

3 0 D A Y S

# DINNER DEVOS



ONCE PER DAY  
5 MINUTES PER DAY  
START THE FAMILY DISCUSSION



# 3 1 D A Y S D I N N E R D E V O S



We hope that you enjoy this journey with your family through the Life of Jesus. If you are a couple without children, or an individual, feel free to adapt the questions to meet your needs. This guide is intended to generate discussion within your home so that you might learn to lean on the Word of God in every area of your life.

### Wise Men From Afar

After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem, wise men (also called Magi [MAJ-eye]) from a far country traveled to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When King Herod—who ruled Judea—heard this, he became worried. He quickly called together the chief priests and teachers of the Law and asked them where their King was to be born. "In Bethlehem," they replied, "for this is what the prophet wrote: 'Out of you, Bethlehem, will come a ruler who will be a Shepherd for My people Israel.'" Then Herod called the wise men to a secret meeting and asked them when exactly they had first seen the star.

What made the Magi follow the bright star?

What do you think made this group of wise men leave their homes to travel —possibly for as long as two years!— in the hope of finding a baby? And even if they did find that baby, how could they be sure that he was the one who would become a great king? These men had spent their lives studying and learning everything they could about the world, its people, and the ways of God. God had put a seed of expectation in their hearts—a hope that a mighty ruler would be born in their lifetime. Then one night, while looking at the stars, they saw it—a light, brighter than any star they had ever seen. They realized that this was the sign they had been waiting for, the sign of the Mighty King. Then the star started to move across the sky, and by faith they followed it, trusting that it would lead them to the newborn King. Jesus, the bright morning star, is our hope as He leads us to God. We can only find true joy when we, like the wise men, decide to follow Jesus the Light of the world.

What does it mean to have hope?

What is faith?

Why do you think God values these things?

(To learn more what the Bible says about faith and hope, look at Hebrews 11, especially verse 1, and also at 1 Corinthians 13, especially verse 13.)

Verse for today

"And we have the word of the prophets ... and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19

Proverbs 2:1 if you receive my words, and treasure my commandments within you,

Proverbs 2:5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

When we receive Christ into our lives we become sons of the living God. We now enter into a relationship of Father and sons and daughters. This is a loving nurturing relationship where God desires to guide and protect us. When we enter into this relationship with all of our heart it becomes a life-changing relationship. The value we place on his words in our life become a pathway of blessings and help to us and all those around us.

What does it mean to you to treasure his words within you?

## Proverbs 3

vs. 5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

### Read:

To trust the Lord means to believe that He is able and wise to do what is best, that He is good. Because He loves us, He will act to bring about our best good—and sometimes we don’t understand what He’s doing, or how He is doing it. God’s goodness doesn’t always look the way we want it to, but we trust that His understanding and love are much better than our own. And we acknowledge Him this way: In all our ways that prove pleasant, in which we gain our point, we must acknowledge God with thankfulness. In all our ways that prove uncomfortable, and that are hedged up with thorns, we must acknowledge him with submission,<sup>a</sup> by saying “Not my will, but Yours be done.”<sup>b</sup>

### Questions:

Throughout the Bible, God is described as a good father. Can you think of a time that you didn’t understand or like what your mom or dad asked you to do, but you chose to obey and do it anyway?

Afterward, did you realize something good happened because you obeyed—maybe you were kept safe from a danger you didn’t see, or you got to enjoy a fun surprise?

When a person has your best good at heart, you trust him to make decisions that take care of you. Sometimes, people mess up and the best good doesn’t happen. But with God, He NEVER fails. He ALWAYS makes our paths straight, when we trust and obey.

### Pray:

Father, thank You for being good all the time. Thank You that whether the things going on around us are good or not, we can count on You to show us the way through, and to be with us as we go. Help us to trust You, show us how faithful You are, and help us to obey You even when we don’t want to. We are confident that we will see Your goodness here in the land of the living.<sup>c</sup>

a See Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary

b Luke 22:42

c Psalm 27:13

## Proverbs 4

Verse 7: The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom... and with all your acquiring, get understanding.

Read: Some children don't like to hear Dad say, "Now back when I was a boy..." but they might learn a lot if they paid attention and listened. Solomon learned wisdom from his father and now he is passing it on to the next generation. This is the primary way God has ordained for His truth to be preserved and invested from generation to generation [Deut. 6:3-9; Eph. 6:1-4; 2 Tim. 1:3-5, 2:2, 3:14-17]. Children who have godly parents ought to thank the Lord for their rich heritage and each of us should strive to be both a teachable child and a wise elder who invests the wisdom he has gained in the next generation.

Questions:

List some ways that you are currently acquiring wisdom:

What lessons have you learned in your own life that should be passed on to the next generation?

Prayer:

Dear God, we ask that You help us to acquire wisdom from Your Word as we study Proverbs this month. Write these lessons on our hearts so that they will stay with us, and give us opportunities to share the wisdom that we gain from You with the next generation. Help us to look towards Your wisdom and instruction in every area of our family life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Proverb 5

21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, And He ponders all his paths.

Read: You are probably very familiar with your home. When you are standing out side of your home, perhaps you have many ways to get into your home. What are some of those ways? You could walk left around your house, or right. You could go through the door, you could even go through the window! This verse tells us that there are many paths that your life could take - and all of your ways are before the Lord, AND that he is pondering your paths. The Lord is thinking about YOU and your DAY and your LIFE and all of the different paths it could take.

Questions:

1. When God looks at you what do you think that HE thinks?
2. Knowing that God has thoughts toward you, do you think it would be good to know HIS thoughts? How can we know God's thoughts towards us?

Pray: Dear Lord, help me to recognize your guidance in my life and help me to be aware that you have thoughts towards me. Help me to be led by your thoughts and desires and not my own.

## Proverbs 6

Verse 9: How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?

Read: Can you imagine if your parents never cleaned up your home? Can you imagine if they never did your laundry or made you dinner? How would you eat? What would you wear? The bible teaches us that it is a good for men and women to work. We work for a couple of things. We work to provide for our family and to help our family and others. It is when we work excellently that we honor the Lord. Work should never be the THING that defines us, but it should be something that allows us to serve others.

### Questions:

How do your parents work hard? Why do they work hard?

What are some areas that you work hard in? Why does God want you to work hard and with excellence?

### Prayer:

Lord, we know that you have called us to work hard to provide for our family, church and community. We pray that we would have a spirit within us that we would be givers and not takers, that we would provide for those in need including: our family, our church, our community and school and those who are hurting. In Jesus name, Amen.

## Proverbs 7:1-3

Verse1: My son, keep my words and treasure my commands within you.

Verse 2: Keep my commands and live and my law as the apple of your eye.

Verse3: Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Read: The phrase " The Apple of My Eye" refers to some one being cherished above everything or everyone else. When you love and care for some one you want to cherish every thing about them. Many people keep love letters that they have sent to one another over many years because of the love they have for each other. Gods word is His love letter to us, His commands to us. They are full of rich treasure to help us live a full and blessed life.

### Questions:

Have you ever seen a classic movie where some one has tied a piece of thread or string to their finger? Do you know why? The same reason applies to us; binding His commands to our fingers.. Why should we write Gods commands on our hearts? How can we write them on our hearts?

What Bible verses are your favorites that you want to " write on your heart?

How do we "live" by keeping His commands?

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to cherish your words and commands like treasure to be remembered and held onto. Let our love for you grow to such a passion that every thing else does not compare. Help us to write your words and commands upon our hearts and let us not forget them.

## Proverbs 8

### Verse 11 (NKJV)

“For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.”

Read: Wisdom is better than rubies or any riches we could amass here on earth! Many today look to amass all kinds of knowledge. The work to solve the mysteries of the universe, invent something that is better, faster, stronger. But for every invention of man a new thing is discovered that is “better”. Windows 7 was replaced by Windows 8 and 10. The iPhone 4 was replaced by the 5 and 6 and the process continues. Nothing can replace Wisdom and wisdom is not knowing something as much as knowing someone. The Holy Spirit provides wisdom and true understand. The shed blood of Jesus makes this available to us in a whole new way.

### Questions:

The verse remind us that “wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire”

- How does wisdom differ from knowledge?
- How could wisdom help us in our everyday lives?

The verse also tells us “things one desire cannot be compared to her.”

- Why are the things that we desire not able to be compared to possessing wisdom?
- What kinds of things do we place in front of gaining wisdom?

### Proverbs 9:9

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;

Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Heavenly Father, we would ask you to teach of Wisdom that all that we do would be grounded in you.

We need you in our lives today, Father, Holy Spirit we ask that you would guide us into all wisdom that

we might see, the Father, the Son, and You as you really are. Give us the wisdom to use the

knowledge you give us for your Kingdom. In Jesus Name, Amen

Read: There is something about knowing a lot of stuff that can be very helpful as you go through life. The bible teaches us that the more wisdom we have, the better choices we will make. Not just choices that will help us, but choices that will honor God and serve people. God has put people in your life that have so much wisdom to give you. He has also put teachers in your life to help you learn so you can produce good fruit when you get older. Be like the wise man - listen to others and get wiser. Be like the learner - listen to the teacher and get smarter. God has put people in your life to help you. Sometimes it's good to speak less and listen more so that you don't miss out on something God wants to bless you with.

Questions: Who are some people in your life who share wisdom with you? What makes them wise? Who are some teachers you have in your life? How can you become a better learner from them?

Pray: Dear Lord, we know you've put people in all of our lives to help share wisdom and knowledge with us. Help us to talk less, listen more and receive all that you have for us.

Proverbs 10 1 A wise son makes a glad Father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

Read: The Father's heart desires nothing but blessing and favor toward his children. We see in this statement the goodness of God in that all He wants for us is good. He never wishes harm or punishment for us. Many times we do not understand His ways but just knowing that we can trust His heart brings a confidence as we seek His help. We bring a smile to His face when we trust Him. It is so sad when we ignore the advice of someone when all they want to do is protect us.

Questions: What is it about a son or a daughter that listens to the council of God that would make our Father glad? If a foolish son brings grief to his mother, what does this tell us about the implication of our behavior on those who love us?

Prayer: Speaker Led Prayer..

Proverbs 11 vs. 25 "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Read:  
A familiar phrase is "What goes around comes around." This is just another way of saying, "...one who waters will himself be watered." One day we send a note to someone we've been thinking of, just to let him know he's thought of, and some other day we find in the mailbox a delightful picture colored just for us by a special little child. We decide to give grocery money to an acquaintance so she can stock her almost-bare cupboard, and another day a just-because check is given to us, out of the blue, at a time when we weren't sure how we'd pay the repair bill. We overhear hurtful or untrue things spoken about people and choose to speak the good and true things we know about them, and on a day when our reputation is questioned, someone comes to our defense and we know we're not alone. There are so many ways we can give what we have to bless others, and all of us, of every age, have something that we alone can give. So share any good thing that it is in your power to share, and watch your well-watered life and the lives around you flourish.

Questions:  
What are some of your talents or abilities that you could share with someone? This doesn't have to be something big. You don't know what your action can mean to someone else; it's only up to you to do it. Have you ever felt "watered" by a thing someone has done for you? Describe it.

Activity Idea:  
Plant the same type of seed in two little pots, or else bring home two little potted plants from the grocery. Water one but not the other and see what happens.

Pray:  
Father, thank You for designing us in Your image, to be in relationship with others. It is such a wonderful thing to give and receive the gift of ourselves shared among people. Help us to see how You have made each of us with unique gifts and abilities, and show us creative ways that we can use those abilities to bless people. Teach us the value of well-watered relationships. Amen.



## Proverbs 12

Verse 15: The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

Read: The entire book of Proverbs is a guide to attaining wisdom, but here and there Solomon points out several important characteristics of the wise man and woman. Of course, the first step toward wisdom is saving faith in Jesus Christ. Before we are saved we all live the way that is right in our own eyes. Then, an important part of accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior is dying to ourselves and listening to the counsel of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Therefore wise people are “wise unto salvation” [2 Tim. 3:15] before they gain wisdom about anything else, because Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God [Col. 2:3, 1 Cor. 1:30]. Educated and trained people who ignore or reject Christ can succeed in making a good living, but without Him they can never succeed in making a good life; one that glorifies God. The wisest thing a person can do is trust Christ and live in obedience to Him.

Beyond this, those who are wise profit from rebuke [Prov. 9:8-9; 10:17; 17:10] and from advice [13:10; 12:15; 19:20]. They don't think so highly of themselves that they can't learn from others [3:7; 26:12]. If we are “wise in our own eyes,” we certainly won't be wise in God's eyes.

### Questions:

Do you listen first to the counsel of the Lord to be wise unto salvation? What are some ways that you seek out the Lord's counsel?

What areas of your life do you think you are “right in your own eyes?” Would it be wise for you to listen to counsel in these areas? Who do you lean on for counsel?

### Prayer:

Dear God, we ask that You help us to not only receive but to also seek out counsel as wise children of God. Show us the areas of our lives where we are being stubborn and proud and give us the wisdom to be humble under counsel from godly men and women who are trying to help. Help us to look towards Your wisdom and instruction in every area of our family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Dance Break



Proverbs 13:6 Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner.

Read: Have you ever been out to sea on a ship? Sometimes there are big storms that come out of nowhere and can threaten to damage the ship and potentially harm those inside. Smart captains try to avoid these types of storms and waters due to the damage they can cause. Wise captains will try to take a path that is the least likely to cause them, their ships and their passengers harm. When we live righteously (according to the Word of God) the ship of our life purposes itself towards calm waters. There is a great promise in scripture that even when we face storms in life, when God is our refuge, He will protect us. When we turn away from the word of God it is like steering your ship right into the storms, only this time, you've left God behind.

Questions: What does it mean to live righteously? How can this help direct the ship of your life? What potential problems can arise when you choose to not follow the word of God in your life?

Pray: Lord we know that you desire that we would understand and obey your Word. You have given this to us for our benefit. Today, we pray that we would understand your heart for us and that we would pursue righteousness.

Proverbs 13 verse 4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of an ox.

Read: Clothes to put away, dishes to do, beds to make, floors to sweep, dinner to cook... There is a lot that goes in to helping a home be made and run beautifully. Good things take work. It is like that in life, and it is like that in the Kingdom. Sometimes it seems like it would just be easier if somebody else would do it! I'd rather play, or I'd rather take a nap! Perhaps you've never said these things :) In the Kingdom, there is much work to do. There are needs all around us. Sometimes it may feel like it would be easier if someone else would meet those needs, or if someone else would do the job, but often time the very reason that you are even aware that someone needs help is because God is calling YOU to help! Kingdom increase means that people get saved, illnesses get healed, and God gets the glory. Remember, easier isn't always better and God made you and put you where you are to be a reflector of His glory!

Questions: What kinds of things in your home do you not like doing? Who do you help if you do those things? What happens if you don't do those things? As a follower of Jesus, what kinds of work should we be on the lookout for? Are there any needs that you can serve right now?

Prayer: God we know that sometimes we look for the easy way out. We also know that working hard can get messy. We want to serve you with all of our hearts and we pray today that we would give ourselves to other people. In our homes, schools, jobs, church and community - let us be the Oxen that bring increase to the things around us.

## Proverbs 15:1-2

1: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

2: "The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly."

Read: Watching movies with hero's and heroines in them there is usually a lot of action. A lot of fight scenes and a lot of monologuing. ( That means they talk too much when they should be paying attention!) During these times some one usually gets super angry and makes a mistake, gets caught or hurt. Some times, if you pay attention the heroine will come between two fighters and casually or gently with a word or a touch stop the fight or argument.. And then theres always that one person doing a lot of talking , getting every one into trouble!! I guess it takes a lot of characters, the good, the bad and the ugly, to make up a good Hero story! But we have lots of Hero stories " in The Real" today! You are the "Hero" or "Heroine" of your story! And Jesus will given you WISDOM as treasure to live out your life story! ( All you have to do is ask!)

### Questions:

Why do you think that a quiet or gentle answer calms down some one who is really loud angry? Why do you think angry words stirs up a disagreement? Why do you think hearing words from some one who has good judgement and experience, (wisdom) is easier to believe than someone who can tell you gossip? A fool is some one who acts foolish or unwisely. Folly means a lack of good sense. Do you think the phrase " The mouth of a fool spouts folly" is true?

### Prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to be kind and gentle in our words to others. We ask for your wisdom to fill our hearts and minds so that you would lead us completely. When we would want to be angry and choose angry words, remind us that your love and gentleness live in us . You are the Hero in our life!! Give us the wisdom and strength to be the Hero's and Heroine's of stories all around us! To be the gentle words, the soft touch, the wise words. Help us to take a stand for you in all we do, especially our words. Bless our mouths, Lord. So that all that comes from our lips are your words. Words that heal, words that lift up, words that revive and words that restore. Amen

## Dance Break



## Proverbs 16

### Verse 32 (NKJV)

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

Read: In this verse we are reminded to be slow to anger. All of us can remember a time when we were quick to become angry. Someone cuts us off in traffic, a favorite toy taken by a friend or a sibling. Most often we react unkindly by word or action. How many can recall a playground incident that result in a shove or an unkind word. From birth we have the ability to let others know when our needs or wants have not been met. God encourages us to be in control of our spirit. To bring blessing not curses, to go the extra mile, to give more than we are asked for. What a world we would live in if we could walk this out every day.

### Questions:

The verse remind us that being “slow to anger is better than the mighty”

- What does it mean to be slow to anger?
- Are we every allowed to be angry?

The verse also tells us “he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

- What does this show us about physical power?
- How can we begin or grow in ruling our spirit as God has designed?

Proverbs 17:12 Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, Rather than a fool in his folly.

Read: Bears are very protective of their babies. If you meet with a bear who is trying to protect her cubs, it could end in the bad news bears, get it? Basically, there are many other things that you would want to be doing other than standing nose to nose with a bear. Only if you can rule all this verse tells us that doing that every thing that we just mentioned would be better than being foolish and making the same mistakes over and over again. If something that you are doing is giving you the same result time and time again, and that result is bad, perhaps it is time to change something? If you get a timeout everyday for the same thing, perhaps you should not do that thing. (Parent tip: insanity is doing the same thing again and again and expecting a different outcome).

Questions: Have you ever done something and later wished you hadn't? Did you do that thing again? Part of walking in wisdom is learning from our mistakes. How can reading God's word help you avoid "folly"?

Prayer: God we know that we make mistakes. You know that we make mistakes. God today, we pray that we would become more like you. We pray that your Holy Spirit would help lead us and guide us to live lives that are a reflection of your goodness. Help us to walk in wisdom. Amen.

Proverbs 18:10 name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe.

Read:

As Christians we are told that we live and move in his presence. Recognizing this in all areas of our lives and knowing the safeness of this should cause us to do all we can to live for the glory of His Name. Jesus told us when we pray to always pray in His name. In his name is not a magic statement but a dwelling place for our lives.

Questions: What do you think it means that the Lord is like a strong? What does a strong tower look like?

What makes this strong tower safe? When do we need to run to this tower?

Prayer: Leader Led Prayer

Proverbs 19

Verse 11 (NKJV)

“The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.”

Read: We all need discretion! Insight and understanding are the basis of discretion, sometimes understanding why someone may be acting the way they are gives us the what we need to overlook a bad attitude or an inappropriate action. Jesus set the example for us in this in His life and teachings. We are not only called to be slow to anger but to forgive the one who offended us. The scripture tells us this is our “glory to overlook a matter”. We are clothed in the heavenly places with a beauty that God sees. In Proverbs 4:9 it is described as wisdom and a crown of grace and splendor. The world calls so to get even when we are angry. God’s Word calls us to a higher path.

Questions:

The verse remind us that being “The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger”

- Is this a learned skill, a gift from God or both?
- Why do you think as you do?
- We have all heard count to 10 before you act. What might a better plan be?

The verse also tells us “And his glory is to overlook a transgression.” Sometimes how we act can be a defining moment for people around us.

- When you think about glory, what does this mean to you emotionally and spiritually?

Proverbs 20: 5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Read:

There are many conversations in the world about finding yourself. Each one of us can be very complex in our makeup. Many times we do not understand why we are the way we are. The harder we try to find ourselves without God the more disoriented we become. It is God who made us. Only He can reveal to us our lives. This is one of the meanings to this statement made by Jesus, "unless you lose your life for his sake, you will never find your life. It is great joy to discover what your life is all about as you work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

Questions:

How deep of a person do you think you are?

What are some of the deep things about yourself as God been showing you?

What are some shallow areas in your life that you need to go deep in God?

Prayer: Leader Led Prayer

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Read: Have you ever had to follow someone whom didn't seem as though they knew where they were going?

Perhaps it was on a scavenger hunt, or maybe when you were somewhere that you weren't familiar with. In life we can find ourselves following people who don't have the directions or the road map. As we get older this can happen when we are in a job or at church or sometimes even in a family. We can lose confidence in the person that we are following. Sometimes we might even just want that person to follow us for a while! Wouldn't it just be easier if we were in charge? There are situations that we will find ourselves in when we are called to follow someone else's lead (even if we don't feel like that person should be leading). It can be easy to get upset with the direction that someone is leading us when we feel that they don't know where they are going. God instructs his people to understand that the heart of leaders is in the hand of God and He WILL direct it which way he wants it to turn. Sometimes our best position when following people that we lack confidence in is on our knees in prayer.

It is also possible that the person we are following might have special insight into something that we are not aware of and our critical attitude toward them could sour the whole journey. Today, look to support those who are leading you: in your home, in your school, in your nation and in your church. (note: following a leader should never take us to sin.)

Questions: Who is leading you right now? How can you be a good follower even if you don't understand the direction that they are taking you? Should we ever follow someone leading us to sin?

Prayer: God we know that you hold the hearts of leaders in your hands, and that you have the power to direct them. We pray for those in leadership positions in our lives to be moldable to you Lord and to be directed by the Holy Spirit as they lead people. We pray for our pastors and church leaders, our parents and all of those who are tasked with guiding us through life's journey.

Proverbs 22:22-23

Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate;  
For the Lord will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

Read: Do you know what the word compassion means? It means to look upon the circumstances of another person and feel the pains of hurt that they feel. Often times we see that Jesus was moved with this type of compassion because of people's affliction and needs and as a result He would stop what He was doing and meet their needs. In this verse we see that the Lord's heart is towards the hurting. We should have the same type of eyes to see the compassion that the Lord cares about. As followers of Christ, we are tasked with moving our lives towards the need in others. What we desire most, is that people would come to know Jesus as their Lord. God has called you, and equipped you with His Holy Spirit, to reach towards others with compassion.

Questions:

What does compassion mean?

Who do we know that needs to be shown the compassionate love of Jesus?

How can we, as a family reach towards someone this week?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, give us eyes to see the needs of others around us. Holy Spirit, show us how to help people know that Jesus is Lord. Give us confidence that we have within us the power to see lives changed and healed as we move with the compassion that Jesus showed us.



## Proverbs 22:6

*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

## Proverbs 23

vs. 26 “My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.”

### Read:

One day a man went out hiking with his small son. Near the mountain’s summit was a short cliff to be climbed. As he prepared to lead the way up, his son anxiously called out, “Daddy, be careful. I’m following you!”

Good rock climbers are able to look at a rock face and see all sorts of options for hand and toe holds, and before they ever leave the ground they make a plan for getting all the way to the top. Of course, the plan can change as they go, but a good route often gets marked by chalk or paint to show the way for later climbers. For a person who has never climbed, it is a valuable lesson just to watch an experienced climber on the rock for awhile.

The same is true between parents and children. We parents know that our children model us, but sometimes it is still surprising when a child imitates a thing they hear or see in us. It’s downright funny to hear a 4-year-old say, “Goodness gracious, mercy on us!”—and plenty sobering to hear some of our less charming phrases out of the mouths of our babes.

Parents: observe (and imitate) the ways of our Father God. Observing His ways teaches us all the good climbing routes, so to speak. And it shows our children what we hope they will do, both with us and with God.

Children: your parents do want what is best for you, and we truly rejoice when we see you following our example toward Christ. We know you are following us, and we’re doing our best to lead you well.

### Questions:

Who do you look up to as a role model, either for spiritual growth, solid life principles, or a job well done?

Who is looking to you as a role model? Who follows your example or imitates your behavior?

What about your character do you want to see imitated? What do you NOT want imitated? Those are things you can work to change.

### Pray:

Father, thank You for giving Jesus as the ultimate role model of Yourself. Increase our desire to follow Him, and thereby make us into better and better role models for the people who follow us.

Forgive us for the ways we have acted thoughtlessly, not caring who was watching us. Put people into our lives who are worth imitating, and let us be able to see with joy our own behavior imitated by others. Amen.



Verse 27: Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then, build your house.

Read: There's no substitute for hard work. "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth" [Prov. 10:4]. "All hard work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty" [Prov. 14:23]. A new college graduate was asked if he was looking for work. He thought for a minute and then replied, "No, but I would like to have a job." That seems to be the attitude of too many people today. Poet Robert Frost said, "The world is full of willing people: some willing to work and the rest willing to let them."

Diligent people plan their work and work their plan. "The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty" [Prov. 21:5]. "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established" [Prov. 16:3]. Thomas Edison said, "I never did anything worth doing by accident; they came by work." More than one scientific breakthrough seemed to be discovered by accident, but there was still a great deal of hard work put into the project before the breakthrough came. Benjamin Franklin wrote in his Poor Richard's Almanack, "Diligence is the mother of good luck, and God gives all things to industry."

Questions: What are some areas of your life where you are not working hard... where you are just letting things happen around you without putting in the diligent work described in this verse? How can you find a balance between hard work and having a reliance on the Lord for everything?

Prayer:

Dear God, we ask that You help us to be diligent in our work while always trusting You for our provision. We trust not in our own works but we work hard because we love You. Help us to look towards Your wisdom and instruction in every area of our family life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Proverb 25:27 It is not good to eat much honey; So to seek one's own glory is not glory.

Read: Too much of a good thing can be bad sometimes. Sometimes it feels good when we do well at something. We like the way that we feel when others say GOOD JOB, or congratulations. If we are not careful, we can spend our whole lives trying to make a name for ourselves, or to impress others. If we only seek our own glory, we will only find temporary fulfillment and will keep trying to fill up on the compliments of others. The Glory of God is what we are told to seek. When we make this our pursuit, we will find something that will not fade and will always satisfy.

Questions: Is it wrong to feel good when someone gives you a compliment? Why can it be bad to only do things to get recognition? How can we seek the glory of God? How can we glorify God in our home?

Prayer: God we desire to see you glorified in our lives. We don't want to seek our own glory. Help us to live in such a way that your name is made great on the Earth.

Verse 29 (NKJV)

“Proverbs 26:28 (NASB)

28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.”

Read: Many of us can remember a time when we have seen this proved out in our lives. The fable of the King with no clothes comes to mind. If only someone had been brave enough to tell the king he was naked he would have avoided an unspeakable amount of embarrassment. The expression from the mouth of babes comes from their lack of filter, they tell the truth because they don't know any better. Taming the tongue is a critical part of a Christian's life. We are called to speak the truth in love for the building up of those around us. This does not include false flattery. We give honor to those who are due. We speak the truth in love, and we keep lying from our lips.

Questions:

The verse remind us that being “A lying tongue hates those it crushes”

- Are all lies meant to crush the hearer?
- How else can lying hurt us? In the church, at work, at home.

The verse also tells us “a flattering mouth works ruin.”

- When someone uses false praise what are they looking for? (Think about the king with no clothes.)
- Why is it as important to give honor to those who deserve it as it is to avoid flattering lips?

Prayer:

Father we ask that you give us the strength and wisdom to live in a way that honors You. We ask that you refine our lips and our hearts with Your Holy fire that everything we say and do will bring praise and glory to You. Holy Spirit prick us when we move contrary to the truth, help us to speak the truth in love. To honor others without motive, and to let Jesus shine in our lives. Thank you for your guides and grace. In Jesus name Amen.

Read: It is interesting discovering the personalities of people around us. Our first impression when we look at someone is never a good gauge to judge them by. It is when we get to know them that their true heart is revealed to us. Cleaning up the outside is not what makes us beautiful but true beauty comes from the hidden man. God reveals himself from the inside out washing and reflecting back to us by the washing of His Word.

Questions: How much emphasis do you place of the motivation of your inner man?

Can you share a way God has been working on you from your heart outward?

How aware are you of your heart attitude?

Prayer: Leader Led Prayer

Proverbs 28:6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Read: Jesus says in Mark 8, what good is it if a man gains the whole world, only to lose His soul. If our treasure is caught up on this earth, we give ourselves over to the desires of our flesh. This verse tells us that it is better to be poor and pursue righteousness, than to be rich and live a sin filled life. We know how much integrity we have by what we do when no one is watching. When we walk with integrity (or in a way that honors the Lord), we walk without having to look over our shoulder or worry about being caught for something we've done. We walk with a new sense of lightness knowing that our focus is on Jesus.

Questions:

What benefits are there to walking with integrity (Why is it good for you)?

How can you walk with integrity while you live in this house?

How can you walk with integrity while you are at school/work, etc?

Prayer: Dear Lord, please help us to not focus on the temporary treasures of this world, even if they bring us temporary riches. We ask that you change our hearts and desires to walk with the integrity that you are calling us to.

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.

Read: In a basketball game the referees are responsible for keep order on the court and enforcing the rules of the game. Without them, a basketball game would be chaos. God loves to talk to His creation (us). He loves to show us who we are in Jesus, and He loves to remind us of who He is as the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Without revelation, we are a lot like basketball players at a game with out a referee. We won't know the rules and we certainly won't follow them. We might not even know what basket to shoot at. God wants to reveal to you who you are in Jesus and He wants to show you a picture of what He desires that you'd become. This verse tells us that we will be happy when we keep His law.

Questions: How does God show us things? What does it mean to cast of restraint? Why does keeping God's law lead to happiness? How can I seek God to reveal Himself to me?

Prayer: Dear Lord, we know that without your voice in our life, we are like basketball players with no direction. We seek you today and ask that you'd reveal yourself more to our family so that we can find joy in keeping your law. Show us ways that we can listen to and respond to your voice and revelation.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Read: Firefighters are very strong men and women whom we trust to take care of emergencies that happen in our towns. They put out fires, they help save people from harm and they are always ready to help. In our towns, we trust them to help us when we have an emergency. This verse tells us that every word that comes from God is pure, it is good, and it is intended to help us. It also says that when we trust Him, he becomes our shield. He becomes our great protector as we go throughout life. As you read God's word and as you seek Him, He promises to never leave you and to always be your help when you have need.

Questions: What does it mean that every word of God is pure? How can God be my shield? How can I learn to trust God? Are there any times that it is hard to trust God?

Prayer: Lord, we know that all of your words are pure and good. We pray today that we would make you our shield as we trust you. Teach us how to lean on you, God, as we walk through life. Teach us how to lean on your Word. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us and thank you that you never leave us. Amen.

Proverbs 31: 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her.

Read:

Proverbs 31 speak directly of the power of a pure and productive life. It centers around the proposes of what a person called to royalty should choose and do with this opportunity. Understanding the privileges of being a blessing is praised and exalted as a high calling. Life has been giving to us to be a demonstration of the goodness of God to all the world. Success is measured not so much in what we do for ourselves but in what a blessing we become to those around us. Our life's out live ourselves when we life to glorify our maker.

Questions:

How well do you do in living to be a blessing to others?

How living called as royalty, destine for greatness, change the way you approach life?

How does Proverbs 31 challenge you to be a child of propose?

Prayer: Leader Led Prayer