

Complete Track

2 KINGS 1-13; PSALMS 63-66

MONDAY 2 Kings 1-2; Psalm 63

TUESDAY 2 Kings 3-4

WEDNESDAY 2 Kings 5-6; Psalm 64

THURSDAY 2 Kings 7-8

FRIDAY 2 Kings 9-10; Psalm 65

WEEKEND 2 Kings 11-13; Psalm 66

Look for...

- Elijah taken to heaven in a chariot of fire
- Miracles of provision, resurrection, protection, healing
- Marauding Arameans miraculously struck with blindness
- Famine and deliverance at Samaria
- Jezebel killed
- Lone descendant of David protected
- Death of Elisha

Activity

The kings of Israel and Judah often used their power in corrupt ways, though they did not have to. This week, notice settings in which you are powerful—or could be. Guided by the Holy Spirit, use your power to cheer a friend, influence a child, take a stand for integrity, or encourage a coworker. Intentionally live out Proverbs 3:27: “Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.”

This Week's Prayer

Pray this prayer throughout the week: “God, show me my power, use it for good, and protect me from pride.”

 MONDAY | **Elijah Succeeded by Elisha; Chariots of Fire**
2 Kings 1-2; Psalm 63

- The actual name of the god in 2 Kings 1:2 is Baal-Zebul, “lord, the prince,” but the Israelites tauntingly called him Baal-Zebub, “lord of the flies.” Jesus uses this false god’s name as a mockery of Satan in Matthew 12:24.
- What comparisons can you make between Elijah and John the Baptist (2 Kings 1:8; Matthew 3:4; 17:11–13; Luke 1:17)?
- Elijah’s miraculous end (2 Kings 2:11) foreshadows what miraculous events in the messianic era (Malachi 4:5–6; Luke 9:28–33; possibly Revelation 11:3–12)?

 TUESDAY | **Elisha’s Supernatural Provisions**
2 Kings 3-4

- What were the “sins of Jeroboam” (2 Kings 3:3) according to 1 Kings 12:28–33?
- Is “sincere” idolatry justified (2 Kings 3:27)?
- God’s miracles sometimes conform to humanly imposed limits; how big are the “containers” you’re giving him to fill (2 Kings 4:3–6; John 2:6–11)?
- What parallels do you see between 2 Kings 4:42–44 and John 6:5–14?

 WEDNESDAY | **Naaman Healed**
2 Kings 5-6; Psalm 64

- Disease is not a sign of God’s disfavor (2 Kings 5:1), yet God sometimes does heal this side of heaven (2 Kings 5:13–14); in the end, all will be healed (Revelation 22:1–3).
- Naaman associates God with the land of Israel (2 Kings 5:17); what would Jesus say (John 4:19–24)?
- How serious is lying to God (2 Kings 5:23–27; Acts 5:1–11)?
- How are spiritual realities in some ways more *real* than physical (2 Kings 6:15–17; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18)?

 THURSDAY | **Siege Ends; Ben-Hadad Murdered**
2 Kings 7-8

- How is the lepers’ realization (2 Kings 7:9) like our assignment to share spiritual good news (2 Timothy 4:1–2; Matthew 5:14–16; Acts 1:8)?
- How does 2 Kings 8:19 in part explain God’s patience with evil (see 2 Peter 3:9 for another reason)?
- The tension of 2 Kings 8:22 carries over into the New Testament, where the Herods (Matthew 2:1; 14:1; Acts 12:2; 23), descendants of Edom, rule Israel by Roman decree.

Complete Track

JOB 1-21; PSALMS 70-72

MONDAY Job 1-4; Psalm 70

TUESDAY Job 5-7

WEDNESDAY Job 8-10; Psalm 71

THURSDAY Job 11-13

FRIDAY Job 14-17; Psalm 72

WEEKEND Job 18-21

Look for . . .

- Satan's accusation of Job regarding a "fair-weather friendship" with God
- God's allowing—and limiting—Satan's testing of Job
- Job's faith mocked by his wife
- Job's friends falsely accusing Job of wrongdoing
- Job's maintaining his integrity and his cry to be vindicated

Activity

Pay attention to what people do to help those who suffer. What words are used? What actions are taken? What words and actions seem to truly help? What words and actions make the problem worse?

This Week's Prayer

Pray this prayer throughout the week: "God, show me how to help those who suffer without sounding like Job's friends."

 MONDAY | Prologue and Testing
Job 1-4; Psalm 70

- Satan's accusation (Job 1:9-11) echoes through the ages: Do we love God only because of his benefits, or for who he is? How does your life answer that question?
- What do the limits put on Satan (Job 1:12; 2:6) tell you about God's power—and Satan's?
- What did Job's friends do right in Job 2:13? Why do you think we often feel the need to talk instead of just "be with" those in pain?

 TUESDAY | Eliphaz Speaks, Job Replies
Job 5-7

- Here's a tip for understanding this book: In Job 42:7, God says that things spoken by Job's friends are wrong; Job himself admits many of his words were wrong as well (42:2-6). Therefore, this book contains lots of theological errors—correctly recorded! No statement of Job or especially of his friends should be assumed as good theology without corroboration elsewhere in Scripture (some examples to be "questioned": 5:12; 6:14; 7:7, 15-16).
- Job 7:17 sounds like Psalm 8:4, but how does Job 7:18 show the extent of Job's reinterpretation of Psalm 8:5?

 WEDNESDAY | Bildad Speaks, Job Replies
Job 8-10; Psalm 71

- Notice the ironies in Job 8:4-7; Job *did* offer sacrifices for what his kids might have done wrong (1:4-5), but is that why they died? Job's latter days *were* prosperous, but for the reason Bildad suggests? Job *was* pure and upright (8:6), but isn't that precisely why Satan attacked him?
- Rahab (9:13) is a mythological beast of the sea—symbolic of any great power; what else does Rahab represent in Psalm 87:4?

 THURSDAY | Zophar Speaks, Job Replies
Job 11-13

- Zophar has a high view of God (Job 11:7-9), but what's wrong with his belief about how God operates in a fallen world (11:13-20)?
- How is silence (Job 13:5) sometimes the wiser option (Proverbs 10:19; Ecclesiastes 5:1-7)? When did you last listen attentively to a hurting friend without making lots of comments?
- Job 13:15 is a famous phrase of trust in the midst of suffering; how did Jesus' final hours live out that truth?

MONDAY Eliphaz Speaks, Job Replies
Job 22–24; Psalm 73

- Job 22:4 is highly ironic; what has Satan seen in Job 2:3 that prompts these tests?
- Do you think Eliphaz's advice in 22:21 always brings the results he talks of (see 2 Timothy 3:12; Hebrews 11:36–39)?
- How does Job in Job 23:10 describe the benefits that trials can bring? (James in James 1:2–4 and Peter in 1 Peter 1:6–7 agree.)

TUESDAY Bildad Speaks, Job Replies
Job 25–28

- Bildad considers the “smallness” of humankind against the backdrop of God's glory in Job 25:6 and dwells on sin. The same wonder in Psalm 8:4–5 leads to a different emphasis. Which of these is your tendency?
- What hint of the afterlife do you see in Job 26:5?
- The poetic description of earth hanging unsupported in space (Job 26:7) is actually scientifically accurate.

WEDNESDAY Job Finishes His Lament
Job 29–31; Psalm 74

- Job 29:6 is a poetic description of abundance (see also Job 20:17; Deuteronomy 32:13–14; Numbers 13:27).
- Like Job in Job 30:20–23, we often falsely interpret God's silence as neglect and life's troubles as cruelty. God may choose to wait—which is not neglect—and he may allow hardships for higher purposes—which is not cruel (see Hebrews 12:5–11; Romans 8:38–39). How have you reacted recently to such experiences?
- Would it help you to copy Job's practice in Job 31:1 (see Matthew 5:28)?

THURSDAY Elihu Speaks
Job 32–34

- Elihu's message is that God uses suffering to train people (Job 33:29–30). This is true insight, but of what does Elihu unjustly accuse Job (34:8–11)?
- Elihu knows God is just and powerful (Job 34:12–15), therefore he can only conclude Job's suffering is warranted. But like Jesus' suffering (and sometimes ours), is suffering always “punishment”?

FRIDAY Elihu Continues
Job 35–37; Psalm 75

- Elihu is only partially right (Job 35:6–8); God is *complete* without us, but because he cares about us, how can our actions affect him (Zephaniah 3:17; Ephesians 4:30)?
- In Job 36:4, Elihu is either boasting about or mocking Job's confidence (27:5–6).
- Sometimes God uses identical circumstances for dual purposes (Job 37:13; Matthew 5:45); what effect should that have on our temptation to judge others?

WEEKEND God Speaks; Conclusion
Job 38–42

- In Job's circumstances, his friends presumed his guilt; Job presumed God's anger or injustice. Was either right (Job 38:2)?
- In Job 38–39, God calls Job and his friends to consider him and his glory. Ultimately, our pain must be absorbed in his wisdom, goodness, and power.
- A Leviathan (Job 41:1–34) is symbolic of great power; God's point is that he alone is more powerful than all other powers, real or imagined.
- Ultimately, a lover doesn't need answers. A lover needs the beloved to show up (Job 42:5–6). God shows up for Job—and for all of us someday (Revelation 21:3–4).
- What is the connection between God's blessing and our praying for others in Job 42:10?

THIS WEEK'S NOTES AND REFLECTIONS



Complete Track

1 CHRONICLES; PSALMS 76-77

MONDAY 1 Chronicles 1-10; Psalm 76**TUESDAY** 1 Chronicles 11-12**WEDNESDAY** 1 Chronicles 13-15**THURSDAY** 1 Chronicles 16-18; Psalm 77**FRIDAY** 1 Chronicles 19-23**WEEKEND** 1 Chronicles 24-29**Look for . . .**

- Lots of names!
- Retelling of events from 1 and 2 Samuel, with spiritual commentary
- Prayer of Jabez
- Ark brought to Jerusalem
- Temple planned
- Solomon made king
- David's death

Activity

How many of your friends know their family history? How does knowing—or not knowing—your family's stories affect your daily life? What defining moments in your life would you like your family to remember?

This Week's Prayer

Pray this prayer throughout the week: "God, help me take note of and pass on my life's lessons."

 MONDAY | Genealogies R Us
1 Chronicles 1-10; Psalm 76

- We suggest you skim through these chapters; otherwise, you'll never make it through today's reading.
- Genealogies served God's people by reminding them of their heritage and God's faithfulness to his promise (Genesis 22:17-18); why might that be important to these post-captivity readers?
- Don't miss Jabez's famous prayer (1 Chronicles 4:9-10); make it your own today.

 TUESDAY | David's Leadership Established
1 Chronicles 11-12

- What does 1 Chronicles 11:9 highlight as the most important ingredient for successful leadership? What does verse 10 indicate is also important? Compare these two ingredients to Luke 2:52.
- Sadly, David betrayed one of the very "inner circle" who supported him (1 Chronicles 11:41; 2 Samuel 11).
- What is a tangible expression of appreciation you can show to a member of your "inner circle" today?

 WEDNESDAY | The Ark Brought to Jerusalem
1 Chronicles 13-15

- Is seeking human counsel contrary to listening for God (1 Chronicles 13:2; Proverbs 15:22)? What wise people are you listening to?
- Disobedience, even if well intentioned, is still wrong (1 Chronicles 13:9-10; Numbers 4:15; maybe God was gracious that *only* Uzzah died, considering Numbers 4:20; see also Acts 5:1-11). Did David learn his lesson (1 Chronicles 15:2, 12-13)?
- Michal apparently thought David's lack of kingly robes was beneath his position (1 Chronicles 15:29; 2 Samuel 6:20-23). How are you tempted to meet expectations of people who are important to you rather than resting in what God thinks of you?

 THURSDAY | Kingdom Promises
1 Chronicles 16-18; Psalm 77

- You'll encounter much of 1 Chronicles 16:8-36 again in Psalm 105. Why include it here? Israel needed to be reminded of her history as people returned from exile.
- Promises like 1 Chronicles 17:9-10 confused Jesus' followers, who thought he was going to fulfill them (Acts 1:6); how did he—and will he—do so (John 18:36; Daniel 2:44-45)?

MONDAY | Solomon Starts the Temple
2 Chronicles 1–3; Psalm 78

- Solomon knew God treasured his people (2 Chronicles 1:10); are you a small group leader who should also pray this prayer (see also 1 Peter 5:2–4; Proverbs 8:12, 15–21)?
- Why a temple for God’s *name* (2 Chronicles 2:1)? See verse 6 for a hint; also see 6:18–19.
- The temple site (2 Chronicles 3:1) is also where Abraham sacrificed Isaac (Genesis 22:2).
- Some of these very stones (2 Chronicles 3:3) can be seen today along the Western Wall. What did Jesus’ disciples say about them in Mark 13:1–2?

TUESDAY | Temple is Furnished
2 Chronicles 4–5

- God’s words were physically placed at the center of his community (2 Chronicles 5:10). Where should they be spiritually placed now?
- No one knows what became of the manna and Aaron’s rod (Exodus 16:32–34; Numbers 17:10–11; Hebrews 9:4).
- God’s glory (2 Chronicles 5:13–14) was made visible. Where is that glory now? (See Hebrews 1:3; Luke 9:28–32; John 1:14; 17:20–22; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:14.)

WEDNESDAY | Temple is Dedicated
2 Chronicles 6–7; Psalm 79

- In his wonderful prayer (2 Chronicles 6:14–42), how do Solomon’s words anticipate the worldwide, inclusive scope of God’s plans (6: 32–33; see also Isaiah 56:6–8; Galatians 3:14, 26–29; Ephesians 3:6)?
- What similarities exist between 2 Chronicles 6:36 and Romans 3:23?
- Not following God exclusively cost Israel their homeland (2 Chronicles 7:21–22). What competes for *your* devotion these days?

THURSDAY | Queen of Sheba; Rehoboam’s Tyranny
2 Chronicles 8–10

- How is Solomon’s interaction with the Queen of Sheba (2 Chronicles 9:1–8) an example of how we ought to interact and “live out” the gospel with unbelievers (Colossians 4:5–6; 1 Peter 2:12; 3:15)? When is the last time you did this?
- The prophecy spoken of in 2 Chronicles 10:15 is recorded in 1 Kings 11:29–39. How does this again illustrate the mystery of both human and divine responsibility in the unfolding of history?

FRIDAY | Rehoboam’s Fortifications; Shishak; Abijah
2 Chronicles 11–13; Psalm 80

- Never underestimate the power of a message from God (2 Chronicles 11:1–4). Is he telling *you* to keep speaking the truth somewhere?
- How does God sometimes use the consequences of sin to teach valuable lessons (2 Chronicles 12:8)?
- How do Numbers 18:19 and Leviticus 2:13 help explain the term “covenant of salt” in 2 Chronicles 13:5?
- How might salt, a preservative, symbolize aspects of God’s covenant?

WEEKEND | Asa and Jehoshaphat
2 Chronicles 14–18

- Just as marriage covenants can be renewed, so can covenants with God (2 Chronicles 15:12; Deuteronomy 29:1; Joshua 8:30–35; 24:19–27).
- What do 2 Chronicles 15:16; Matthew 10:37; and Psalm 27:10 say about putting loyalty to God above family?
- The first part of 2 Chronicles 16:9 has a timeless principle; how is *your* heart?
- The “Baal” (2 Chronicles 17:3) were some of several Canaanite gods; what form do idols come in our day?
- Jehoshaphat insisted on hearing from God (2 Chronicles 18:6). Yet once he heard his message, he apparently let the words “fall to the ground” (1 Samuel 3:19; 2 Chronicles 18:22, 28). What “fallen words” of God do you need to pick up and live out?

THIS WEEK’S NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

WEEK

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Complete Track

2 CHRONICLES 19–36; PSALMS 81–84

MONDAY 2 Chronicles 19–21; Psalm 81**TUESDAY** 2 Chronicles 22–24**WEDNESDAY** 2 Chronicles 25–27; Psalm 82**THURSDAY** 2 Chronicles 28–29; Psalm 83**FRIDAY** 2 Chronicles 30–32; Psalm 84**WEEKEND** 2 Chronicles 33–36**Look for . . .**

- Jehoshaphat's battle won by prayer and praise
- God's protecting the line of David, fulfilling his promise
- Evil leaders dominating Judah's history
- Revivals led by good kings Hezekiah and Josiah
- Jerusalem finally falling to Nebuchadnezzar
- The land "resting" for seventy years, fulfilling prophecy

Activity

How many of your friends know their family history? How does knowing—or not knowing—your family's stories affect your daily life? What defining moments in your life would you like your family to remember?

This Week's Prayer

Pray this prayer throughout the week: "God, help me take note of and pass on my life's lessons."

 MONDAY | Jehoshaphat and Jehoram
2 Chronicles 19–21; Psalm 81

- Judges and other leaders were to exemplify God's character in their judgments (2 Chronicles 19:6–10); what about Christian leaders today (Matthew 18:18–19; 1 Peter 5:2–3)?
- Do you need to make Jehoshaphat's prayer yours (2 Chronicles 20:12)?
- An interesting battle strategy is described in 2 Chronicles 20:21–22; how is this like the first battle Israel fought in Joshua 6:20?
- What is the ultimate explanation for Israel's survival in 2 Chronicles 21:7?

 TUESDAY | Ahaziah, Athaliah, and Joash
2 Chronicles 22–24

- The temple was a safe haven for the child Joash (2 Chronicles 22:12) because Athaliah ignored spiritual matters and apparently never worshiped there.
- Read 2 Chronicles 23:16–17 for an important spiritual principle. In addition to turning to God, what must we turn away from (see also 2 Corinthians 10:5)?

 WEDNESDAY | Amaziah, Uzziah, and Jotham
2 Chronicles 25–27; Psalm 82

- Even though partially paid, the mercenaries were enraged, having been dismissed without plunder, the more significant source of income (2 Chronicles 25:10).
- How does Uzziah's life (2 Chronicles 26:16) illustrate the importance of finishing well—not just starting right (see also 1 Corinthians 9:24–27; 10:12; Proverbs 16:18)?
- What would help your "finish" be as strong as your "beginning"?

 THURSDAY | Wicked Ahaz, Good Hezekiah
2 Chronicles 28–29; Psalm 83

- "Father" (2 Chronicles 28:1) can obviously mean anyone earlier in the lineage, helpful to know when trying to decipher genealogies.
- How do Jesus and Paul compare with 2 Chronicles 28:14–15 in Luke 6:27, 31, 35; and Romans 12:20–21?
- What is the appeal of idolatry mentioned in 2 Chronicles 28:23?

 FRIDAY | Hezekiah's Reforms
2 Chronicles 30–32; Psalm 84

- Hezekiah's attempt at unity (2 Chronicles 30:1), some 250 years after the national split, is a testimony to the depth of his "revival."

- Doesn't every prayer (2 Chronicles 30:27) reach heaven? Yes, in the sense our omniscient God knows everything—but what else about prayer is taught in 1 Peter 3:7; 1 John 3:22; and Matthew 6:5–8?
- What was the sign of 2 Chronicles 32:24? (Read Isaiah 38:1–8.)

WEEKEND | **Manasseh and Josiah; Judah Falls Into Captivity**
2 Chronicles 33–36

- Manasseh, one of Judah's worst kings (2 Chronicles 33:2–6, 9), was born during Hezekiah's fifteen-year life extension; maybe he should have just died!
- Manasseh's repentance and God's acceptance (2 Chronicles 33:13) is an amazing testimony to grace—grace that will also accept you.
- How does James 1:22–25 relate to 2 Chronicles 34:30–31?
- The pagan king Neco had more respect for God than Josiah did (2 Chronicles 35:21–22). Is it always obvious who's "in" and "out" in God's kingdom (1 Samuel 16:7; Matthew 7:21–23)?
- The seven-year cycle of Sabbath rest for the land (2 Chronicles 36:21; Leviticus 25:4) had been ignored for almost five hundred years; God provided them all at once during the Babylonian captivity (Leviticus 26:34–35; Jeremiah 29:10; Daniel 9:1–2). What spiritual principle might this illustrate?

THIS WEEK'S NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Complete Track

PROVERBS 1-15; PSALMS 85-88

MONDAY	Proverbs 1-2; Psalm 85
TUESDAY	Proverbs 3-4
WEDNESDAY	Proverbs 5-6; Psalm 86
THURSDAY	Proverbs 7-9; Psalm 87
FRIDAY	Proverbs 10-11; Psalm 88
WEEKEND	Proverbs 12-15

Look for . . .

- "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom"
- The benefits of wisdom, the cost of foolishness
- "Trust in the LORD with all your heart"
- The cost of infidelity
- Wisdom personified as a woman
- Rules for right living, speech, and spending

Activity

Did your family have any "wise sayings" that were often repeated or passed down? What are some of your favorite "quotes to live by" that don't come from the Bible? Over the coming weeks, make a collection of your own "words of wisdom" that have shaped your life.

This Week's Prayer

Pray this prayer throughout the week: "God, give me wisdom from everyday life as well as learning truth from your Word."

MONDAY | Fear of the Lord, Benefits of Wisdom
Proverbs 1–2; Psalm 85

- Proverbs 1:1–7 lays the groundwork for the book; verse 7 is the cornerstone.
- How would you explain “fear of the LORD” in light of 1 John 4:18? (See also Psalm 112, especially the contrasting “fears” in verses 1 and 7–8.)
- Notice wisdom is a “she” in Proverbs 1:20; this book personifies wisdom (a literary device).
- According to Proverbs 1:20–21, how widely available is “wisdom”?

TUESDAY | More Benefits of Wisdom
Proverbs 3–4

- How easy is Proverbs 3:4–5 for you to do?
- How do Malachi 3:10–12 and 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 illustrate Proverbs 3:9–10?
- How does Hebrews 12:5–6 use Proverbs 3:11–12?
- Your “heart” or inner self (Proverbs 4:23) is precious to God and needs to be precious to you. Is it?

WEDNESDAY | Warnings Against Adultery
Proverbs 5–6; Psalm 86

- In addition to avoiding the act of immorality, what else should we do according to Proverbs 5:8?
- Proverbs 5:15–20 sounds much like the language of Song of Songs and encourages sexual delight—but exclusively with whom?
- Diligence never killed anyone (Proverbs 6:6–11), but what does laziness do?
- Adultery is always wrong (Exodus 20:14); according to Proverbs 6:32, what *else* is true of the person who commits it?

THURSDAY | Anatomy of Seduction; Wisdom’s Call
Proverbs 7–9; Psalm 87

- The phrase “apple of your eye” in Proverbs 7:2 (Deuteronomy 32:10; Zechariah 2:8) refers to the sensitive pupil. What’s the application of this principle for your life?
- Proverbs 7 is a masterful description of the series of steps you have to take to “fall” into adultery; how many steps can you identify?
- Note the exaggeration “all at once” in Proverbs 7:22 when in fact this is a series of compromises.
- How readily available is wisdom according to Proverbs 8:4, 15–17?
- How lasting and life-giving are the pleasures of adultery according to Proverbs 9:17–18?

FRIDAY | Power of the Tongue
Proverbs 10–11; Psalm 88

- Starting with chapter 10, Proverbs deals with wisdom applied in daily life. These are *general* principles, always subject to exceptions and special cases. In these chapters, the main themes are money—its use and misuse—and the power of the tongue for good or evil. What about *your* mouth lately?
- “Dishonest scales” in Proverbs 11:1 were used to cheat customers; are all your business dealings “his delight”?

WEEKEND | Wise Choices; Upright and Wicked Contrasted
Proverbs 12–15

- Be kind to animals, says Proverbs 12:10; the person you are shows up *everywhere* eventually.
- What does Proverbs 12:15 say is needed to develop great wisdom (see also 9:9; 11:14; 13:20; and 15:22)? Who are you listening to these days?
- Wealth is not wrong, but what is the biblical method for gaining it as taught in Proverbs 12:11; 13:11? (And while your bank account grows, don’t forget Proverbs 13:22; 11:24–25!)
- Why do you think the “way of death” in Proverbs 14:12 (see also 12:15 and 16:25) sometimes looks right?
- Failure isn’t final for the wise; but what is needed for growth to come according to Proverbs 15:5, 10, 12, and 31–33?

THIS WEEK’S NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Complete Track

PROVERBS 16-31; PSALMS 89-90

MONDAY Proverbs 16-18

TUESDAY Proverbs 19-20; Psalm 89

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 21-22

THURSDAY Proverbs 23-24

FRIDAY Proverbs 25-26; Psalm 90

WEEKEND Proverbs 27-31

Look for...

- Proverbs about the tongue, money, anger, the poor
- Descriptions of laziness
- Wise words from sources other than Solomon
- A wonderful picture of a godly woman

Activity

Did your family have any “wise sayings” that were often repeated or passed down? What are some of your favorite “quotes to live by” that don’t come from the Bible? Over the coming weeks, make a collection of your own “words of wisdom” that have shaped your life.

This Week’s Prayer

Pray this prayer throughout the week: “*God, give me wisdom from everyday life as well as learning truth from your Word.*”

 MONDAY | Various Proverbs
Proverbs 16-18

- What does Paul say about Proverbs 16:4 in Romans 9:22-24?
- Many proverbs deal with words; what’s the twist in Proverbs 17:28?
- What do wise people do in Proverbs 18:17 when someone says, “Let me tell you what he did to me!”?
- A bad marriage brings pain in Proverbs 17:1 (see also 1 Corinthians 7:32-35); what about a *good* one in Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; 31:10?

 TUESDAY | Various Proverbs
Proverbs 19-20; Psalm 89

- Proverbs 19:4, 6, like many proverbs, describes the irony of how things *are*, not how they ought to be.
- How does Jesus apply Proverbs 19:17 in Matthew 25:40?
- Do you think all substance abuse falls under the condemnation of Proverbs 20:1 and 21:17?
- Proverbs 20:5 is best done with a good, listening friend.
- How is Proverbs 20:27 similar to Romans 8:27 and 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, 16?

 WEDNESDAY | Various Proverbs; The Sayings of the Wise
Proverbs 21-22

- How is Proverbs 21:13 like Luke 6:38?
- Proverbs 21:30 (like Psalm 127:1) is true; why do some still try?
- How does Proverbs 22:3 apply to savings, retirement, and insurance?
- Proverbs 22:6 is often misunderstood as a promise that a believer’s children won’t stray. That misses the intent of Proverbs as *general* rules (not absolutes); after all, God, the perfect Father, “raised” Adam in the “way he should go”—yet look what he did!
- What is true of the lazy person’s excuses in Proverbs 22:13?

 THURSDAY | More Sayings of the Wise
Proverbs 23-24

- What does Paul say about Proverbs 23:4-5 in 1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17?
- What signs of alcoholism can you identify in Proverbs 23:29-35?
- If God doesn’t guarantee life without problems, what does Proverbs 24:16 mean?
- Many see Proverbs 24:27 as counsel to make provisions for a family before you start one.
- What does Jesus say about Proverbs 24:29 in Luke 6:27-28?
- What clues does laziness leave in Proverbs 24:30-34?

FRIDAY More Proverbs of Solomon
Proverbs 25-26; Psalm 90

- How does Jesus use Proverbs 25:7 in Luke 14:7-11?
- In what areas does Proverbs 25:16 and 17 advocate moderation?
- Based on Proverbs 25:20, what kind of encouragement does more harm than good (note also Romans 12:20)?
- Do Proverbs 26:4 and 5 contradict each other? The key is the word “according,” used with slight differences in each verse (made clear by the second phrase of each verse).
- How does Peter use Proverbs 26:11 in 2 Peter 2:22?
- Read Proverbs 26:18-19: Are you a “teaser”—blind to the harm you do?

WEEKEND More Proverbs of Solomon; Sayings of Agur and Lemuel
Proverbs 27-31

- According to Proverbs 27:5-6, rebuke can be love, and some “nice” people may be *what*?
- Proverbs 27:17 is true, even when “sparks” result!
- How do James 5:16 and Psalm 32:3-5 expand on Proverbs 28:13?
- What does Proverbs 28:19 have to say about “get rich quick” schemes?
- Firm boundaries help kids according to Proverbs 29:15.
- Godly women can run businesses, serve their families, and teach with wisdom (Proverbs 31:10-31). Is your view of women’s roles this big?

THIS WEEK’S NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Complete Track

ECCLESIASTES AND SONG OF SONGS; PSALMS 91-95

MONDAY	Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 91
TUESDAY	Ecclesiastes 4-6; Psalm 92
WEDNESDAY	Ecclesiastes 7-8; Psalm 93
THURSDAY	Ecclesiastes 9-12
FRIDAY	Song of Songs 1-4; Psalm 94
WEEKEND	Song of Songs 5-8, Psalm 95

Look for...

- Meaninglessness of everything
- A time for everything
- The ability to enjoy life must come from God
- Life doesn’t have the answers—but God does
- Love, sex, and romance as gifts from God

Activity

Did your family have any “wise sayings” that were often repeated or passed down? What are some of your favorite “quotes to live by” that don’t come from the Bible? Over the coming weeks, make a collection of your own “words of wisdom” that have shaped your life.

This Week’s Prayer

Pray this prayer throughout the week: “God, give me wisdom from everyday life as well as learning truth from your Word.”