

# Proverbs for Young People



Weekly lessons in the book of Proverbs for ages 12 and over

*by Janice Trees*

## Introduction

Thank you for using this study! I hope it will bless you and your family. I've made a few notes here so that you will know what to expect when you begin studying.

Did you know that the book of Proverbs was especially written for young people? The phrase “my son” occurs in the book many times. Solomon is generally credited with writing most of the Proverbs. He was the son of David who as a young prince prayed to God, “give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?” (1 Kings 3:9).

This young man grew up to become the wisest man on earth (I Kings 4:29-34). As God imparted wisdom to him, Solomon collected it in this book. Imagine that you are the elderly Solomon, about to depart from the earth. What would you want your son to know? What would help him judge your people Israel? What would help him please God so that he could be in heaven with you someday?

In the book of Proverbs you will find advice about justice, self-control, purity, industry, and other moral instructions. There are descriptions, warnings, and instructions which are meant to help the young person discern good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). I want my own children to learn these things, and I couldn't have said them better than God did already. I know that studying this book can help them walk with God, protected and nurtured by His Word, and grow up to be faithful servants in His kingdom. That is probably why your parents and teachers want you to learn from the book of Proverbs as well.

You will be studying one chapter from Proverbs each week. Each week has five daily lessons. Each day is set up like a “checklist” so that you can check off the things you have done for that day. Of course, nothing says you have to do this study every day. There may be other studies you want to do in between weeks or every other day. Just work at a pace that is comfortable for you and helps you absorb the material easiest. But please study something from the Bible every day. That is the best way that the Scripture can help you and become fruitful in your life.

I suggest you use a New American Standard or New King James Bible for your studies. These are the most accurate versions and seem easier to read than the King James. While there are other translations being sold that are in a less formal language, they are not accurate translations, and you may not receive the full meaning that God intended for you from His Word. You may also want a notebook or some paper for making notes.

While studying the Proverbs, you will also be studying the books of First and Second Timothy. These are two wonderful books written by the apostle Paul to a young man who was learning how to preach and teach the Word of God. Timothy is a great example of how a young person can walk with Christ and have the wisdom that is mentioned so often in the book of Proverbs. I hope that by studying these books, you can see how the Proverbs are exemplified in the life of a young Christian.

Each lesson has the following components:

1. You will have a memory verse from each chapter. In some studies, you choose your own verse. Your checklist will prompt you to recite the verse every day. Recitation is the most tried-and-true method of memorizing verses, but you may have others you enjoy. You can find some tips for remembering *all* your memory verses at <http://simplycharlottesmason.com/timesavers/memorysys/>
2. You will read the entire chapter from Proverbs on the first day.
3. On the second day, you will read an excerpt from the chapter. Then there will be a discussion section on just these verses. Sometimes there will be an essay or reading from another source. These are optional, but I chose them because they seem to illustrate the Bible passage more clearly. (Because I originally wrote these lessons for my own children, that also made a difference in the essays I chose).
4. On the third day, you will read an excerpt from the books of first and second Timothy. There will be additional readings that you may want to do as well. These will focus on other principles learned from the assigned chapter in Proverbs.
5. The fourth day gives you a journal topic upon which to reflect and write or discuss with others. If you aren't into journaling, you can use this day to do additional studies from day three.
6. The fifth day is for review.

Just a note on reviewing: You will notice that there are no review questions in these studies (no true/false, fill-in-the-blank, or other traditional review items). I am a Charlotte Mason homeschooler and so I use a method of review called "narration." All you basically do is re-tell what you have learned.

There are many ways to narrate. You can recite your narration out loud to a parent or teacher. You may want to purchase a notebook to record your narrations and journal entries. Some students enjoy composing poetry & psalms or drawing pictures that are inspired by their Bible readings. Another great way to narrate is to teach the lesson to someone else, like a younger brother or sister. I have listed more information about narration at my website ~ <http://peregrinal.wordpress.com/2008/07/16/narration/>

Narration can be as general or as specific as desired. More than just "parroting" back the lesson, the student should try to talk about what principles and ideas were learned.

I encourage you to think of these things when you review or narrate a Bible reading:

1. What is the main lesson you learned from the reading? What do you think your parents and teachers would want you to learn from it?
2. How can today's reading help you be a better servant of Christ? How can it help you love God better? How can it help you love others better?
3. Is there anything you agreed or disagreed with in the reading? Why?
4. Can you think of other Bible verses/ stories that tie into these lessons? What about Bible

characters who exemplified the qualities you studied? What about people you know personally who live out these principles in their service to God?

5. In what area of your life does this lesson help you the most ~ family, church, school, friendships, something else?

You may want to put each of the above questions on an index card or list them at the front of your notebook so that you will have these prompts handy when it's time for review.

Please feel free to contact me at [mirrorjranch@gmail.com](mailto:mirrorjranch@gmail.com) if you have any comments about these studies. I pray for God's blessings upon your efforts to learn His Word more fully.

*Janice Trees*

## LESSON 1~ Proverbs 1 Finding Wisdom

**Memory Verse** (repeat this verse every day this week)  
A wise man will hear and increase in learning,  
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.  
Proverbs 1:5

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 1.

Start on your memory verse for this week.

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 1:20-29.

These verses in Proverbs paint a really interesting picture. Many people think that wisdom is stored up in thick books, in the classroom, and in the minds of great men. They think you have to have a college education or an awesome job to be very wise. Some people won't even talk to God directly, but feel they must go to someone special, who has secret wisdom about God.

But God says that wisdom is out there, in the streets, yelling for people to come to her! How can that be? Well, the Bible is available for all men. The Bible has been translated into every language; it has been preached in every nation (Acts 1:8, Revelation 14:6). It's basic message of love and forgiveness can be understood by all men, doctors and fishermen, even little children.

God says that those who "neglected all my counsel" and "spurned all my reproof" have no excuse (verse 25). Verse 29 says that for people to really be wise, they must fear the Lord.

I hope that in studying the book of Proverbs, you will see that wisdom is a *gift from God*. There is so much wisdom in this book, and it has been freely given to us by our loving Father. Our love and respect for Him will help us learn how to be wise.

### THE YOUNG SOLDIER

By J.G. ADAMS.

A soldier! a soldier!  
I'm longing to be;  
The name and the life  
Of a soldier for me!  
I would not be living  
At ease and at play:  
True honor and glory  
I'd win in my day!

A soldier! a soldier!  
In armor arrayed;  
My weapons in hand,

Of no contest afraid;  
I'd ever be ready  
To strike the first blow,  
And to fight my good way  
Through the ranks of the foe.

But then, let me tell you,  
No blood would I shed,  
No victory seek o'er  
The dying and dead;  
A far braver soldier  
Than this would I be;  
A warrior of Truth,  
In the ranks of the free!

My helmet Salvation,  
Strong Faith my good shield.  
The sword of the Spirit  
I'd learn how to wield.  
And then against evil  
And sin would I fight,  
Assured of my triumph,  
Because in the right.

A soldier! a soldier!  
O, then, let me be!  
Young friends, I invite you--  
Enlist now with me.  
Truth's bands will be mustered--  
Love's foes shall give way!  
Let's up, and be clad  
In our battle array!

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 1:20-29.
- Recite your memory verse.

### Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Recite your memory verse.

The books of first and second Timothy are letters that were written by Paul to a young preacher. These letters contain many “words of wisdom” for Timothy that are important for us to know as well. While we study the book of Proverbs, we will also be studying these two epistles.

Today, read 1 Timothy 1:1-4. How do we know Paul really cared about Timothy? Timothy wasn't Paul's son, but Paul saw him as his child in the faith. Paul had taught him. Do you have anyone at church who feels that way about *you*?

What did Paul want Timothy to teach others (verses 3-4)? In Timothy's day (just like today) there were people who enjoyed starting fights and spreading problems in the church. Some men in Timothy's church liked to spend time discussing things other than the Bible. Paul said Timothy needed

to watch out for strange doctrines, myths, and other things that were not part of the Scripture. What do you think could happen if our sermons and Bible classes were spent on books and stories other than the Word of God?

Think about this week's reading from Proverbs. How would these proverbs have helped Timothy in his daily work for the church?

There are many New Testament verses about the importance of wisdom and knowledge. So many people do things because “it just feels right” or “it’s the way I’ve always done it.” God doesn’t want us to have a blind faith. He wants us to be sure of His commandments and love for us. Read Ephesians 5:15-17, 1 Peter 1:20-25, and 1 John 5:20.

#### **Day 4: Journal ~**

Who are some wise people you know? What makes them wise? What are some qualities about them that you would like to cultivate in yourself? What can you pray about these things?

Recite your memory verse.

Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

#### **Day 5: Put it all together**

Read Proverbs 1 again.

Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs 1.

Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 2 ~ Proverbs 2 The Purpose of Wisdom

### Memory Verse

....the Lord gives wisdom;  
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding  
Proverbs 2:6

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 2.  
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 2:1-9.

Does God give us wisdom so that we can feel smarter than everyone else? Does He give us wisdom so that we can get a good education? Does He give us wisdom so that we can impress people?

God gives us wisdom so that we can be safe and sheltered. He gives us wisdom so that we can understand things in this life and find our way to our home with Him. He gives us wisdom because He loves us so much and wants to show us the right way to live.

There will come a time when you will not live at home. You'll have to take care of yourself and make choices for your life all by yourself. Don't you want to be ready for that time? God wants you to have a full life, joyfully serving in His kingdom, both on earth and someday in Heaven. He has given you the Bible to prepare for it!

*The following essay was written by Bruce S. Wright and published in The Children's Six Minutes in 1922. Now out of print, the book may be read free online.*

### IF I WERE A BOY AGAIN

Chicago University, one of the great schools of America and the world, received its impetus from the tireless energy and brilliant leadership of its great President, Dr. Harper. After his death there was found among his papers a memorandum which read as follows:

"If I were a boy again I would strive to find out from good books how good men lived.

"If I were a boy again I would study the Bible even more than I did. I would make it a mental companion. The Bible is a necessity for every boy.

"If I were a boy again I would more and more cultivate the company of those older whose graces of person and mind would help me on in my good work. I would always seek good company.

"If I were a boy again I would study the life and character of our Saviour, persistently, that I might become more and more like unto him."

Now President Harper was a great, wise and good man. If he felt that he would do certain things were he a boy again, surely the rest of us could improve upon our boyhood years had we the chance.

If I were a boy again I would be more attentive to Church and Sunday School and the things that were taught me there. If I were a boy again I would get my day school lessons with greater care. If I were a boy again I would be more obedient to and more thoughtful of my parents.

Why should I talk like this, for I cannot be a boy again? But you boys have your boyhood. It is a present reality. Let President Harper teach you. Be the boy he pictures.

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 2:1-9.
- Recite your memory verse.

### **Day 3: For Further Study ~**

- Recite your memory verse.

We will continue in our reading of 1 Timothy, a letter that Paul wrote to help the young man Timothy know how to be wise and a good servant of Christ. Last week you read about some of the problems that were occurring at the church where young Timothy preached. Read 1 Timothy 1:5-11. What should Timothy's goal be whenever he taught someone (verse 5)? What keeps some people from being good teachers of the gospel (verses 6-7)? In verses 9-11, what are some of the sins that the gospel of Christ can help men fight?

You have been studying about wisdom in the book of Proverbs and how it can keep us safe. In today's reading from 1 Timothy, so many dangerous sins are listed. Can you see how being wise in God's Word keeps you safe from a terrible life in sin? God gives us His commandments because He loves us and wants to protect us from harm and misery. He wants to prepare us for a Heavenly home with Him.

- You can see how important knowledge is in serving God properly by reading Hosea 4:6, Philippians 1:9-11, and 2 Peter 1:5-8.

### **Day 4: Journal ~**

In what area of life would you like more wisdom? Is there someone with whom you have a hard time getting along? Is there a commandment of God that you're having trouble accepting or understanding? Are you having difficulty with one of your responsibilities, such as school or sports? Ask God for wisdom in this area. Ask for help in learning what the Bible says about it.

- Recite your memory verse.

Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

### **Day 5: Put it all together**

- Read Proverbs 2 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 3 ~ Proverbs 3 The Rewards of Wisdom

**Memory Verse** (repeat this verse every day this week)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 3.  
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 3:1-6.

In these verses today, Solomon, the writer of most of the Proverbs, talks about how wisdom is something you should wear “around your neck” (verse 3). He says that kindness and truth should never leave us. They should be written upon our hearts. It makes me think of a lovely necklace that we enjoy wearing because it is so precious to us.

WHY does God want us to remember His Word so often? Like a shield, the Word cannot protect you unless you carry it with you. Like a sword, it cannot do its work if it’s not in your hand. When sin is in our face, when sadness is in our hearts, don’t we want God near?

HOW do we do this? We can’t always keep a Bible in our pocket. We have to read our Bibles every day so that God’s laws and promises are in our memory. We want it to be as familiar and comforting as singing our ABC’s. Do you think you could ever forget your ABC’s?

In verses 4 through 6 of this passage, you can find some rewards of keeping God near: favor with men and God (verse 4); and a clear path through life instead of confusion (v. 6). There are more promises given in verses 7-12, if you would like to learn more.

What a lot of blessings God has in store for you! Keep His Words close to you, and He will not be far either!

Review/Narrate Proverbs 3:1-6.  
 Recite your memory verse.

**Day 3: For Further Study ~**

Recite your memory verse.

We will continue in our reading of 1 Timothy, a letter that Paul wrote to help the young man Timothy know how to be wise and a good servant of Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 1: 12-20. Paul wanted Timothy to “fight the good fight” (v. 18) and keep his faith strong. Paul wanted Timothy to see what a good, kind Heavenly Father he had. How did Paul know that God was good and kind? God had forgiven Paul of so many things. What kind of life did

Paul lead before he learned about Christ? Verse 17 is a wonderful verse of praise to Christ for His mercy and love.

How do these verses relate to the passage from Proverbs which you read yesterday?

Proverbs 3:27-30 teach us how wisdom bears fruit in our lives by helping us treat others better. What does God tell us here about being a good friend and neighbor?

Yesterday's lesson from Proverbs was about being close to God. God wants to be near to us always! Read Psalm 73:25-28, Hebrews 10:22, James 4:8

#### **Day 4: Journal ~**

Imagine that you are linking together a chain to wear as a necklace. Each link of the chain is something special that you have learned from God's Word. List what these links would be. How many links do you have?

Recite your memory verse.

Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

#### **Day 5: Put it all together**

Read Proverbs 3 again.

Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.

Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 4 ~ Proverbs 4 Guarding Our Hearts

### Memory Verse

Watch over your heart with all diligence,  
For from it flow the springs of life.  
Proverbs 4:23

- Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 4.  
 Start on your memory verse for this week.  
 What do you think this memory verse means?

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 4: 20-27.

There is a children's song, "Be Careful Little Eyes What you See." It tells children to guard their eyes, mouths, hands, etc., because God is watching them. What parts of the body do these verses from Proverbs tell us to guard? What kind of sins can happen if we don't guard our hearts? What about our mouths, eyes, and feet?

Do you remember what happened to the Israelites when they did not remove the idols from their lands? Their eyes kept looking at them, their feet kept going to them, their mouths prayed to them, and pretty soon, their hearts loved the idols more than God. Can you see the danger of not guarding even one aspect of your being? Sin will find a door any way it can.

Wisdom helps us remember to stick to God's Word. We should be working and living to serve God only. Our bodies should be for God's service, not an opportunity for sin.

*Do you own a camera? Cameras today are very different from the cameras your parents used, and very different from the cameras that were first invented. In the following essay, a camera (called a "kodak") from the early 1920's is described in order to teach a lesson about guarding out eyes. The following essay was written by Bruce S. Wright and published in The Children's Six Minutes in 1922. Now out of print, you may read the book free on the internet.*

### THE HUMAN KODAK

I wonder how many of you have a kodak. Yes, many of you own one. What a wonderful little machine a kodak is! First we buy a film, then we open the kodak and place the film. Now pull the paper over to the empty roll and fasten, close the kodak and begin to wind. Oh, here you are, No. 1. [the first picture on the film roll]. The day is clear, for we must have a clear day to get the best picture. We hold the kodak very steady, then snap, we have it. Next we pull a little slide in the back, take a pencil and write down the date and name. Let me see, what was that picture? Oh, yes, "Chrysanthemum (is that the way to spell it?) exhibition." Next the films are developed, and the kodak pictures are complete, all but pasting them in a big book.

For all that the kodak is a whole lot of fuss, isn't it? But, do you know, each one of us has a kodak God

has given him which works itself. We have the open circle through which the pictures are taken, our eyes, and beyond the eyes, in the brain, are thousands of films. We start out in the morning and the moment we open our eyes we begin exposing those films. We do not have to do any clicking for these pictures, one after another, click, click, click, and they are developed as fast as they are taken.

If you should say to a man who has reached three score years and ten, "Tell me the clearest picture you can remember," he would not show a picture that was taken yesterday, or last week, or last year. He would turn back the pages of his memory book fifty, sixty years. The clearest pictures he possesses are those that were snapped in his boyhood. Every day you are taking pictures that are going to remain with you as long as you live. Let us resolve, girls and boys, that as we go out each morning and our human kodak begins clicking, we shall take only pictures that are true, pure and clean.

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 4: 20-27
- Recite your memory verse.

### **Day 3: For Further Study ~**

- Recite your memory verse.

- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-8. For whom does Paul want Timothy and other Christians to pray? Why should we pray for these people (verse 2)?

Sometimes people enjoy making fun of our government leaders and complaining about them. We should remember that God has a purpose for giving us our government. God has blessed us with many freedoms so that men could "come to the knowledge of the truth" (verse 4).

In verse 5, we are reminded of how powerful prayer is: God's own Son comes to talk to Him on our behalf. That is an amazing thing! If we can remember how blessed we are, then it will be easy to follow Paul's commandment in verse 8, to pray.

Incidentally, can you think of why in these verses Paul also mentions "without wrath and dissension"? What happens to our prayers if they are made in a spirit of anger and fighting? Read Matthew 5:23-24 and 1 Peter 3:7 for a hint.

This week's reading from Proverbs has to do with the way we guard our hearts, eyes, hands, lips, and feet. One way to guard them is to keep them busy doing good! And when our eyes are closed, hands folded, and lips are busy with prayer, that is one of the best things we can do as God's servants.

- Yesterday's reading from Proverbs showed us that our bodies are important to God. You should take care of your body because it can do God's work! Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. How can our bodies bring glory to God? How can they bring Him shame?

### **Day 4: Journal ~**

- We can use our hearts, mouths, eyes, and feet to serve God and others. How can each of these serve others and help you be an active member of the Lord's family?

- Recite your memory verse.

- Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate

them.

**Day 5: Put it all together**

- Read Proverbs 4 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 5 ~ Proverbs 5 On Marriage

**Memory Verse** (repeat this verse every day this week)

Let your fountain be blessed,  
and rejoice with the wife of your youth.  
Proverbs 5:18

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 5.

Start on your memory verse for this week. What does God promise to men who are joyful in their marriages?

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 5:15-18.

Would you go walk into a stranger's house and start eating their food? Would you walk into a stranger's house and start drinking from their faucet? That would be strange to us, wouldn't it?

These proverbs use that strange picture to talk about faithfulness in marriage. A person who doesn't love their own husband or wife, and who looks for love somewhere else, is as foolish as someone who walks into a strange house and starts using its things.

I know you're not married yet, and won't be for a long time. But it's good to know these verses, because you'll hear them a lot when Christians talk about marriage. Do you see what a great importance God puts upon marriage? God wants husbands and wives to enjoy their marriages and be true to one another. There is so much happiness to be found in a Godly marriage. Marriage brings many blessings to the husband, the wife, and also to their children!

*Small Means and Great Ends* is a collection of stories edited by Mrs. M.H. Adams and published in 1851. The book may be read free online.

### MY GRANDMOTHER'S COTTAGE.

Of all places in the wide world, my own early home excepted, none seem to me more pleasing in memory than my grandmother's cottage. Very often did I visit it in my boyhood, and well acquainted with its appearance within, and with almost every object around it, did I become. It stood in a quiet nook in the midst of the woods, about five miles from the pleasant seaport where I was born. The cottage was not a spacious one. It had but few rooms in it; but it was amply large for my aged grandparents, I remember. They lived happily there. My grandfather was somewhat infirm; my grandmother was a very vigorous person for one of seventy-five; this was her age at the time of my first recollection of her. She used to walk from her cottage to our home; and once I walked with her, but was exceedingly mortified that I could not endure the walk so well as she did.

I used to love this cottage home, because it was so quiet, and in the summer time so delighting to me. I believe I received some of my very first lessons in the love of nature in this place. It was a charming summer or winter retreat. If the sun shone warmly down anywhere, it was here. If the wind blew kindly anywhere, it was around the snug cottage, sheltered as it was on every side by the tall old pines. If the

robin's note came earliest anywhere in the spring-time, it was from the large spreading apple-tree just at the foot of the little garden lot. How often has my young heart been delighted with his song there! And then, what sweet chanting I have heard in those woods all the day from the thrush and sparrow, yellow-bird and oriole! How their mellow voices would seem to echo in the noon-silence, or at the sunset hour, as though they were singing anthems in some vast cathedral! They were; and what anthems of nature's harmony and praise! God heard them, and was glorified.

It seemed to me that every animate thing was made to be happy. I loved to stand beneath a tall old hemlock in a certain part of the wood, and watch the squirrels as they skipped and ran so swiftly along the wall, or from branch to branch, or up and down the trees. Their chattering made a fine accompaniment to the bird-songs. And here I learned to indulge a fondness for the very crows, which to this day I have never outgrown. Though they have been denounced as mischievous, and bounties have been set upon them, I never could find it in my heart to indulge in the warring propensity against them. They always seemed to me such social company--issuing from some edge of the woodland, and slowly flapping their black wings, and flocking out into the clearing, huddling overhead, and sailing away, chatting so loudly and heartily all the while, and reminding the whole neighborhood that when we have life, it is best to let others know it! Yes--the cawing crows have been company for me in many a solitary ramble; and whenever I hear them, I inwardly pay my respects to them. All these, and other familiar sights and sounds, did I richly enjoy at the old cottage in the woods.

I loved to sit at the shed-door, and watch my grandfather at his slow work; for he had been a mechanic in his day, and was able to do a little very moderately at his trade now. He would tell me the history of the old people in the neighborhood, and of the customs and fashions when they were boys and girls; and my eyes and ears were open to hear him. I used to wish I could see them just as they looked when they were children. It was very difficult then for me to imagine how those who had become so wrinkled could ever have had the smooth faces of infants and children. But my grandfather could remember when he was a boy; and his father had told him what things were done when he, too, was a boy. And so I concluded that wrinkles were no disgrace, nor the fairest faces of the young any protection against them.

My grandmother was very fond of me, and took great pleasure in having me read to her, as her eyesight had become somewhat dim. And so I used to load myself with story-books and newspapers, when I became older, to carry and read to her. And such times as we had with them! Voyages, travels, discoveries, adventures, perils,--the wonders of the world, the wonders of science, the wonders of history,--all came in for their share of reading. Though I should read myself tired and sleepy, my grandmother would still be an interested listener. Since I have been a minister, I have often wished that many hearers would as eagerly listen to what I had to say especially to them, as did my aged grandmother to my young words then.

Those sunny days have departed. The old cottage is not there now. Years ago it was taken down. My grandfather died when I was yet a boy, and I followed him to the grave with a heavy heart. My grandmother lived to be almost a hundred years old,--her powers all gone, and she helpless. It would sometimes, even in my manhood, deeply affect me to have her look into my face with no sign in hers that she knew me, when she had once loved her talkative and delighted grandchild so fondly. But she, too, found her resting-place at last beside her companion. Peace to them! They blest me with their kindly, cheering words when most I needed them, and I will bless their memories. And peace to the spot where once stood their quiet home! Wherever in life I may be,--however brightly its pleasures may shine, or heavily its cares and afflictions press upon me--never would I outgrow the inspiration of these early enjoyments; never forget, that, however the

great, proud, and contentious world may distract and dishearten, there will yet be peace to the humble and virtuous soul in many a nook like that which sheltered and blest my grand mother's cottage.

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 5:15-18.
- Recite your memory verse.

### **Day 3: For Further Study ~**

- Recite your memory verse.
- Read 1 Timothy 2:9-15. Here, the Scripture gives us instructions on how God wants women to act. What qualities of a woman are important to God? Instead of being proud, loud, and vain, God wants women to quietly honor others and care for others, especially children. A godly woman will be protected from those who might want to trick her, the way satan did with Eve. Do you remember how the devil tricked Eve? He still tries to trick God's people into being proud and arguing with one another. Godly women in the Lord's family can learn how to keep satan from doing that.

Think of your reading this week from Proverbs about marriage. God wants us to be faithful to one another. Do these verses show you how precious women are to God? You can see what a great blessing they are to their families, churches, and communities, because of their gentle and serving spirits.

- Marriage is so important to God that He uses it to illustrate the love and devotion between Christ and the church. Read Ephesians 5:22-33. What do we learn about husbands and wives in these verses? What do we learn about how much Christ loves His church? What do we learn about the way the church should love Christ?

### **Day 4: Journal ~**

- Who are the married people in your local church? What is it that you admire about these marriages? Do some of the marriages seem happier than others? What can you pray for each of these families?

- Recite your memory verse.
- Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

### **Day 5: Put it all together**

- Read Proverbs 5 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 6 ~ Proverbs 6 True Courage

**Memory Verse** (repeat this verse every day this week)  
For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light;  
And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.  
Proverbs 6:23

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 6.

Start on your memory verse for this week. Are the Lord's commandments a help or a hindrance?

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 6:16-19.

*"Hiring a Coachman" was written by Howard J. Chidley and published in 1914 in his book, Fifty-Two Story Talks to Boys and Girls. It is now out of print but available free for reading online.*

There is a story that tells of a man who advertised for a coachman, and three men answered the advertisement. They all made a good appearance, and the man was at a loss to know which one to choose.

Finally he hit upon this scheme. There was a road near his house that ran along the edge of a precipice. The man asked each one of these coachmen in turn how close he could drive to the cliff without going over. The first said he could drive within six inches of it; the second said he could drive within two inches of it. When the third man was asked he said, "I should keep away from it as far as possible."

The man said, "You are the coachman I want."

The way that last coachman felt about the precipice is the way for boys and girls to feel about temptation. Some things that are wrong are like thin ice: they tempt you to see how far you can go, and the first thing you know you are in. A boy, especially, is tempted to be what is known as a "daredevil;" that is, one who is not afraid of anything. But there is nothing in it, boys. That sort of thing is not courage: it is rashness, which is just another name for foolishness.

Shakespeare once said:

"I dare do all that may become a man,  
Who dares do more is none."

The really brave boy is not the one that blusters and brags: the brave boy is usually quiet, but, as we say, "all there" when the pinch really comes.

Christ was one of the bravest men the world ever knew, and yet He told us to be afraid, actually afraid, of things that hurt our souls.

Do not see how near the fire you can go without getting scorched; don't see how near sin you can go without getting caught. It is poor business. Take this as your motto when you are inclined to tamper with wrong: "Who

eats with the devil needs a long-handled spoon." The farther you keep away from him, the better.

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 6:16-19
- Recite your memory verse.

### Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Recite your memory verse.

We will continue in our reading of 1 Timothy, a letter that Paul wrote to help the young man Timothy know how to be wise and a good servant of Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13. These verses are a list that helps Christians appoint elders and deacons in their local church. What are the important qualities that men should have in order to be elders or deacons? What important qualities should their wives and children have? These qualities are good goals for every young man or woman who would like to please God and be a vital part of the Lord's church someday. Do you think you could grow and learn to have these qualities when you're older? Think about this week's reading from Proverbs. How is courage related to the qualities possessed by elders, deacons, and their wives?

God has set forth His commandments because they are good for us (Deuteronomy 10:13). Look again at the things listed in Proverbs 6:16-19. How do these things hurt us and others? Can you see the wisdom of God in hating these things? How will it protect and bless you to hate these things also?

Some people say that God is so good, He could never *hate* anything. But Proverbs 6:16-19 shows us that there are some things God must hate. He doesn't hate *us*, but He at the same time He can't accept the evil we do, because then He couldn't be a just and holy God. There are so many verses in the New Testament that tell God's children to *stay away from evil*. We have to learn to hate sin just as much as God does. Read 1 Peter 1:13-19. What do these verses tell us about God's goodness and holiness? How can we also be good and holy in God's eyes?

### Day 4: Journal ~

Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven sins that God hates. Are there some others that you can think of that you should hate? Try to think specifically of bad habits that YOU are trying to give up so that you could serve God better. Can you pray about learning how to hate these things, so that you do not sin, and so that you can be more useful to God? Finish this phrase: "There are six things that (your name) hates; yes, seven things which are an abomination to him/her:....."

- Recite your memory verse.

Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

### Day 5: Put it all together

- Read Proverbs 6 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 7 ~ Proverbs 7 Keeping God's Word Close To Us

### Memory Verse

Keep my commandments and live,  
And my teaching as the apple of your eye.  
Proverbs 7:2

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 7.  
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 7:1-5

Imagine that you are standing in the middle of a crowd of people. Imagine that you are all squished together, with as little space in between you as possible. If there are several people in your home, perhaps you can actually try to do this, or else you can just imagine it. How many people can get close to you at one time? What's the most number of people who can stand all around you and be touching you?

If all these people were evil, how safe would you feel? How safe would you feel if all them were good? How safe would you feel if all of them loved you dearly?

God wants us to *surround* ourselves with His Word. He wants us to know His Word very well so that we can have wisdom. When wisdom is like a sister to us, when it's close to us and near us all the time, then it's harder for evil to touch us. This is a promise from God.

God wants to be near us! We can get closer to Him through study and prayer. This will keep us safe from sin.

*The following essay was written by Bruce S. Wright and published in The Children's Six Minutes in 1922. Now out of print, you may read the book free on the internet.*

### THE FATHER'S CARE

I have here a nut. It is a pecan. It grows in our southern states. It is a well formed nut with a hard shell. This nut I have is cracked. I open it and I notice just inside a thin, brown coating that covers the meat. I touch this coating to my lips. It is bitter and causes me to pucker my lips. This is the Creator's blessed provision for the protection of the nut in its growing stage. The bitter coating keeps insects and pests away.

On my way to church this morning I looked up and saw a long piece of yarn flying across the street at a rapid rate. I wondered what could cause that. Then at the front end of the yarn I saw a bird. The bird flew to the gable of a big house. There, in a protected corner, she was making her nest. The yarn was to be woven into her new spring house. So God gives instinct to birds and all his creatures as a mark of his loving care.

The most delicate, sensitive portion of your body is the eye. When I consider how tender and open to

harm the eye is I wonder that so many of us go through life with our eyes unhurt. But God has provided a sleepless protection for our eyes. There is a guard, always on duty. Whenever danger comes near, that guard, our eyelid, closes and effectively wards off impending trouble.

We started with the lowest form of life, an inanimate nut. Now we come to the highest, the soul of man. For in each one of you there is something eternal, something akin to God himself. The name we give that eternal spirit is the soul. For the protection of our soul God gives us faith [and a] conscience. He surrounds us with Christian homes, the Church, helpful fellowship, the means of grace. All these things are a protection for the soul.

Review/Narrate Proverbs 7:1-5.

Recite your memory verse.

### **Day 3: For Further Study ~**

Recite your memory verse.

We will continue in our reading of 1 Timothy, a letter that Paul wrote to help the young man Timothy know how to be wise and a good servant of Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16. How does Paul describe the church? What special things did Jesus do for the church? Compare these with the local congregation where you attend, and with other congregations in your area. Are they concerned with fulfilling these goals and teaching Christ in this way? Think about this week's reading from Proverbs. The church is one of the blessings God has given to us to keep Him near. How do church members fulfill this role for one another?

Read James 4:7-8. What do these verses tell us about drawing near to God? What do they teach us about dealing with the devil? Read Luke 4:1-13. How did Jesus draw near to God when He was tempted? What did the devil do in response?

Read Proverbs 7:6-27. What is an adulteress? How is the adulteress described in these verses? What kind of mistakes did the young man make to become so vulnerable to her? What things could the young man have done differently in order to save himself from her?

Think about the young people you know, both inside and outside of the church. How familiar are you with members of the opposite sex? How do you spend your time with them? What kind of situations should you avoid or watch out for so that you and they can remain pure and holy before God? Can young people help one another remain pure? What has God given you so that you can remain pure? How would you talk to another young person about purity (think of how your responses would be different whether that person would be male or female)?

**Day 4: Journal ~**

Can you write a proverb? Finish this sentence: “My son, love wisdom as much as you love \_\_\_\_\_.” How else would you describe the goodness and importance of God’s Word?

Recite your memory verse.

Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

**Day 5: Put it all together**

Read Proverbs 7 again.

Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.

Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 8 ~ Proverbs 8 A Good Gardener

### Memory Verse

I love those who love me,  
and those who diligently seek me will find me.  
Proverbs 8:17

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 8.

Start on your memory verse for this week. This verse is “spoken” by wisdom. What does wisdom promise in this verse?

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 8:12-17

### A story ~

One breezy Saturday morning, Maria arrived at the home of her neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Ray. The Rays were special friends of hers from church. They liked having Maria at their home. Maria enjoyed helping them, especially when the work involved their beautiful garden. Today Maria had brought her gardening tools. She wore a gardening apron and a wide-brimmed hat. Mr. Ray also had an apron, hat, and tools.

Together, Mr. Ray and Maria knelt in the garden pulling weeds. Mr. Ray liked to sing hymns as they worked. Every time Maria visited, she learned a new hymn. She also learned other things, as well.

“You know, Maria,” said Mr. Ray in his kind voice, “being a child of God is a lot like being a gardener.”

“Really?” asked Maria.

“Yep,” said Mr. Ray. He pointed at the ground before them. “To be a good gardener, it’s not enough to love plants. You also have to hate weeds. Do you know why?”

“Yes,” Maria replied, “because if you don’t hate weeds, then you won’t pull them out. And if you don’t pull them out, they’ll take over the garden.”

“You’re right! And if they take over your garden, then all your own plants won’t get the water and food they need to grow. Eventually, they’ll die. Now, how is that like being a good follower of Christ?”

Maria thought for a minute as she dug gently around the plants and loosened the weeds that grew in the ground before her. Loosening them helped make them easier to pull. After a few minutes, she answered, “I think you mean that if I don’t hate sin, it will take over my life, just like a weed.”

“That’s correct. It’s important to hate evil, just as God hates evil, because it’s so damaging to our souls. Even a small bad habit can grow to be a terrible sin. It’s better to stop sin when it first happens, before

it takes over. But this can only be done if we know God's Word and we are humble and willing to use it in our lives. That is why God wants us to grow wise. He gave us many good Bible verses, like the Proverbs, so that we could be wise and good."

"I do want to be wise and good, Mr. Ray," said Maria earnestly.

"I know you do, my child. God says that those who are wise and good are pleasing to Him. He loves all men, from the richest king to the poorest servant, and any who seek Him, fear Him, and hate evil, will be blessed."

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 8:12-17
- Recite your memory verse.

### Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Recite your memory verse.

- We will continue in our reading of 1 Timothy, a letter that Paul wrote to help the young man Timothy know how to be wise and a good servant of Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5. These verses go well with the proverbs you read today, because it talks about how dangerous sin can be. People who want to sin will tell lies to others. They will try to teach false things, so that we don't listen to the true Word of God. Sin can look very good, even very religious! What are some of the lies that Paul talks about in these verses? Do you know any religions that think marriage or certain foods are forbidden by God?

- Read Hebrews 5:13-14. In these verses we learn that we can *train ourselves* to learn the difference between good and evil. This is very important to understand, because many people today say you can't know the truth, or you have to rely on your feelings. Many people would rather follow someone blindly, or rely on other books and so-called gods. But God wants us to know *His Truth* and train ourselves in it. You're doing so well by starting early!

### Day 4: Journal ~

- Verses 22-31 in Proverbs 8 list how God used wisdom in Creation. What are the things you see in God's Creation that show His wisdom? Try to think of the smallest details that God remembered to create. For example, what plants grow in your part of the country? What kind of camouflage do different animals use? What is the purpose for your eyebrows? These things are examples of Proverbs 8:22-31. Can you think of others? What do you know about the way animals behave, the way living things grow and develop, and the way you are made, which demonstrate the wisdom and power of our God?

- Recite your memory verse.

- Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

**Day 5: Put it all together**

- Read Proverbs 8 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 9 ~ Proverbs 9 Increasing in Wisdom

### Memory Verse

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 9:10

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 9.

Start on your memory verse for this week. Why do you think we should fear God in order to be wise? If a person fears God, what will he or she do for God?

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 9:8-11

What would happen if you did not pick up anything in your bedroom for a month? What if you left your kitchen alone for a month? What if your family decided to sit and wait for the laundry to do itself?

These are silly questions, because you know that anything left to itself will get worse. It's the same way with wisdom and knowledge. We can't sit by and wait for it; we have to search for it and work for it. These verses in Proverbs 9 show us that God wants us to be very interested in learning the Bible and making it an important part of our lives.

Verse 9 tells us that in order to be wise, we need to increase our knowledge of the Lord. We will do this not only because we love Him, and because we see how much good it does for us, but because we fear and respect our Almighty God.

Do you know that you're getting wiser every time you study the Bible? It's just like growing taller – you don't realize it's happening, but little by little, you're growing, aren't you? The same thing is happening to your soul; it's growing and getting stronger in the Lord, as you learn more and more about Him.

*“Habits” was written by Howard S. Chidley and published in Fifty-Two Story Talks for Boys and Girls in 1914. Now out of print, it may be read free online.*

### HABITS

I wonder if I can make plain to you what a habit is. Have you ever seen men laying concrete sidewalks here in the city, and they put boards across to keep people from walking on the pavements before they were thoroughly dry? I am sure you have. These men keep people off the walk while it is soft because, if any one steps on it, then his footprints harden into the walk as it dries, and will always remain there.

Now, boys' and girls' minds are just like those cement walks when they are wet and soft; and if you do a thing over and over again as a boy or girl, you will make such a deep mark in your brains that when you grow up you cannot get the mark out, and you just keep on doing it, whether you want to or not.

When once you do a thing, it is easier to do it again. Even cloth and paper find it easier to do a thing a second time than the first. The sleeves of your dresses and coats fall into the same wrinkles and creases every time you put them on. That is what we call the "hang" of a dress or coat. And if you fold a piece

of paper once, it quickly gets the habit of folding along the same crease again.

And so you see that it is very important for you to get good habits as boys and girls, for first you make the habits, and then the habits make you.

You have often seen a little brook running along between its banks and over its pebbly bed. Well, once there was no brook-bed there, but gradually, years ago, a little stream began to trickle through, and finally it wore out a bed for itself. Now it cannot leave the bed if it wishes to. That is just what you do when you make a habit: you make a course which you will follow later in life.

First you take the train, then the train takes you. First the stream makes the bed, then the bed guides the stream.

They tell us that after we are thirty years of age we are little more than a bundle of habits. I suppose thirty years seems a long way off for you boys and girls, but you will reach it if you live. And there will be men living somewhere who will hear the name that you boys now have, and you are deciding now by the habits you make what sort of man he is going to be. If you want him to be a good, honorable, strong man, be sure you form good habits now.

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 9:8-11
- Recite your memory verse.

### **Day 3: For Further Study ~**

- Recite your memory verse.

- We will continue in our reading of 1 Timothy, a letter that Paul wrote to help the young man Timothy know how to be wise and a good servant of Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-11. This passage starts out with things that young Timothy should avoid. Then it ends with the things that Timothy should strive towards. As we move *away* from sin, we can be moving *closer* to godliness. How does this reading relate to this week's lesson from Proverbs?

- God wants our faith to grow and become better every day. Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. What does God want us to add to our faith as we grow older? What does He promise if we try to keep learning His Word?

Optional study questions for young men:

Read Proverbs 9:13-18. How is the “woman of folly” described in these verses? What kind of persuasion does she use to deceive young men? What kind of man is drawn to her (see verses 16). Do you think you could recognize a woman like this in society today? How would she present herself? How would she treat others? What has God given you to help you avoid a woman like this?

**Day 4: Journal ~**

You have now been studying the Proverbs every day for about two months. Have you seen any growth in your spiritual life? Have you seen some improvement in the way you think about God, obey His Word, and help others? What kind of spiritual things would you like to learn in the next two months?

Recite your memory verse.

Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

**Day 5: Put it all together**

Read Proverbs 9 again.

Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.

Recite your memory verse.

## LESSON 10 ~ Proverbs 10 Industry

### Memory Verse

The Lord will not allow the righteous to hunger.  
Proverbs 10:3

**Day 1:**  Read Proverbs chapter 10.  
 Start on your memory verse for this week. Do you believe this promise from God?

**Day 2:**  Read Proverbs 10:1-5

We have been reading about wisdom and foolishness. In these verses, we learn that being a hard worker is part of being wise. God wants us to be diligent and honest workers upon the earth.

Have you ever heard the fable about the ants and the grasshopper? The ants worked hard to gather grain for the winter. The grasshopper played and played while the weather was warm, then suffered in the winter for his lack of planning. He wished that others would share their grain with him. He wanted a reward without the work.

God wants us to be willing to work. Jesus and His disciples had very little time to rest. They were always working. You'll remember that for most of His life, Jesus was a carpenter.

God also wants us to trust in Him. Work hard, but remember that God will take care of the righteous (Proverbs 10:3). Don't be worried about what you can gain. This world is not your home! Be thankful for your work, focus on serving God, and God will take care of your daily needs.

*Small Means and Great Ends* is a collection of stories edited by Mrs. M.H. Adams and published in 1851. The book may be read free online.

SMALL MEANS AND GREAT ENDS;

OR,

THE WIDOW'S POT OF OIL.

BY JULIA A. FLETCHER.

"Oh! how I do wish I was rich!" said Eliza Melvyn, dropping her work in her lap, and looking up discontentedly to her mother; "why should not I be rich as well as Clara Payson? There she passes in her father's carriage, with her fine clothes, and haughty ways; while I sit here--sew--sewing--all day long. I don't see what use I am in the world!

"Why should it be so? Why should one person have bread to waste, while another is starving? Why should one sit idle all day, while another toils all night? Why should one have so many blessings, and another so few?"

"Eliza!" said Mrs. Melvyn, taking her daughter's hand gently within her own, and pushing back the

curls from her flushed brow, "my daughter, why is this? why is your usual contentment gone, and why are you so sinfully complaining? Have you forgotten to think that 'God is ever good?'"

"No, mother," replied the young girl, "but it sometimes appears strange to me, why he allows all these things."

"Wiser people than either you or I have been led to wonder at these things," said Mrs. Melvyn; "but the Christian sees in all the wisdom of God, who allows us to be tried here, and will overrule all for our good. The very person who is envied for one blessing perhaps envies another for one he does not possess. But why would you be rich, my child?"

"Mother, I went this morning through a narrow, dirty street in another part of the city. A group of ragged children were collected round one who was crying bitterly. I made my way through them and spoke to the little boy. He told me his little sister was dead, his father was sick, and he was hungry. Here was sorrow enough for any one; but the little boy stood there with his bare feet, his sunbleached hair and tattered clothes, and smiled almost cheerfully through the tears which washed white streaks amid the darkness of his dirty face. He led me to his home. Oh, mother! if you had been with me up those broken stairs, and seen the helpless beings in that dismal, dirty room you would have wished, like me, for the means to help them. The dead body lay there unburied, for the man said, they had no money to pay for a coffin. He was dying himself, and they might as well be buried together."

"Are you sure, Eliza, that you have not the means to help them?" asked Mrs. Melvyn. "Put on your bonnet, my dear, and go to our sexton. Tell him to go and do what should be done. ...Then call on Dr. ---- the dispensary physician, and send him to the relief of the sick one. Then go to those of your acquaintance who have, as you say, 'bread to waste,' and mention to them this hungry little boy. If you have no money to give these sufferers, you have a voice to plead with those who have; and thus you may bless the poor, while you doubly bless the rich, for 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Eliza obeyed, and when she returned several hours after, her face glowing with animation, and eagerly recounted how much had been done for the poor family; how their dead had been humanely borne from their sight; how the sick man was visited by the physician, and his bitterness of spirit removed by the sympathy which was sent him; how the room was to be cleaned and ventilated, and how she left the little boy eating a huge slice of bread, while others of the family were half devouring the remainder of the loaf; her mother listened with the same gentleness. "It is well, my daughter," said she; "I preferred to send you on this errand of sympathy, that you might see how much you could do with small means."

"I have a picture here," she continued, "which I wish you to keep as a token of this day's feelings and actions. It is called 'The Widow's Pot of Oil.' Will you read me the story which belongs to it?"

Eliza took her little pocket Bible, the one that she always carried to [church], and, turning to the fourth chapter of the second book of Kings, read the first seven verses. Turn to them now, children, and read them.

"You can see in this picture," said her mother, "how small was the 'pot of oil,' and how large were some of the vessels to be filled. Yet still it flowed on, a little stream; still knelt the widow in her faith, patiently supporting it; still brought her little sons the empty vessels; the blessing of God was upon it, and they were all filled. She feared not that the oil would cease to flow; she stopped not when one vessel was filled; she still believed, and labored, and waited, until her work was done."

"Take this picture, my daughter, and when you think that you cannot do good with small means, remember 'the widow's pot of oil,' and perseveringly use the means you have; when one labor is done, begin another; stitch by stitch you have made this beautiful garment; very large houses are built of little bricks patiently joined together one by one; and 'the widow's small pot of oil' filled many large vessels."

"Oh, mother," said Eliza, "I hope I shall never be so wicked again. I will keep the picture always..."

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 10:1-5
- Recite your memory verse.

### Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Recite your memory verse.

- We will continue in our reading of 1 Timothy, a letter that Paul wrote to help the young man Timothy know how to be wise and a good servant of Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16. This is a wonderful passage for young people to read. Imagine that you are Timothy. You were raised by a Christian mother and grandmother, and you traveled and learned from the apostle Paul. You are now a young preacher in a congregation with many people older than you, who know the Jewish law better than you do. Wouldn't you be concerned about how you could influence people in the church? Have *you* ever been told that "you're just too young" to do something?

Paul tells Timothy not to worry about that. Timothy has something very special: the Word of God. Timothy can keep studying it and obeying it, and this will cause others to believe and be saved. You can pray that *your* example and teaching can have the same powerful effect on others!

Think about this week's reading from Proverbs about work. Isn't there a lot of work for young people to do in God's kingdom? Timothy was concerned about what he could do for others – we should be as well. Perhaps our scope of influence is not from the pulpit, but think about this: for a great part of his life, neither was Paul's. He also spent time on boats, in prison, and in the homes of others. Yet he never stopped working to bring others to the Lord.

- What kind of work did Peter, Andrew, James, and John do before they were disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)? What kind of work did Paul do (see Acts 18:1-3)? Can you think of other jobs that people had in the Bible, such as Moses, Daniel, and Lydia? Read these verses about the value of good, honest, hard work: Proverbs 12:11 and 13:11; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15
- Another theme found in Proverbs 10 is "the mouth of the wicked" and "the mouth of the righteous." Look over the chapter and note what is said about the power of our words.

### Day 4: Journal

- What kind of work do you want to do when you're older? Think about yourself doing this work. What would show that you were a good worker? How could you bring glory to God while doing this work?
- Recite your memory verse.
- Read the verses from the book of Timothy that you read the day before. See if you can narrate them.

**Day 5: Put it all together**

- Read Proverbs 10 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.