



YOUR MONTH of

WISDOM

31 DAYS in PROVERBS



WRITERS

Chris Smith
Corum Hughes

DESIGN

Hilary Alvarado

WWW.HAVENTODAY.ORG

Haven Ministries
PO Box 79997
Riverside, CA
92513-1997

Haven Canada
PO Box 19099
Delta, BC
V4L 2P8

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WISDOM

 31 DAYS in PROVERBS



*“NOW THEN, MY CHILDREN, LISTEN TO ME;
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO KEEP MY WAYS.
LISTEN TO MY INSTRUCTION AND BE WISE;
DO NOT DISREGARD IT.
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO LISTEN TO ME,
WATCHING DAILY AT MY DOORS,
WAITING AT MY DOORWAY.
FOR THOSE WHO FIND ME FIND LIFE
AND RECEIVE FAVOR FROM THE LORD.*

PROVERBS 8:32-35

Introduction

WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

Read and pray through one proverb a day for a clear picture of how the gospel fits within this often cited, but seldom followed, book of wisdom.

FIRST, WHY SHOULD WE SEEK JESUS IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE?

Have you ever read a passage of Scripture and thought, “What exactly does this mean, and what am I supposed to get out of it?” If you have, you’re not alone. Some parts of God’s Word are easy to understand, while others require more study. One of the first, and most important, things we have to do is understand that the Bible is one story, and it points to one person.

In Luke 24 we read the account of two disciples of Christ, traveling to a town called Emmaus. It was the same Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead. They were joined by a stranger ... or so they thought. When asked what they were talking about, they told him of this Jesus whom they hoped would be the Messiah, how he was killed on a cross, and how some of the believing women reported that his tomb was empty.

But then something happened that they didn't expect.

This stranger began to teach: "He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.**" (Luke 24:25-27, NIV, emphasis added) This was actually the risen Christ, hidden from their eyes. And he says that all of God's Word points to him.

At Haven Ministries we love to say that we share the great story that's all about Jesus. It's easy to say, but sometimes it's difficult to see exactly how the entire Bible points to Christ. Proverbs is one of those difficult examples. The goal over the next month is to take a look at how Proverbs points us to Christ. You will read through one chapter a day and pray through what you've read. Along the way, you will see even more of your Great Savior. And just like those two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus will

often show up where we least expect him.

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF PROVERBS ALL ABOUT?

Wisdom. We all want it! But do you know what it is? And where do you find it? Well, is Proverbs the book for you! It's part of what we call "The Wisdom Books" in the Bible, along with Job and Ecclesiastes. Proverbs comes first and sets the stage for the other two.

God has given us his law. We read his Ten Commandments, and they're pretty black-and-white, aren't they? Murder is sinful. Coveting is wrong. But there's a problem: God's law is black-and-white, but this sinful planet is often gray. And there isn't a command for every single situation in life. This doesn't mean that something is missing in God's law, it just means that we are often unsure what obedience to God looks like in a particular situation. So we need wisdom to live in this world as the Lord's people. The key theme of the book of Proverbs is "the fear of the LORD," which is the discipline to obey God in gratitude as his child. And you must have the fear of the LORD before you can live wisely.

Proverbs opens with a father teaching a son about life and wisdom. And the father is telling his son the differences between Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly. Proverbs is meant to cause a response, and the response the father wants his son to have is

to follow and love Lady Wisdom while rejecting the advances of Lady Folly. Wisdom must be acquired; none of us are born with it. It grows and forms a person, often in a way that is not spectacular to our eyes. And we have to work for it.

Chapters 10–29 are mostly two-line proverbs, and this is probably the section we think of the most when we consider this book. A critical element to understand Proverbs is that it gives us wise principles, not hard-and-fast rules or promises that are always right. Wisdom helps us know how to glorify God in a particular situation. Wisdom enables us to obey God’s law even in a confusing world that often is more gray than black and white. This is a way to live as a child of God by reasoning through things in the midst of life’s difficulties and puzzles. Different times and situations call for different responses, which we can see in passages like Proverbs 26:4–5. Should we or should we not answer a fool according to his folly? It depends on the circumstances. And Proverbs wants us to think deeply about these things.

In Proverbs there is the idea that if you do certain things then you will have certain outcomes. You must live in this world according to the way the Creator has set things up. Basically, Proverbs establishes the general principle that doing good leads to good things and doing bad leads to bad things, and this is how the world works because God designed it that way. There is more to the story than this, however, which is where Job and Ecclesiastes come in.

HOW WILL PROVERBS POINT ME TO JESUS?

Ultimately only Christ perfectly obeyed God's law and acted in complete wisdom at all times. And through the gospel, God forgives even our foolish and unwise decisions because of Christ's work for us. We are in "Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:30).

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As you journey through Proverbs this month, we want to encourage you to keep the gospel in mind. You will read one chapter a day and the accompanying prayer, which is meant to keep you on track and focused on Jesus every step of the way. It's easy to read the Book of Proverbs as a set of instructions on how to lead a wise and godly life, but that's not the goal of this challenge. Here, we want to draw you nearer to Christ to experience for yourself how the gospel and grace fits in even the most unlikely of places.

In this month of wisdom that you are about to embark on, our utmost prayer is that you'll come away with Jesus.



*"FOR THOSE WHO FIND ME FIND LIFE
AND RECEIVE FAVOR FROM THE LORD. BUT
THOSE WHO FAIL TO FIND ME HARM THEMSELVES;
ALL WHO HATE ME LOVE DEATH."*

PROVERBS 8:35-36

DAY

ONE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 1PRAYER

LORD, as I start this challenge for the next 31 days, teach me that true wisdom comes from you so that I might use it to love you and others with my whole heart, mind, and strength. As you taught us to pray in the gospels, forgive me of my sin and lead me not into temptation, or in the company of evil doers. May your name be proclaimed among all people. And enable me to remain steadfast in my faith and the reading of your Word. Amen.

DAY

TWO

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 2PRAYER

LORD, lead me in the way of righteousness. Though the way of evil is well traveled, keep me on the narrow path by way of the Holy Spirit. As I set out to read and contemplate your Word today may it strengthen my faith, teach me ways to live righteously, and give me a better understanding of the role grace plays in my daily life. Amen.

DAY

THREE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 3PRAYER

LORD, I know that true wisdom can only come from you. In this journey through Proverbs, lead me to trust you with my whole heart, dedicating myself, my abilities, my possessions, all I have to you and your glory – for your grace is more valuable than silver and gold. Instead of placing my value in earthly possessions or prestige, may I treasure above all the peace, security, and confidence that you freely give to those who love you. In this way, I hope to live in step with the wisdom that comes only from you. Amen.

DAY

FOUR

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 4PRAYER

LORD, the instruction we receive from our earthly parents may never be perfect. As our perfect heavenly Father, please continue to teach me in the ways of righteousness, to know and love you, to love my neighbor as myself, and to anticipate the day when Christ will come again. In all the ways I fall short, forgive me and teach me to walk in the light of your Word so that others may come to know you through your grace in my life. Amen.

DAY

FIVE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 5

PRAYER

LORD, sin abounds in this world. This is evident in many of the most famous leaders we read about in Scripture. And yet you still love us. Thank you that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me. May I never lose sight of the consequences of sin, and may you teach me to be faithful – be it in my marriage, my relationships, my work, my community, or even the stranger I pass on the street. And give me a desire to do what pleases you, as you have shown us in the example of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY

SIX

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 6PRAYER

LORD, this passage of Scripture continues to remind us of the consequences of sin and the beauty of your grace for sinners. You know my heart. Please forgive me when my tendency for sin wins out, and also give me the strength to be motivated by your grace and Spirit in the future. Teach me to honor your law and institutions, just as I appreciate your grace and mercy. May wisdom help me live a life worthy of your holy calling. Amen.

DAY

SEVEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 7PRAYER

LORD, I am confronted with the fact that sin carries with it great consequences, and that your commandments are not merely a set of rules but a guide toward the life-giving way of purity and faithfulness in Christ. Please plant your Word in my heart so that my motivations are led by your Spirit rather than what is pleasurable or convenient. May I always live by your light and truth. Amen.

DAY

EIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 8PRAYER

LORD, teach me your ways. May Christ, the wisdom that has been present for all of eternity, guide me away from foolishness. Instead, lead me to obedience and abundant life in you. Your Word teaches that your grace extends to all people, no matter how low or high our status. In the times I might lose my way, make me wise to your salvation. Keep drawing me toward what is good and right, noble and true, so that I might truly live. Amen.

DAY

NINE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 9PRAYER

LORD, when I am at the crossroads of wisdom and folly, please lead me to choose wisdom every time. May I always respond in faith so that I might grow more like you. Save me from the folly going on in my life right now. Give me a discerning mind. Make me wise to the truth of your love. Amen.

DAY

TEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 10PRAYER

LORD, it is not lost on me that you are the great provider who supplies all that we need. Thank you for being the fountain of life who delivers us from death. May today's passage be a reminder of the power my words have to give life or stir up hatred and division. Give me the wisdom to avoid gossip, slander, and lies in favor of prudent words that reflect your saving love and forgiveness. And when I face challenges in life – as we all do – bless me with stability, joy, and the promise of everlasting life. Keep me from straying from the path you've set before me and renew my hope in you. Amen.

DAY

ELEVEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 11

PRAYER

LORD, I sometimes find it hard to distinguish between righteousness and wickedness. May this month of reading your Word help me live in a way that expresses your grace and goodness in matters of money, community, and how I treat my neighbor. Give me the courage to shine your light through every aspect of my life, no matter how small, doing all things for your glory. By your grace, help me be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world,” as you’ve called me to be so that others might come to know you. Amen.

DAY

TWELVE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 12PRAYER

LORD, your gospel teaches us not to store up our treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy. Help me avoid the temptation of seeking personal gain for its own sake by hoarding wealth. Give me a desire to be generous with what you have generously given me. I rejoice in your great blessings. Lead me to have confidence that you will provide all that I need, just as you feed the birds and clothe the lilies. As Jesus said, aren't your children more valuable than these? Thank you. Amen.

DAY

THIRTEEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 13

PRAYER

LORD, as I reflect on the words I read, hear, and say, may my heart always be filled with *the Word*, Your Word that sustains life. May the words of my mouth be pleasing to you, beneficial for those around me, and always life-giving. I have heeded the warnings of folly in this chapter and pray for your wisdom to live according to Scripture, which is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Amen.

DAY

FOURTEEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 14PRAYER

LORD, I am nearly halfway through Proverbs and am reminded that your people must fear you. Help me put away my negative notions of what it means to fear something. In lieu of terror, may my fear of you reflect my love, trust, and respect for you and your Word, for I know you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

DAY

FIFTEEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 15

PRAYER

LORD, the ways of the world are seductive. Give me the strength to not be gullible, reckless, careless, or quick-tempered, but wise to evaluate everything on the basis of your Word. Lead me to walk in faith my whole life, always expressing myself in gentleness and self control that comes from above. As Jesus is gentle and lowly, may I live with 'the light of the eyes' that can bring joy to another's heart. Amen.

DAY

SIXTEEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 16PRAYER

LORD, I may not be a ruler of nations, but let me remember that any authority I possess in this life comes from you. May you give me wisdom in how I assert my own authority with my family, friends, and coworkers. I also pray that you give wisdom to the leaders who are above me, that they carry out their duties with justice and mercy. Amen.

DAY

SEVENTEEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 17

PRAYER

LORD, as a crucible refines precious medals, may your justice be restorative in my heart and the hearts of those around me. Just as earthly parents must take seriously their responsibility to their children, I am so thankful you gave us your highest good in your son, Jesus, who delighted in doing His Father's will that I might be free. Please also lead me to cherish the gifts that come with being adopted into the family of God – and may it be reflected in my earthly family, as well.

DAY

EIGHTEEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 18PRAYER

LORD, as much as I try to avoid sin and folly, I also know that growing to be more like Jesus is an ongoing process. Whether it be gossip or any sin of the heart, forgive me. And thank you for promising to put my sin as far from me as the east is from the west now that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Give me the strength to extend this same forgiveness to my neighbor. Amen.

DAY

NINETEEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 19PRAYER

LORD, sometimes it can be overwhelming to read all the ways we can be wise and foolish, righteous and sinful. Help me read these passages, not through a lens of legalism, but through the light of Jesus who leads me in paths of righteousness. Give me wisdom to be a good family member, child, friend, and neighbor. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 20

PRAYER

LORD, I know how easy it is to be ignorant to sinful tendencies. I also know that you promise to nurture me and admonish me as a good parent would with their child. Just as Jesus became a fool for my sake to rescue me from foolishness, I am continuously grateful that you welcome me as your prodigal child, freely and with great joy, because of what Christ did for me. Thank you. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY ONE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 21

PRAYER

LORD, just as wisdom does not come from studying hard in school, I am confronted with the truth that folly is more than mere stupidity. Please grant me the wisdom that flows out of trust in you and your Word, and deliver me from the consequences of folly in my own life. Help me grow to be more like the one who was wisdom incarnate in human flesh, Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY TWO

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 22

PRAYER

LORD, though there are many reported paths to wisdom, lead me on the path that's lit by your Word. Drive me away from the folly of this world when I begin to trust anything and anyone more than I fear, love, and trust you. Strengthen my trust so that I might experience more fully your grace and salvation in Christ. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY THREE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 23

PRAYER

LORD, what does it mean to trust you with my whole heart, mind, and strength? I know because of today's passage that a life of faith is more than simply avoiding evil, which can lead to envy of sinners. And so please motivate me to grow in godliness, always reminding me that true righteousness is ours through Christ alone. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY FOUR

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 24PRAYER

LORD, help me be just, to speak truth, and to do all things with a spirit of integrity. Though the world recognizes each of these as valuable behaviors, may I instead be motivated by something greater than human praise. Motivate me with the gospel that frees sinners to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. And help the world also recognize that the purpose of these honorable behaviors are not simply for the flourishing of society, but also because they reflect the heart of God. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY FIVE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 25

PRAYER

LORD, deliver me from the try-hard life. Now that I am one week away from finishing my month of wisdom, remind me that my hope does not come from my effort, but your regenerative grace. Father, just as you hid your power in the weakness of your Son, remind me that your grace is made perfect in my weakness. Refresh me daily with the faithful message of your love. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY SIX

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 26

PRAYER

LORD, whether I am a fool or wise in the eyes of others, help me remember that true wisdom comes from above. I know I will at times repeat my folly. I will occasionally be slothful and arrogant and unkind, but your hand guides me toward wisdom in the long run. Thank you for being patient with me when I am stubborn. Thank you for giving me the strength to follow you. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY SEVEN

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 27

PRAYER

LORD, let me not seek praise and approval from the world that will always disappoint me. But keep me faithful to you and your Word. Rather than priding myself in the flattery of others, if I am to boast about anything, may I boast in the Lord. Give me humility by receiving praise without pride and acknowledging that every gift and talent comes from you. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY EIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 28

PRAYER

LORD, just as Israel was not holy or set apart for her own greatness, I know your attention and love is a gift given unconditionally to those who follow you. Thank you for your greatest act of justice through your Son to die on our behalf and be raised again so we might experience eternal life. With this eternal hope, enable me to serve my neighbor freely with the love you granted me. Amen.

DAY

TWENTY NINE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 29

PRAYER

LORD, I am reminded that all people are members of your creation and that it is not for me to judge their thoughts and actions. Just as you are the final arbiter of all people throughout history, you are also the ultimate advocate. For it is you who advocated for me. Give me the presence of mind to love my neighbor freely so that your grace and wisdom might be made known. Amen.

DAY

THIRTY

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 30PRAYER

LORD, tomorrow I will finish my month of wisdom, but can I truly say I am more wise? If there is any wisdom gained, remind me that it has not come from my diligence but your abounding grace. May whatever knowledge and wisdom I've been given over the past 30 days enable me to approach life in this world with confidence and gentility. For I know it's only through the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Christ that I and my neighbor can be raised up in the newness of life. Amen.

DAY

THIRTY ONE

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 31



PRAYER

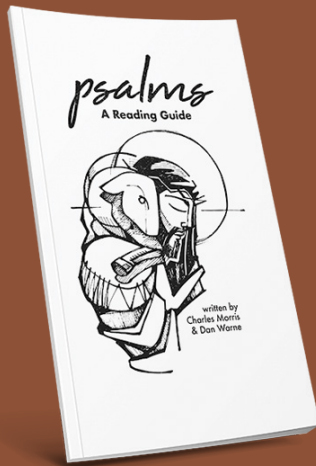
LORD, my month of wisdom may have come to a close, but may whatever I've gained over the past 31 days go on and on. I may not be able to live up to every standard in the book of Proverbs, but there is One who fulfilled every good and perfect standard, Jesus. I know he took on the sins of the world to fulfill your promise to redeem your creation. Over the coming days and weeks, may I continue seeking you, reading Scripture, and bringing hope to others by loving my neighbor as Christ first loved me. Thank you for your blessings, for your guidance, for your Word, and for the lasting love we experience daily. Amen.

What Comes Next?

Our prayer is that the last 31 days has not only given you new opportunities to seek the wisdom of the Lord, but that you have also drawn closer to Jesus. May his Word continue to be on the forefront of your mind and written on your heart.

If you have enjoyed moving through Proverbs, we'd like to make you aware of another resource that will help you draw closer to Jesus through his Word, the [Psalms Reading Guide](#).

Psalms is one of the most unique books in the Bible and not just because it's filled with the most chapters. The pages of Psalms is a collection of poems and songs that will lead you to worship your Savior. We encourage you to not end your journey of reflecting on the goodness of Jesus throughout his Word, but to commit to moving through the Book of Psalms.



Psalms: A Reading Guide

“Psalms: A Reading Guide” is an insightful resource to help you dive deeper into the Psalms as you study God’s Word. Inside, Charles Morris shares ways he has learned to uncover the treasures God offers to us within the Psalms.

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