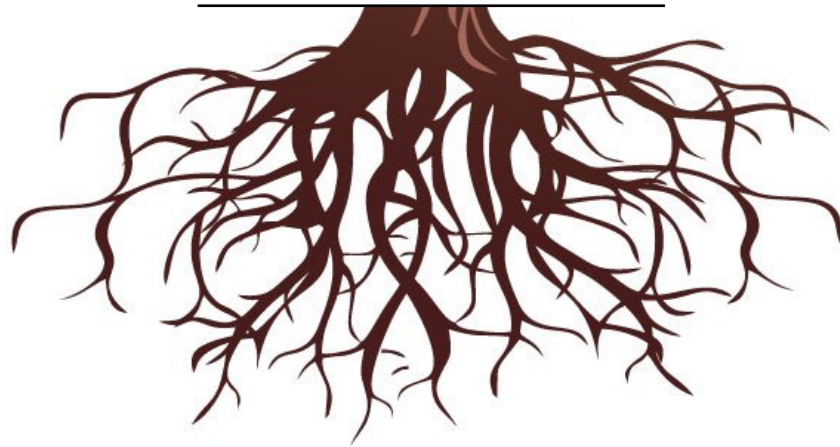


Glenelg River, Victoria

Year 11 Boys Camp



Proverbs 1-9



*God's Wisdom
for young men on
Moral Integrity*

Integrity

/Inˈtegrɪti/

noun

1. the quality of being honest and showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral principles and values
2. the state of being whole and undivided



“Happy is the man who finds wisdom...

*she is a tree of life
to those who take hold of her.”*

Proverbs 3:13-18

NKJV

Proverbs 1 – The Beginning of Knowledge

1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

2 To know wisdom and instruction,
To perceive the words of understanding,

3 To receive the instruction of wisdom,

Justice, judgment, and equity;

4 To give prudence to the simple,
To the young man knowledge and discretion—

5 A wise man will hear and increase learning,

And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

6 To understand a proverb and an enigma,

The words of the wise and their riddles.

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Shun Evil Counsel

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father,

And do not forsake the law of your mother;

9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head,

And chains about your neck.

NET

Proverbs 1

1 The Proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

2 To learn wisdom and moral instruction,
and to discern wise counsel.

3 To receive moral instruction in skillful living,
in righteousness, justice, and equity.

4 To impart shrewdness to the morally naive,
and a discerning plan to the young person.

5 (Let the wise also hear and gain instruction,
and let the discerning acquire guidance!)

6 To discern the meaning of a proverb and a parable,
the sayings of the wise and their riddles.

Introduction to the Theme of the Book

7 Fearing the LORD is the beginning of moral knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8 Listen, my child, to the instruction from your father,
and do not forsake the teaching from your mother.

9 For they will be like an elegant garland on your head,
and like pendants around your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you,
Do not consent.

11 If they say, “Come with us,
Let us lie in wait to shed blood;
Let us lurk secretly for the innocent
without cause;

12 Let us swallow them alive like
Sheol,
And whole, like those who go down
to the Pit;

13 We shall find all kinds of precious
possessions,

We shall fill our houses with spoil;

14 Cast in your lot among us,
Let us all have one purse” —

15 My son, do not walk in the way
with them,

Keep your foot from their path;

16 For their feet run to evil,
And they make haste to shed blood.

17 Surely, in vain the net is spread
In the sight of any bird;

18 But they lie in wait for their own
blood,

They lurk secretly for their own lives.

19 So are the ways of everyone who
is greedy for gain;

It takes away the life of its owners.

The Call of Wisdom

20 Wisdom calls aloud outside;
She raises her voice in the open
squares.

10 My child, if sinners try to entice
you,

do not consent!

11 If they say, “Come with us!

We will lie in wait to shed blood;
we will ambush an innocent person
capriciously.

12 We will swallow them alive like
Sheol,

those full of vigor like those going
down to the Pit.

13 We will seize all kinds of precious
wealth;

we will fill our houses with plunder.

14 Join with us!

We will all share equally in what we
steal.”

15 My child, do not go down their
way,

withhold yourself from their path;
16 for they are eager to inflict harm,
and they hasten to shed blood.

17 Surely it is futile to spread a net
in plain sight of any bird,

18 but these men lie in wait for their
own blood,

they ambush their own lives!

19 Such are the ways of all who gain
profit unjustly;

it takes away the life of those who
obtain it!

20 Wisdom calls out in the street,
she shouts loudly in the plazas;

21 She cries out in the chief
concourses,
At the openings of the gates in the
city she speaks her words:

22 “How long, you simple ones, will
you love simplicity?
For scorners delight in their scorning,
And fools hate knowledge.

23 Turn at my rebuke;
Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;
I will make my words known to you.

24 Because I have called and you
refused,
I have stretched out my hand and no
one regarded,

25 Because you disdained all my
counsel,
And would have none of my rebuke,

26 I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your terror comes,

27 When your terror comes like a
storm,

And your destruction comes like a
whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come
upon you.

28 “Then they will call on me, but I
will not answer;
They will seek me diligently, but they
will not find me.

29 Because they hated knowledge
And did not choose the fear of the
LORD,

21 at the head of the noisy streets
she calls,
in the entrances of the gates in the
city she utters her words:

22 “How long will you simpletons love
naiveté?

How long will mockers delight in
mockery
and fools hate knowledge?

23 If only you will respond to my
rebuke,

then I will pour out my thoughts to
you and I will make my words known
to you.

24 However, because I called but you
refused to listen,
because I stretched out my hand but
no one paid attention,

25 because you neglected all my
advice,

and did not comply with my rebuke,
26 so I myself will laugh when disaster
strikes you, I will mock when what
you dread comes,

27 when what you dread comes like a
whirlwind, and disaster strikes you
like a devastating storm, when
distressing trouble comes on you.

28 Then they will call to me, but I will
not answer;
they will diligently seek me, but they
will not find me.

29 Because they hated moral
knowledge,
and did not choose to fear the LORD,

30 They would have none of my
counsel And despised my every
rebuke.

31 Therefore they shall eat the fruit of
their own way,
And be filled to the full with their own
fancies.

32 For the turning away of the simple
will slay them,
And the complacency of fools will
destroy them;

33 But whoever listens to me will
dwell safely,
And will be secure, without fear of
evil.”

Proverbs 2 – The Value of Wisdom

1 My son, if you receive my words,
And treasure my commands within
you,

2 So that you incline your ear to
wisdom,
And apply your heart to
understanding;

3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for
understanding,

4 If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden
treasures;

5 Then you will understand the fear of
the LORD,
And find the knowledge of God.

30 they did not comply with my
advice,
they spurned all my rebuke.

31 Therefore they will eat from the
fruit of their way,
and they will be stuffed full of their
own counsel.

32 For the waywardness of the
simpletons will kill them,
and the careless ease of fools will
destroy them.

33 But the one who listens to me will
live in security,
and will be at ease from the dread of
harm.

Proverbs 2

1 My child, if you receive my words,
and store up my commands within
you,

2 by making your ear attentive to
wisdom,
and by turning your heart to
understanding,

3 indeed, if you call out for
discernment -
raise your voice for understanding -

4 if you seek it like silver,
and search for it like hidden treasure,

5 then you will understand how to
fear the LORD,
and you will discover knowledge
about God.

6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and
understanding;

7 He stores up sound wisdom for the
upright;

He is a shield to those who walk
uprightly;

8 He guards the paths of justice,
And preserves the way of His saints.

9 Then you will understand
righteousness and justice,
Equity and every good path.

10 When wisdom enters your heart,
And knowledge is pleasant to your
soul,

11 Discretion will preserve you;
Understanding will keep you,

12 To deliver you from the way of
evil,

From the man who speaks perverse
things,

13 From those who leave the paths of
uprightness

To walk in the ways of darkness;

14 Who rejoice in doing evil,
And delight in the perversity of the
wicked;

15 Whose ways are crooked,
And who are devious in their paths;

16 To deliver you from the immoral
woman,

From the seductress who flatters with
her words,

6 For the LORD gives wisdom,
and from his mouth comes
knowledge and understanding.

7 He stores up effective counsel for
the upright,
and is like a shield for those who live
with integrity,

8 to guard the paths of the righteous
and to protect the way of his pious
ones.

9 Then you will understand
righteousness and justice
and equity - every good way.

10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and moral knowledge will be
attractive to you.

11 Discretion will protect you,
understanding will guard you,

12 to deliver you from the way of the
wicked,

from those speaking perversity,

13 who leave the upright paths
to walk on the dark ways,

14 who delight in doing evil,
they rejoice in perverse evil;

15 whose paths are morally crooked,
and who are devious in their ways;

16 to deliver you from the adulteress,
from the sexually loose woman who
speaks flattering words;

17 Who forsakes the companion of
her youth,
And forgets the covenant of her God.
18 For her house leads down to
death,
And her paths to the dead;

19 None who go to her return,
Nor do they regain the paths of life—
20 So you may walk in the way of
goodness,
And keep to the paths of
righteousness.

21 For the upright will dwell in the
land,
And the blameless will remain in it;
22 But the wicked will be cut off from
the earth,
And the unfaithful will be uprooted
from it.

Proverbs 3 – Guidance for the Young

1 My son, do not forget my law,
But let your heart keep my
commands;

2 For length of days and long life
And peace they will add to you.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake
you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your
heart,

4 And so find favor and high esteem
In the sight of God and man.

17 who leaves the husband from her
younger days,
and forgets her marriage covenant
made before God.

18 For her house sinks down to death,
and her paths lead to the place of the
departed spirits.

19 None who go in to her will return,
nor will they reach the paths of life.
20 So you will walk in the way of good
people,
and will keep on the paths of the
righteous.

21 For the upright will reside in the
land, and those with integrity will
remain in it,
22 but the wicked will be removed
from the land,
and the treacherous will be torn away
from it.

Proverbs 3

1 My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my
commandments,

2 for they will provide a long and full
life,
and they will add well-being to you.

3 Do not let truth and mercy leave
you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your
heart.

4 Then you will find favor and good
understanding,
in the sight of God and people.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,

And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

8 It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.

9 Honor the LORD with your possessions,
And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine.

11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,
Nor detest His correction;

12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
And the man who gains understanding;

14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver,
And her gain than fine gold.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,

and do not rely on your own understanding.

6 Acknowledge him in all your ways,
and he will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own estimation;
fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

8 This will bring healing to your body,
and refreshment to your inner self.

9 Honor the LORD from your wealth
and from the first fruits of all your crops;

10 then your barns will be filled completely,
and your vats will overflow with new wine.

11 My child, do not despise discipline from the LORD,
and do not loathe his rebuke.

12 For the LORD disciplines those he loves,
just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.

13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who obtains understanding.

14 For her benefit is more profitable than silver,
and her gain is better than gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies,
And all the things you may desire
cannot compare with her.
16 Length of days is in her right hand,
In her left hand riches and honor.
17 Her ways are ways of
pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.
18 She is a tree of life to those who
take hold of her,
And happy are all who retain her.

19 The LORD by wisdom founded the
earth;
By understanding He established the
heavens;
20 By His knowledge the depths were
broken up,
And clouds drop down the dew.
21 My son, let them not depart from
your eyes—
Keep sound wisdom and discretion;
22 So they will be life to your soul
And grace to your neck.
23 Then you will walk safely in your
way,
And your foot will not stumble.

24 When you lie down, you will not
be afraid;
Yes, you will lie down and your sleep
will be sweet.
25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror,
Nor of trouble from the wicked when
it comes;

15 She is more precious than rubies,
and none of the things you desire can
compare with her.
16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
17 Her ways are very pleasant,
and all her paths are peaceful.
18 She is like a tree of life to those
who obtain her,
and everyone who grasps hold of her
will be blessed.
19 By wisdom the LORD laid the
foundation of the earth;
he established the heavens by
understanding.
20 By his knowledge the primordial
sea was broken open,
and the clouds drip down dew.
21 My child, do not let them escape
from your sight;
safeguard sound wisdom and
discretion.
22 So they will give life to you,
and grace to adorn your neck.
23 Then you will walk on your way
with security,
and you will not stumble.
24 When you lie down you will not be
filled with fear;
when you lie down your sleep will be
pleasant.

25 You will not be afraid of sudden
disaster,
or when destruction overtakes the
wicked;

26 For the LORD will be your confidence,
And will keep your foot from being caught.
27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so.
28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you.
29 Do not devise evil against your neighbor, for he dwells by you for safety's sake.
30 Do not strive with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm.

31 Do not envy the oppressor,
And choose none of his ways;
32 For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD,
But His secret counsel is with the upright.
33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked,
But He blesses the home of the just.

34 Surely He scorns the scornful,
But gives grace to the humble.

35 The wise shall inherit glory,
But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

26 for the LORD will be the source of your confidence, and he will guard your foot from being caught in a trap.
27 Do not withhold good from those who need it,
when you have the ability to help.
28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go! Return tomorrow and I will give it," when you have it with you at the time.
29 Do not plot evil against your neighbor when he dwells by you unsuspectingly.
30 Do not accuse anyone without legitimate cause, if he has not treated you wrongly.
31 Do not envy a violent man,
and do not choose to imitate any of his ways;
32 for one who goes astray is an abomination to the LORD,
but he reveals his intimate counsel to the upright.
33 The LORD's curse is on the household of the wicked,
but he blesses the home of the righteous.
34 Although he is scornful to arrogant scoffers, yet he shows favor to the humble.
35 The wise inherit honor,
but he holds fools up to public contempt.

Proverbs 4 – Security in Wisdom

1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father,

And give attention to know understanding;

2 For I give you good doctrine:
Do not forsake my law.

3 When I was my father's son,
Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,

4 He also taught me, and said to me:
"Let your heart retain my words;
Keep my commands, and live.

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you;
Love her, and she will keep you.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom.

And in all your getting, get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she will promote you;
She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.

9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace;
A crown of glory she will deliver to you."

10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,
And the years of your life will be many.

Proverbs 4

1 Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and pay attention so that you may gain discernment.

2 Because I give you good instruction, do not forsake my teaching.

3 When I was a son to my father, a tender only child before my mother,
4 he taught me, and he said to me:

"Let your heart lay hold of my words;
keep my commands so that you will live.

5 Acquire wisdom, acquire understanding;
do not forget and do not turn aside from the words I speak.

6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;
love her, and she will guard you.

7 Wisdom is supreme - so acquire wisdom, and whatever you acquire, acquire understanding!

8 Esteem her highly and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.

9 She will place a fair garland on your head;
she will bestow a beautiful crown on you."

10 Listen, my child, and accept my words,
so that the years of your life will be many.

11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.
12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered,
And when you run, you will not stumble.
13 Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go;
Keep her, for she is your life.

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked,
And do not walk in the way of evil.
15 Avoid it, do not travel on it;
Turn away from it and pass on.
16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil;
And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.
17 For they eat the bread of wickedness,
And drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun,
That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
19 The way of the wicked is like darkness;
They do not know what makes them stumble.

20 My son, give attention to my words;
Incline your ear to my sayings.

11 I will guide you in the way of wisdom
and I will lead you in upright paths.
12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered,
and when you run, you will not stumble.
13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; protect it, because it is your life.

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked
or walk in the way of those who are evil.
15 Avoid it, do not go on it;
turn away from it, and go on.
16 For they cannot sleep unless they cause harm;
they are robbed of sleep until they make someone stumble.
17 For they eat bread gained from wickedness and drink wine obtained from violence.

18 But the path of the righteous is like the bright morning light,
growing brighter and brighter until full day.
19 The way of the wicked is like gloomy darkness;
they do not know what causes them to stumble.

20 My child, pay attention to my words;
listen attentively to my sayings.

21 Do not let them depart from your eyes;
Keep them in the midst of your heart;
22 For they are life to those who find them,
And health to all their flesh.
23 Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.
24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth,
And put perverse lips far from you.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead,
And your eyelids look right before you.

26 Ponder the path of your feet,
And let all your ways be established.
27 Do not turn to the right or the left;
Remove your foot from evil.

Proverbs 5 – The Peril of Adultery

1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom;
Lend your ear to my understanding,
2 That you may preserve discretion,
And your lips may keep knowledge.
3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey,
And her mouth is smoother than oil;
4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
Sharp as a two-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death,
Her steps lay hold of hell.

21 Do not let them depart from your sight,
guard them within your heart;
22 for they are life to those who find them
and healing to one's entire body.
23 Guard your heart with all vigilance,
for from it are the sources of life.
24 Remove perverse speech from your mouth;
keep devious talk far from your lips.
25 Let your eyes look directly in front of you and let your gaze look straight before you.

26 Make the path for your feet level,
so that all your ways may be established.

27 Do not turn to the right or to the left;
turn yourself away from evil.

Proverbs 5

1 My child, be attentive to my wisdom, pay close attention to my understanding,
2 in order to safeguard discretion, and that your lips may guard knowledge.
3 For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her seductive words are smoother than olive oil,
4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.

6 Lest you ponder her path of life—
Her ways are unstable;
You do not know them.
7 Therefore hear me now, my
children,
And do not depart from the words of
my mouth.
8 Remove your way far from her,
And do not go near the door of her
house,
9 Lest you give your honor to others,
And your years to the cruel one;
10 Lest aliens be filled with your
wealth, and your labors go to the
house of a foreigner;
11 And you mourn at last,
When your flesh and your body are
consumed,
12 And say:
“How I have hated instruction,
And my heart despised correction!
13 I have not obeyed the voice of my
teachers,
Nor inclined my ear to those who
instructed me!
14 I was on the verge of total ruin,
In the midst of the assembly and
congregation.”
15 Drink water from your own cistern,
And running water from your own
well.
16 Should your fountains be
dispersed abroad,
Streams of water in the streets?

6 Lest she should make level the path
leading to life, her paths are unstable
but she does not know it.
7 So now, children, listen to me;
do not turn aside from the words I
speak.
8 Keep yourself far from her,
and do not go near the door of her
house,
9 lest you give your vigor to others
and your years to a cruel person,
10 lest strangers devour your
strength, and your labor benefit
another man’s house.
11 And at the end of your life you will
groan
when your flesh and your body are
wasted away.
12 And you will say, “How I hated
discipline!
My heart spurned reproof!
13 For I did not obey my teachers
and I did not heed my instructors.

14 I almost came to complete ruin
in the midst of the whole
congregation!”

15 Drink water from your own cistern
and running water from your own
well.
16 Should your springs be dispersed
outside,
your streams of water in the wide
plazas?

17 Let them be only your own,
And not for strangers with you.
18 Let your fountain be blessed,
And rejoice with the wife of your
youth.
19 As a loving deer and a graceful
doe,
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
And always be enraptured with her
love.
20 For why should you, my son, be
enraptured by an immoral woman,
And be embraced in the arms of a
seductress?
21 For the ways of man are before
the eyes of the LORD,
And He ponders all his paths.
22 His own iniquities entrap the
wicked man,
And he is caught in the cords of his
sin.
23 He shall die for lack of instruction,
And in the greatness of his folly he
shall go astray.

Proverbs 6 – Dangerous Promises

1 My son, if you become surety for
your friend,
If you have shaken hands in pledge
for a stranger,
2 You are snared by the words of your
mouth;
You are taken by the words of your
mouth.

17 Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you.
18 May your fountain be blessed,
and may you rejoice in your young
wife -
19 a loving doe, a graceful deer;
may her breasts satisfy you at all
times,
may you be captivated by her love
always.
20 But why should you be captivated,
my son, by an adulteress,
and embrace the bosom of a different
woman?
21 For the ways of a person are in
front of the LORD's eyes,
and the LORD weighs all that person's
paths.
22 The wicked will be captured by his
own iniquities, and he will be held by
the cords of his own sin.
23 He will die because there was no
discipline; because of the greatness of
his folly he will reel.

Proverbs 6

1 My child, if you have made a pledge
for your neighbor,
and have become a guarantor for a
stranger,
2 if you have been ensnared by the
words you have uttered,
and have been caught by the words
you have spoken,

3 So do this, my son, and deliver yourself;
For you have come into the hand of your friend:

Go and humble yourself;
Plead with your friend.

4 Give no sleep to your eyes,
Nor slumber to your eyelids.

5 Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,
And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

The Folly of Indolence

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard!
Consider her ways and be wise,
7 Which, having no captain,
Overseer or ruler,
8 Provides her supplies in the summer,
And gathers her food in the harvest.

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

10 A little sleep, a little slumber,
A little folding of the hands to sleep—
11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,
And your need like an armed man.

The Wicked Man

12 A worthless person, a wicked man,
Walks with a perverse mouth;

3 then, my child, do this in order to deliver yourself,
because you have fallen into your neighbor's power:
go, humble yourself,
and appeal firmly to your neighbor.
4 Permit no sleep to your eyes
or slumber to your eyelids.
5 Deliver yourself like a gazelle from a snare,
and like a bird from the trap of the fowler.

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard;
observe its ways and be wise!
7 It has no commander,
overseer, or ruler,
8 yet it prepares its food in the summer;
it gathers at the harvest what it will eat.
9 How long, you sluggard, will you lie there?
When will you rise from your sleep?
10 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to relax,
11 and your poverty will come like a robber,
and your need like an armed man.

12 A worthless and wicked person
walks around saying perverse things;

13 He winks with his eyes,
He shuffles his feet,
He points with his fingers;
14 Perversity is in his heart,
He devises evil continually,
He sows discord.
15 Therefore his calamity shall come
suddenly;
Suddenly he shall be broken without
remedy.

16 These six things the LORD hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to
Him:
17 A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
18 A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
19 A false witness who speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among
brethren.

Beware of Adultery

20 My son, keep your father's
command,
And do not forsake the law of your
mother.
21 Bind them continually upon your
heart;
Tie them around your neck.
22 When you roam, they will lead
you;
When you sleep, they will keep you;
And when you awake, they will speak
with you.

13 he winks with his eyes,
signals with his feet,
and points with his fingers;
14 he plots evil with perverse
thoughts in his heart,
he spreads contention at all times.
15 Therefore, his disaster will come
suddenly;
in an instant he will be broken, and
there will be no remedy.

16 There are six things that the LORD
hates,
even seven things that are an
abomination to him:
17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that are swift to run to evil,
19 a false witness who pours out lies,
and a person who spreads discord
among family members.

20 My child, guard the commands of
your father
and do not forsake the instruction of
your mother.
21 Bind them on your heart
continually;
fasten them around your neck.
22 When you walk about, they will
guide you;
when you lie down, they will watch
over you; when you wake up, they
will talk to you.

23 For the commandment is a lamp,
And the law a light;
Reproofs of instruction are the way of
life,

24 To keep you from the evil woman,
From the flattering tongue of a
seductress.

25 Do not lust after her beauty in
your heart, nor let her allure you with
her eyelids.

26 For by means of a harlot
A man is reduced to a crust of bread;
And an adulteress will prey upon his
precious life.

27 Can a man take fire to his bosom,
And his clothes not be burned?

28 Can one walk on hot coals,
And his feet not be seared?

29 So is he who goes in to his
neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her
shall not be innocent.

30 People do not despise a thief
If he steals to satisfy himself when he
is starving.

31 Yet when he is found, he must
restore sevenfold;
He may have to give up all the
substance of his house.

32 Whoever commits adultery with a
woman lacks understanding;
He who does so destroys his own
soul.

23 For the commandments are like a
lamp,
instruction is like a light,
and rebukes of discipline are like the
road leading to life,

24 by keeping you from the evil
woman,
from the smooth tongue of the loose
woman.

25 Do not lust in your heart for her
beauty, and do not let her captivate
you with her alluring eyes;

26 for on account of a prostitute one
is brought down to a loaf of bread,
but the wife of another man preys on
your precious life.

27 Can a man hold fire against his
chest

without burning his clothes?

28 Can a man walk on hot coals
without scorching his feet?

29 So it is with the one who has sex
with his neighbor's wife;
no one who touches her will escape
punishment.

30 People do not despise a thief when
he steals
to fulfill his need when he is hungry.

31 Yet if he is caught he must repay
seven times over,
he might even have to give all the
wealth of his house.

32 A man who commits adultery with
a woman lacks wisdom,
whoever does it destroys his own life.

33 Wounds and dishonor he will get,
And his reproach will not be wiped
away.

34 For jealousy is a husband's fury;
Therefore he will not spare in the day
of vengeance.

35 He will accept no recompense,
Nor will he be appeased though you
give many gifts.

Proverbs 7

1 My son, keep my words,
And treasure my commands within
you.

2 Keep my commands and live,
And my law as the apple of your eye.

3 Bind them on your fingers;
Write them on the tablet of your
heart.

4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
And call understanding your nearest
kin,

5 That they may keep you from the
immoral woman,
From the seductress who flatters with
her words.

The Crafty Harlot

6 For at the window of my house
I looked through my lattice,

7 And saw among the simple,
I perceived among the youths,
A young man devoid of
understanding,

33 He will be beaten and despised,
and his reproach will not be wiped
away;

34 for jealousy kindles a husband's
rage, and he will not show mercy
when he takes revenge.

35 He will not consider any
compensation; he will not be willing,
even if you multiply the
compensation.

Proverbs 7

1 My child, keep my words
and treasure up my commands in
your own keeping.

2 Keep my commands so that you
may live, and obey my instruction as
your most prized possession.

3 Bind them on your forearm;
write them on the tablet of your
heart.

4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
and call understanding a close
relative,

5 so that they may keep you from the
adulterous woman,
from the loose woman who flatters
you with her words.

6 For at the window of my house
through my window lattice I looked
out

7 and I saw among the naive -
I discerned among the youths -
a young man who lacked wisdom.

8 Passing along the street near her corner;

And he took the path to her house

9 In the twilight, in the evening,

In the black and dark night.

10 And there a woman met him,
With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

11 She was loud and rebellious,
Her feet would not stay at home.

12 At times she was outside, at times
in the open square,

Lurking at every corner.

13 So she caught him and kissed him;
With an impudent face she said to him:

14 "I have peace offerings with me;
Today I have paid my vows.

15 So I came out to meet you,
Diligently to seek your face,
And I have found you.

16 I have spread my bed with
tapestry,
Colored coverings of Egyptian linen.

17 I have perfumed my bed
With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let us take our fill of love
until morning;
Let us delight ourselves with love.

19 For my husband is not at home;
He has gone on a long journey;

8 He was passing by the street near her corner,
making his way along the road to her house

9 in the twilight, the evening,
in the dark of the night.

10 Suddenly a woman came out to meet him!

She was dressed like a prostitute and with secret intent.

11 (She is loud and rebellious,
she does not remain at home -

12 at one time outside, at another in the wide plazas,
and by every corner she lies in wait.)

13 So she grabbed him and kissed him,
and with a bold expression she said to him,

14 "I have fresh meat at home;
today I have fulfilled my vows!

15 That is why I came out to meet you, to look for you, and I found you!

16 I have spread my bed with elegant coverings, with richly colored fabric from Egypt.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let's drink deeply of lovemaking until morning, let's delight ourselves with sexual intercourse.

19 For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a journey of some distance.

20 He has taken a bag of money with him,
And will come home on the appointed day.”

21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield,
With her flattering lips she seduced him.

22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter,
Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,

23 Till an arrow struck his liver.
As a bird hastens to the snare,
He did not know it would cost his life.

24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children;
Pay attention to the words of my mouth:

25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,

Do not stray into her paths;

26 For she has cast down many wounded,

And all who were slain by her were strong men.

27 Her house is the way to hell,
Descending to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 8 – The Excellence of Wisdom

1 Does not wisdom cry out,
And understanding lift up her voice?

20 He has taken a bag of money with him;
he will not return until the end of the month.”

21 She persuaded him with persuasive words;
with her smooth talk she compelled him.

22 Suddenly he went after her like an ox that goes to the slaughter,
like a stag prancing into a trapper’s snare

23 till an arrow pierces his liver -
like a bird hurrying into a trap,
and he does not know that it will cost him his life.

24 So now, sons, listen to me,
and pay attention to the words I speak.

25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways -

do not wander into her pathways;

26 for she has brought down many fatally wounded,

and all those she has slain are many.

27 Her house is the way to the grave,
going down to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 8

1 Does not wisdom call out?
Does not understanding raise her voice?

2 She takes her stand on the top of
the high hill,

Beside the way, where the paths
meet.

3 She cries out by the gates, at the
entry of the city,

At the entrance of the doors:

4 "To you, O men, I call,

And my voice is to the sons of men.

5 O you simple ones, understand
prudence,

And you fools, be of an understanding
heart.

6 Listen, for I will speak of excellent
things,

And from the opening of my lips will
come right things;

7 For my mouth will speak truth;
Wickedness is an abomination to my
lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are with
righteousness;

Nothing crooked or perverse is in
them.

9 They are all plain to him who
understands,

And right to those who find
knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction, and not
silver,

And knowledge rather than choice
gold;

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

2 At the top of the elevated places
along the way,

at the intersection of the paths she
takes her stand;

3 beside the gates opening into the
city,

at the entrance of the doorways she
cries out:

4 "To you, O people, I call out,

and my voice calls to all mankind.

5 You who are naive, discern wisdom!

And you fools, understand
discernment!

6 Listen, for I will speak excellent
things,

and my lips will utter what is right.

7 For my mouth speaks truth,
and my lips hate wickedness.

8 All the words of my mouth are
righteous;

there is nothing in them twisted or
crooked.

9 All of them are clear to the
discerning

and upright to those who find
knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction rather than
silver,

and knowledge rather than choice
gold.

11 For wisdom is better than rubies,
and desirable things cannot be
compared to her.

12 “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And find out knowledge and
discretion.

13 The fear of the LORD is to hate
evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverse mouth I hate.
14 Counsel is mine, and sound
wisdom;
I am understanding, I have strength.

15 By me kings reign,
And rulers decree justice.

16 By me princes rule, and nobles,
All the judges of the earth.

17 I love those who love me,
And those who seek me diligently will
find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me,
Enduring riches and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, yes,
than fine gold,
And my revenue than choice silver.

20 I traverse the way of
righteousness,

In the midst of the paths of justice,

21 That I may cause those who love
me to inherit wealth,

That I may fill their treasuries.

22 “The LORD possessed me at the
beginning of His way,
Before His works of old.

23 I have been established from
everlasting,
From the beginning, before there was
ever an earth.

12 “I, wisdom, live with prudence,
and I find knowledge and discretion.

13 The fear of the LORD is to hate
evil;

I hate arrogant pride and the evil way
and perverse utterances.

14 Counsel and sound wisdom belong
to me;

I possess understanding and might.

15 Kings reign by means of me,
and potentates decree righteousness;

16 by me princes rule,
as well as nobles and all righteous
judges.

17 I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me,
long-lasting wealth and
righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than the purest
gold,
and what I produce is better than
choice silver.

20 I walk in the path of righteousness,
in the pathway of justice,

21 that I may cause those who love
me to inherit wealth,

and that I may fill their treasuries.

22 The LORD created me as the
beginning of his works,

before his deeds of long ago.

23 From eternity I was appointed,
from the beginning, from before the
world existed.

24 When there were no depths I was brought forth,
When there were no fountains abounding with water.
25 Before the mountains were settled,
Before the hills, I was brought forth;
26 While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields,
Or the primal dust of the world.
27 When He prepared the heavens, I was there,
When He drew a circle on the face of the deep,
28 When He established the clouds above,
When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,
29 When He assigned to the sea its limit,
So that the waters would not transgress His command,
When He marked out the foundations of the earth,
30 Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman;
And I was daily His delight,
Rejoicing always before Him,
31 Rejoicing in His inhabited world,
And my delight was with the sons of men.

32 “Now therefore, listen to me, my children,
For blessed are those who keep my ways.

24 When there were no deep oceans I was born,
when there were no springs overflowing with water;
25 before the mountains were set in place -
before the hills - I was born,
26 before he made the earth and its fields,
or the beginning of the dust of the world.
27 When he established the heavens, I was there; when he marked out the horizon over the face of the deep,
28 when he established the clouds above, when the fountains of the deep grew strong,

29 when he gave the sea his decree that the waters should not pass over his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

30 then I was beside him as a master craftsman,
and I was his delight day by day, rejoicing before him at all times,
31 rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth,
and delighting in its people.

32 “So now, children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.

33 Hear instruction and be wise,
And do not disdain it.
34 Blessed is the man who listens to
me,
Watching daily at my gates,
Waiting at the posts of my doors.
35 For whoever finds me finds life,
And obtains favor from the LORD;
36 But he who sins against me wrongs
his own soul;
All those who hate me love death.”

Proverbs 9 – The Way of Wisdom

1 Wisdom has built her house,
She has hewn out her seven pillars;
2 She has slaughtered her meat,
She has mixed her wine,
She has also furnished her table.
3 She has sent out her maidens,
She cries out from the highest places
of the city,
4 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in
here!”
As for him who lacks understanding,
she says to him,
5 “Come, eat of my bread
And drink of the wine I have mixed.
6 Forsake foolishness and live,
And go in the way of understanding.
7 “He who corrects a scoffer gets
shame for himself,
And he who rebukes a wicked man
only harms himself.

33 Listen to my instruction so that
you may be wise,
and do not neglect it.
34 Blessed is the one who listens to
me, watching at my doors day by day,
waiting beside my doorway.
35 For the one who finds me finds life
and receives favor from the LORD.
36 But the one who does not find me
brings harm to himself;
all who hate me love death.”

Proverbs 9

1 Wisdom has built her house;
she has carved out its seven pillars.
2 She has prepared her meat, she has
mixed her wine;
she also has arranged her table.
3 She has sent out her female
servants;
she calls out on the highest places of
the city.
4 “Whoever is naive, let him turn in
here,” she says to those who lack
understanding.
5 “Come, eat some of my food,
and drink some of the wine I have
mixed.
6 Abandon your foolish ways so that
you may live, and proceed in the way
of understanding.”
7 Whoever corrects a mocker is
asking for insult;
whoever reproves a wicked person
receives abuse.

8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;
Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.
9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;
Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.
10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
11 For by me your days will be multiplied,
And years of life will be added to you.
12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,
And if you scoff, you will bear it alone."

The Way of Folly

13 A foolish woman is clamorous;
She is simple, and knows nothing.
14 For she sits at the door of her house,
On a seat by the highest places of the city,
15 To call to those who pass by,
Who go straight on their way:

16 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here";
And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,

8 Do not reprove a mocker or he will hate you;
reprove a wise person and he will love you.
9 Give instruction to a wise person, and he will become wiser still;
teach a righteous person and he will add to his learning.
10 The beginning of wisdom is to fear the LORD,
and acknowledging the Holy One is understanding.
11 For because of me your days will be many,
and years will be added to your life.
12 If you are wise, you are wise to your own advantage,
but if you are a mocker, you alone must bear it.

13 The woman called Folly is brash, she is naive and does not know anything.
14 So she sits at the door of her house,
on a seat at the highest point of the city,
15 calling out to those who are passing by her in the way,
who go straight on their way.
16 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here,"
she says to those who lack understanding.

17 “Stolen water is sweet,
And bread eaten in secret is
pleasant.”

18 But he does not know that the
dead are there,
That her guests are in the depths of
hell.

Genesis 39 – Joseph a Slave in Egypt

1 Now Joseph had been taken down
to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of
Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an
Egyptian, bought him from the
Ishmaelites who had taken him down
there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he
was a successful man; and he was in
the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 And his master saw that the LORD
was with him and that the LORD
made all he did to prosper in his
hand.

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight,
and served him. Then he made him
overseer of his house, and all that he
had he put under his authority.

5 So it was, from the time that he had
made him overseer of his house and
all that he had, that the LORD blessed
the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s
sake; and the blessing of the LORD
was on all that he had in the house
and in the field.

17 “Stolen waters are sweet,
and food obtained in secret is
pleasant!”

18 But they do not realize that the
dead are there,
that her guests are in the depths of
the grave.

Genesis 39

1 Now Joseph had been brought
down to Egypt. An Egyptian named
Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh and
the captain of the guard, purchased
him from the Ishmaelites who had
brought him there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph. He was
successful and lived in the household
of his Egyptian master.

3 His master observed that the LORD
was with him and that the LORD
made everything he was doing
successful.

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight
and became his personal attendant.
Potiphar appointed Joseph overseer
of his household and put him in
charge of everything he owned.

5 From the time Potiphar appointed
him over his household and over all
that he owned, the LORD blessed the
Egyptian’s household for Joseph’s
sake. The blessing of the LORD was on
everything that he had, both in his
house and in his fields.

6 Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

7 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.

9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

10 So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; he gave no thought to anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well built and good-looking.

7 Soon after these things, his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Have sex with me."

8 But he refused, saying to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not give any thought to his household with me here, and everything that he owns he has put into my care.

9 There is no one greater in this household than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you because you are his wife. So how could I do such a great evil and sin against God?"

10 Even though she continued to speak to Joseph day after day, he did not respond to her invitation to have sex with her.

11 One day he went into the house to do his work when none of the household servants were there in the house.

12 She grabbed him by his outer garment, saying, "Have sex with me!" But he left his outer garment in her hand and ran outside.

13 And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,
14 that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.
15 And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside."
16 So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.
17 Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;
18 so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."
19 So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.
20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.
21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

13 When she saw that he had left his outer garment in her hand and had run outside,
14 she called for her household servants and said to them, "See, my husband brought in a Hebrew man to us to humiliate us. He tried to have sex with me, but I screamed loudly.
15 When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his outer garment beside me and ran outside."

16 So she laid his outer garment beside her until his master came home.

17 This is what she said to him: "That Hebrew slave you brought to us tried to humiliate me,
18 but when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his outer garment and ran outside."

19 When his master heard his wife say, "This is the way your slave treated me," he became furious.

20 Joseph's master took him and threw him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. So he was there in the prison.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him kindness. He granted him favor in the sight of the prison warden.

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

22 The warden put all the prisoners under Joseph's care. He was in charge of whatever they were doing.

23 The warden did not concern himself with anything that was in Joseph's care because the LORD was with him and whatever he was doing the LORD was making successful.