honour for poor me...”

Life is a difficult journey, and we have many challenges along the way, and important decisions to make. Thankfully we can bring the issues of life for decision-making to God through prayer (Phillipians 4:4-7).

What rings true for you from these quotes?

What do you find surprising from these quotes?

What would you take on board from this advice?

Proverbs

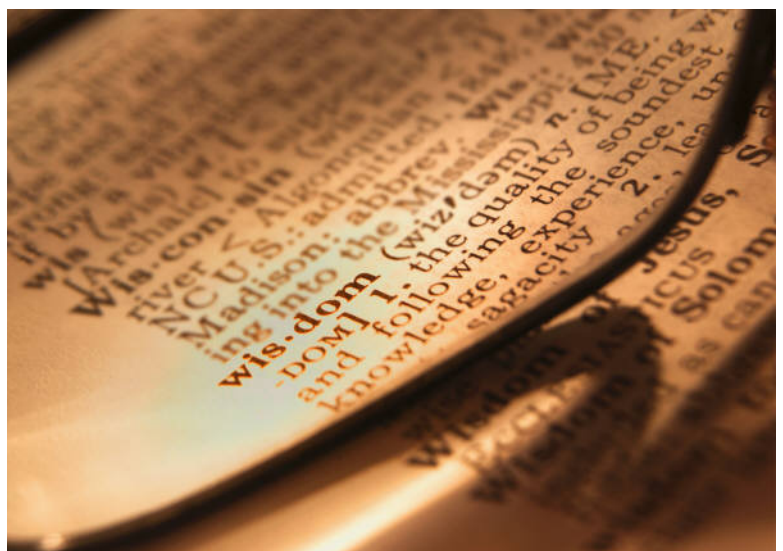
- 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
- 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.
- 21:2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.
- 3:35 The wise inherit honour, but fools get only shame.
- 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.
- 20:26 A wise king winnows out the wicked; he drives the threshing wheel over them.
- 24:23 These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good:

²⁴ "...everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Jesus (Matthew 7: 24-27)

Other helpful proverbs:

9:8-9; 10:1; 12:15; 15:2; 21:20;
21:30



Family



Melinda Doggett

South Australian Public Service

I am a wife, a mother, daughter, sister, grand daughter, niece, aunty. Really privileged to be a member of a kind and generous family.

Reading through Proverbs I was quick to realize how differently God sees the concept of family compared to the world around us. How fashionable is the idea of recognizing the wisdom of our parents, or accepting rebukes from those

we love. And the jibes about nagging wives could be taken straight from a bad American sit com. However these are some of the things that I have taken away from reading some of these Proverbs recently.

Being a member of a family is tough. It is hard to be patient and wise and consistent when you are trying to juggle washing, cleaning, cooking. But it is really important. Children crave boundaries and predictable consequences for actions. Parents have a wealth of knowledge and experience and when shared in love this can be an enormous blessing. God knows that it is more important for families to spend time listening to each other than buying the biggest TV on the market. Families are not there to tell you what you want to hear but rather what you need to hear. But this is hard. Proverbs tells us that we do not exist in isolation. How we behave reflects on those around us and affects how people see them. After all, who wants to be described as a dripping tap!

What rings true for you from these quotes?

What do you find surprising from these quotes?

What would you take on board from this advice?

Proverbs

- 22:6** Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.
- 27:15** A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day; restraining her is like restraining the wind, or grasping oil with the hand.
- 5:3-4** For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.
- 27:5** Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
- 23:22** Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.
- 24:3-4** By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Jesus (John 8:34-36)

Other helpful proverbs:

10:1; 21:9



Work



Ingo Schroeder

Master Franchisee of Cartridge World

I find it surprising from these quotes that people and life have not changed in over 2000 years, the challenges we all face today are as real as they faced back then.

In my life I was fortunate enough for someone to introduce me to Jesus and have a real relationship with him. This has been my major inner strength and corner stone throughout my life. As a follower of Jesus I draw upon the

truths that I have learnt and simply do my very best to apply them in every situation. In Proverbs 12:19 it says “truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment”. I have always treated life and business the same, always tell the truth. It is especially highlighted if your dealings have not gone as planned. I always work as diligently as I can to correct the mistake. People will respect you for it, and it is the foundation for building great relationships and friendships for business and life in general.

I have also always lived by Proverbs 24:27 “Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.”. This is especially true in today's business climate, where we must be mindful to continuously strengthen our business, to ensure we keep building and improving our business model, while at the same time keeping our expenses under constant control.

What rings true for you from these quotes?

What do you find surprising from these quotes?

What would you take on board from this advice?

Proverbs

6: 6-11 Go to the ant you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man

11:1 The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favour with him.

20:17 Food gained by fraud tastes sweet, but one ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

24:23-25 To show partiality in judging is not good: Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent"- will be cursed by peoples and denounced by nations. But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come on them.

24:27 Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.

"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

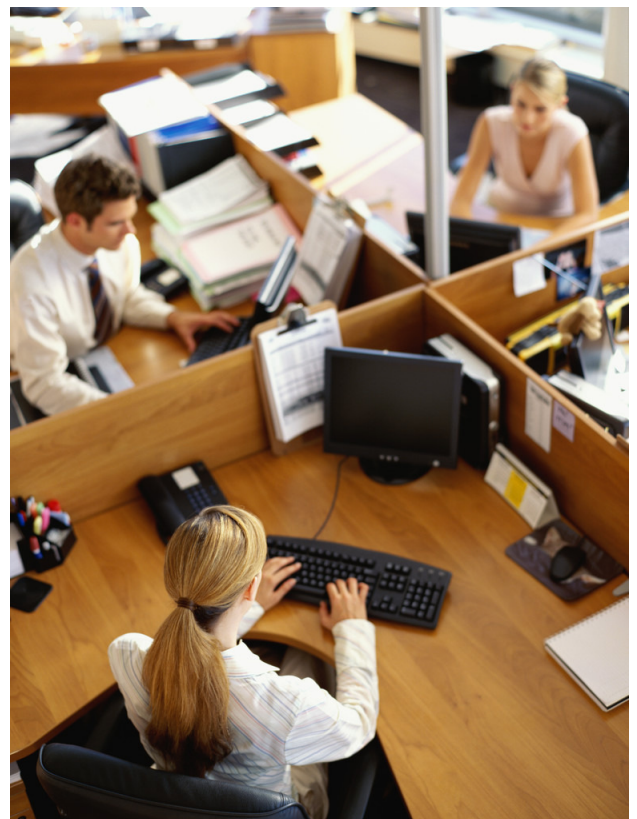
Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

Jesus (John 6: 27-29)

Other helpful proverbs:

11:3; 18:9; 21:25; 28:11



Wealth



Jeff Tidswell

Financial Adviser

I believed that one's purpose in life is to accumulate wealth so you can afford to enjoy everything. This promises to make us happy and satisfied but unfortunately it is empty because it makes wealth an idol. It was hearts like mine that Jesus was warning in Luke 12:15 about greed and covetousness.

Eventually I became convinced that whatever money we have, along with everything else, is what God has loaned us as His stewards. God is the absolute owner of everything and He wants us to be content with whatever we have and willingly share it with others, rather than accumulate it all for ourselves.

It is not wrong to have an abundance of money, but it is good if we know what we really need; only that which God can give- to be loved, accepted and forgiven with a greater purpose for living than accumulating material possessions.

Jesus warns us to be careful what we believe about wealth and the role it plays in our lives because God owns it all. This is where it becomes contentious and personal especially when we are covetous. It is no surprise Jesus said much about money, possessions and wealth because these things may keep us from having a generous and open relationship with God and using our resources to help others in what ever way we are able.

What rings true for you from these quotes?

What do you find surprising from these quotes?

What would you take on board from this advice?

Proverbs

- 28:11** The rich are wise in their own eyes; one who is poor and discerning sees how deluded they are.
- 11:25** A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.
- 22:1** A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.
- 22:4** Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.
- 22:2** Rich and poor have this in common; The LORD is the Maker of them all

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Jesus (Luke 12: 15)

Other helpful proverbs:

11:24; 13:22; 14:1



Character



Phil Wilson

Consultant

When I was growing up character always seemed to be the consolation prize for losers. I played a lot of cricket for Albion Park Rail and a young Brett Lee played for neighbouring Oak Flats. Of our frequent losses my dad would say they were "character building".

I have since learned that character is very important. For instance, Proverbs 27:19 says, "a man's heart reflects the man". When you look at your heart you see a reflection of who you really are. I think, like many people, I haven't always paused long enough to really observe my heart. Since becoming a husband, parent and being given responsibility to lead other people I have found that character is the indispensable strength that is required.

When I read through the gospels I am amazed at the character of Jesus. He's in so many ways the ideal human, the person I most want to be like.

Jesus is the perfect example of leadership. The passage about servant leadership is shown true in history - the great leaders are remembered for their service, and the evil ones for their lack of care or exploitation of the people they led. They say power often corrupts leaders. Maybe it is that power just exposes what is in the heart to begin with, like an X-ray or an ultrasound.

What rings true for you from these quotes?

What do you find surprising from these quotes?

What would you take on board from this advice?

Proverbs

- 3:3-4** Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man.
- 11:22** Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.
- 14:31** He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.
- 18:12** Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honour.
- 25:28** Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control
- 27:19** As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

“The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.”

Jesus (Luke 22:25-27)

Other helpful proverbs:

3:5-6; 6:16-19; 17:27; 18:2; 21:4; 21:24; 24:28-29; 25:9



Speech



Rachel Norman

Associate at ANZ Private

The book of Proverbs has reminded me to value the rebuke of wise people because their purpose is not to be judgemental but to help me grow. It is too easy to be defensive and close our ears when told of our shortcomings, but when we listen and learn, we can be refined into the person God created us to be.

The Bible tells us to imitate Jesus because He lived a life without fault. When I am tempted to complain, gossip or speak of unwholesome things, I am reminded that Jesus never did those things; He used His words to love, encourage and teach others. He challenges me daily to use my words wisely.

In Luke 6, Jesus says that our words reveal what is really in our hearts. It is impossible to fake a well-meaning heart by merely speaking the right words: over time, our heart and motives will be seen for what they really are. I think that the only way to be beautiful to others is to have our hearts changed, and God, the maker of our hearts, is able to do this! I have witnessed friends being totally changed as they have come to know God and the blessings He gives us in Jesus. This quote reminds me to rely on God to keep transforming my heart. Only when He is at work in me will my words be refreshing to others.

What rings true for you from these quotes?

What do you find surprising from these quotes?

What would you take on board from this advice?

Proverbs

- 17:28** Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.
- 25:12** Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.
- 27: 2** Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.
- 25:20** Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.
- 29:11** Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

Jesus (Luke 6:43-45)

Other helpful proverbs:

6:16-19; 11:25; 12:18; 15:23; 16:24; 17:27; 18:2; 18:8; 18:13; 24:26; 24:28-29



Notes

What's Next...

We hope you've really enjoyed reading through this guide. Maybe you'd like to explore Jesus or Christianity further. Here's some ideas.

I'd like to hear more...

City Bible Forum (the group that put this reading guide together) run a number of events throughout the year where people get to investigate Jesus. You can find out more about us and what events are coming up

by **Web** citybibleforum.org/Adelaide
Email adelaide@citybibleforum.org.
Phone (08) 8212 5450

I'd like to read more...

For those who love the web

- For a basic outline of the Christian message visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au/2wtl
- To forums and answers to many questions about Christianity visit www.christianity.net.au
- To read the Bible online in many languages visit www.biblegateway.com

For those who love books

Picking up one of the accounts of Jesus (preferably with a Christian friend) is the best way to understand Jesus and Christianity. Why not read an original account of Jesus life such as the book of Luke or John. If you would like we can read an account with you 1 to 1 over a few weeks or with a small group.

If you'd like to read another book, these are good options:

- 'Mere Christianity' by C.S. Lewis
- 'Reason for God' by Tim Keller

I'd like to chat with someone...

Whether you'd like to become a Christian or just chat through questions we'd love to chat with you. Just contact us and we'll organise a time.

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