

Proverbs for Young people
LESSON 21~ Proverbs 21
On Worship

Memory Verse

To do righteousness and justice
is desired by the Lord rather than sacrifice.
Proverbs 21:3

- Day 1:** Read Proverbs chapter 21.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

- Day 2:** Read Proverbs 21:2-8

You know that worshiping God is a very important part of our service to Him. And yet, God says there is something even more important than worship, and that is righteousness and justice (verse 3). How can this be so?

God cannot accept our sacrifices, our worship, if we are going to continue in unrighteousness. Sin is serious to God. Worship doesn't automatically "wipe away" the bad things we've done – only feeling sorry and trying to change can do that. Verse 4-8 of this chapter show us some of the sins that are serious to God. Pride, impatience, lying, violence... keep reading in this chapter and you can find others!

Our worship is pleasing to God when it comes from an open and pure heart. When you go to worship God, do you make sure there is no anger and mean-ness in your heart? Do you try to be thankful about all the things God has given you? Are you cheerful and eager to worship God? God is always interested in our hearts first. How is yours doing?

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 21:2-8
 Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Recite your memory verse.

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-6. Paul is telling Timothy to be strong, teach others, and put up with suffering (verses 1-3). What three occupations does Paul use to demonstrate how committed Timothy should be to the cause of Christ? How does a soldier stay strong and endure suffering? How does an athlete make sure he wins the prize? What kind of farmer will be paid first from the crops?

Think of how this relates to this week's reading from Proverbs. There are those who attend worship assemblies but are not really "running the race" that God has commanded. The Christian life is not just at the assemblies. It is daily work and service. Imagine if an athlete only worked out three hours a week, or if that was the only time a soldier was on duty, or if three hours a week was all the attention a farmer gave to his crops. What would happen?

Read 1 Samuel 15. Saul kept the animals of the Amelakites so that he could sacrifice them to God . But God had wanted Saul to destroy everything in Amalek. Saul tried to worship God, when in fact he had disobeyed God. In John 4, Jesus has a discussion with a Samaritan woman about worship. In verses 23-24, what does Jesus say is important in worship? God wants us to worship Him with the right attitude/heart, and also in obedience to His Word. You can't have one without the other, or that wouldn't be true worship. See also Ecclesiastes 5:1.

Day 4: Journal ~

How can you make your worship to God more meaningful and important in your life? How can you be less distracted and more involved in the worship service? What things can you practice thinking about and doing so that you'll be more prepared for worship?

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 21 again.

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

Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 22 ~ Proverbs 22 A Good Name

Memory Verse

A good name is to be more desired than great riches,
favor is better than silver and gold.
Proverbs 22:1

- Day 1:** Read Proverbs chapter 22.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

- Day 2:** Read Proverbs 22:1-5.

Do you know any rich people who are famous because of the *bad* things they do, and the *trouble* they cause? Do you know any people who have had few riches, but ended up having a good name among men?

What do you think of when you hear these names: Abraham, Jezebel, Daniel, Ruth? Do you think of goodness or evil?

In the first verse of Proverbs 22, God tells us that we will be known for the way we live. We will be known for the things we do, whether good or bad. And we should care more about doing good things than for riches. Do you remember when God told satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" See Job 1:8. How was Job known by God?

Proverbs 22:2-5 tell us some of the things that we can do to have a good name. We should know that God is our maker (verse 2). We should stay away from evil (verse 3). What are the other things these verses tell us to do?

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 22:1-5
 Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Recite your memory verse.

Read 2 Timothy 2:7-13. In verse 10, Paul says he is willing to endure all things for Christ. He wants Timothy (and us) to endure as well. What helped Paul endure all his suffering? You may want to read 2 Corinthians 11:24-29 to learn the things that Paul suffered for Christ.

Read 2 Timothy 2:7-9, and also verses 11-3. What did Paul keep in mind so that he could put up with all his problems on earth? Can *you* keep these things in mind as well?

Think about this week's reading from Proverbs. What do you think of when you hear the name, "the apostle Paul"? What do you think of when you hear the name, "the young preacher Timothy"? Don't you think about some of the qualities you've studied in these books so far?

(Another thing to consider: Paul didn't always have such a good name. You can read more about this in Acts 9:1-31.)

Jesus was known by different names. What do the names Messiah, Immanuel, and Man of Sorrows mean? Do some research on where those were mentioned in the Bible, using your Bible concordance and/or the internet. Look up these verses about Jesus and write down what each of the names teach us about our Lord: Matthew 12:18; John 8:12, John 11:25; Romans 11:26; Revelation 1:8.

Proverbs 22:6 talk about training a child in the proper way. Training a child includes teaching, guiding, and disciplining. How have you been trained to follow God? Do you think you can keep from departing from the path your parents and teachers have taught you? What would *you* do for a child who was left in your spiritual care? What do you think are the important things for a child to learn about God?

Day 4: Journal ~

Many names have special meanings. What does your name mean? Why was it chosen for you? If you were to overhear two people talking about you, what would you like to hear them saying? What would you like to be “famous” for? More importantly, how would you like to be known to 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 22 again.

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

Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 23 ~ Proverbs 23 Priorities

Memory Verse

Choose from these verses in Proverbs 23:
verses 15-16; or verse 22; or verse 24

- Day 1:** Read Proverbs chapter 23.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

- Day 2:** Read Proverbs 23:15-25

If you had a child of your own, what would you teach him or her about God? If you only had 5-6 sentences to speak, what kind of advice would you give so that your own child could be wise?

In today's verses, a father is talking to his son. Does he tell his son to do well in school? Does he tell him to make lots of money or become a strong athlete? No, the father wants his son to put God first and become wise. This is what your parents want for you also!

Your parents are very pleased with the many things you do. But nothing pleases them or God more than seeing you make good decisions about following Christ. That's why learning God's Word is so important to them. That's why they want it to be important to you too!

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 23:15-25
 Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Recite your memory verse.
- Read 2 Timothy 2:14-18. Verse 15 says that Timothy must be a worker for the Lord who is not ashamed of his work. Sometimes young people are ashamed to be good. It seems easier to be reckless and rebellious, because many young people think this is what being young is all about. But God teaches us otherwise.

Read verses 14-16. What kind of work did Timothy need to be busy doing? What should he have avoided? Paul gives us the example of Hymanaeus and Philetus, two men who were teaching false doctrine. These men obviously didn't read their Bibles, and they liked to upset others with lies. Paul expected young Timothy to know the Truth and to be able to talk to others about it.

Remember that Paul considered Timothy his son in the faith. So Paul was concerned with Timothy just as a father would be to his natural-born son (remember your reading from Proverbs this week.) Who in the church is just as concerned about *you*? Can *you* "handle accurately" and "rightly divide" the Word of Truth? What would you tell someone who didn't believe in Christ? What would you tell someone who was baptized by sprinkling? What would you tell someone who belonged to a denomination? These are good things to study as you get older. You'll want to learn how to answer people accurately and without shame on these and other questions about the Bible. That is one way that a young person can bring glory to God.

Proverbs 23:15-25 is like a little letter from God to us, His beloved children. Don't you know that God wants us to learn what would please Him? In the 2 John 4 and 3 John 4, God tells us what gives Him the greatest joy. What is it? Why do you think this gives God joy? 3 John 1-8 show us why: it helps the church (verses 5 and 6) and it helps spread the truth (verse 8). God wants His family in Heaven with Him someday. His commandments keep us safe so we will get there, whole and pure.

Proverbs 23 has a lot of wisdom about "strong drink" or alcohol. Find those verses in your Bible and make sure you understand the main idea in each of them. Someday you may have to speak to someone about this dangerous drug.

Day 4: Journal ~

Call up some of the older people in your congregation. Ask them what one piece of advice they would give to a young person like you who wanted to know how to please 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 23 again.

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

Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 24 ~ Proverbs 24 A Godly Home

Memory Verse

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;
And by knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches.
Proverbs 24:3-4

Day 1: Read Proverbs chapter 24.

Start on your memory verse for this week. How have your mother and father filled their home with “precious and pleasant riches” in God? How can you help them continue to do so?

Day 2: Read Proverbs 24:3-12

“My Grandmother’s Cottage” by J.G. Adams was published in Small Means to Great Ends. This collection of moral stories was edited by Mrs. M. H. Adams and published in 1815. It is now out of print but available free online.

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 24:3-12
- 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 2 Timothy 2:19-21. Do you like to cook? What kind of pots and pans do you have in

your kitchen? Are some of them used more often than others? Why?

Would you use a dirty pan to cook your food in? Would you make soup in a skillet, or fry an egg in a stockpot? No, you would want to cook in a clean vessel, and you would want to use the pot or pan that did the job right.

These verses talk about vessels – people – who become useful to the Lord. A person who is pure and holy before God is very useful to Him. Someone who likes to mix and mingle with the world and sinful living hasn't set himself apart to do the Lord's work. This is what the words "holy" and "sanctified" mean: set apart for a special purpose, just like all the useful and good utensils in your kitchen.

Think about this week's reading from Proverbs. How can you be a useful vessel for God in your family? What about in your church family? How can you be useful for Him at school, work, and recreation? God has so much good to accomplish through you! Keep making yourself ready for Him!

Do you know anybody in the Bible who didn't have work to do? From the time of Adam, God has meant for men to work. What kind of work did Adam do (Genesis 2:15)? What work did God give Eve to do (Genesis 2:18)? What kind of work did Abraham, Joseph, David, and Jesus do? Even kings and princes have responsibilities and duties. Can you think of them?

Proverbs 24 has a lot of wisdom about how we should treat our enemies. Read verses 1-2, 17-20, and 28-29. How did Jesus show His wisdom in the way He dealt with the devil, the Pharisees, and those who persecuted the church?

Day 4: Journal ~

Write down the top three jobs that you would like to have someday. How do these jobs help you be wise? How can you spread the gospel at each of these workplaces? For example, let's imagine that you want to be a chef when you grow up. Could you talk to your co-workers about Jesus, whom the gospel calls the "Bread of Life"? Could you talk to them about the "food" that God has given your souls? Can you teach them the message of Matthew 6:25-33, which tells us to put God before our daily needs for food and clothing?

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 24 again.

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

Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 25 ~ Proverbs 25 Controlling Our Emotions

Memory Verse

Like a city that is broken into and without walls
Is a man who has no control over his spirit.
Proverbs 25:28

Day 1: Read Proverbs chapter 25.

Start on your memory verse for this week. What do you think this verse means?

Day 2: Read Proverbs 25:23-28 (the lesson may be easier to do if you read the verses in *reverse* order)

These verses seem to be separate, unrelated thoughts until you read verse 28 –Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.

In Solomon’s day, a city without walls might as well have been dead. The walls protected it. The walls gave its citizens security. The walls showed others the worth and power of the city within. How would you feel if your home had no walls?

Now think of a person who cannot control his spirit (his feelings or emotions). His feelings come out and hurt himself and others. He is a danger to himself and others. What are some of the problems listed in Proverbs 25 that are caused by a lack of self-control?

“Sun and Wind” was written by Howard J. Chidley and published in the book Fifty-Two Talks for Boys and Girls in 1914. It is actually the retelling of a traditional fable. Chidley’s book is now out of print but still available for reading free online.

Once upon a time, according to an old fable, the sun and the northwind had a contest to see which could take a man's coat off the more quickly.

The northwind tried first. It gathered together all its forces in its own corner of the earth, and then rushed forth upon this man who was walking along a country-road. The wind blew and blew, and it seemed as if the traveller's coat would be blown from his back or torn to tatters. But the harder the northwind blew the tighter the man drew his coat about him, and the wind could not get it off his back. After it had spent all its force it gave up in despair.

Then the sun had its turn. It came out without noise or violence like the northwind. It did not whistle in the treetops nor bluster through the bushes. It did not buffet nor struggle with the man. It just went on pouring forth its heat. And it seemed as if it could never win, any more than the northwind. But soon the traveller took out his handkerchief and wiped the perspiration from his face. Then, before long, he

took off his hat. Soon he unbuttoned his coat, and finally he took it off of his own accord. The sun had won the contest against the northwind!

Now, a fable is meant to teach a lesson. The lesson of this fable is that gentleness wins where only strength and rudeness fail. If some one has done you a wrong, the way to deal with him is not to try to "get even" with him, as we say. Nor is the best way to get angry with him and scold him. The Bible tells us that the way to overcome your enemy is to do good for evil, for it says by so doing you will "heap coals of fire upon his head."

Usually it is the weak people who bluster like the northwind, and storm and brag. Strong people are usually quiet. There is an old saying that "if you are right you can afford to keep your temper, and if you are wrong you cannot afford to lose it." Be gentle. You will win more that way than by getting angry.

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 25:23-28
- Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

Read 2 Timothy 2:22-26. Have you ever played tag with your friends? If you have, then you know the value of *running away*. God says that there's a time to run away. What do these verses tell us about running away from sin, arguments, and the devil? Think of how this relates to the verses from Proverbs 25 about self-control.

Read Proverbs 25:20-22. What are some of the wonderful things that happen when we have control over our emotions? Think of how sad Jesus felt when He prayed in the garden before His death. Yet, He completed His work for His Father. Think of how He willingly bore so much pain on the cross. What wonderful things happened then?

Day 4: Journal ~

Think of the things that make you lose your temper, break down crying, or make your heart jump. Can you learn to control your reaction to these things? It takes a lot of practice to become self-controlled. Some people also use the words "self-discipline" – this means that controlling ourselves takes training and practice. How can you learn to control your emotions? What can you pray about this?

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

LESSON 26~ Proverbs 26 On Spreading Strife

Memory Verse

Choose your memory verse for this week.

There are many good ones in this chapter that put vivid pictures in your head!

It is worth noting that Proverbs 26:11 is repeated in 2 Peter 2:22.

Day 1: Read Proverbs chapter 26.

Start on your memory verse for this week. Why did you choose this verse?

Day 2: Read Proverbs 26:18-22

Do you like telling jokes and riddles? I do! What is your favorite joke or riddle?

Sometimes we like to tease one another with jokes and riddles. But we should never make fun of each other in order to hurt someone, or try to start fights for our particular enjoyment. It isn't wise to stir up problems between others. Do you like feeling as if others are laughing at you? Do you like feeling as if everyone is against you?

Today's verses in Proverbs talk about this particular kind of foolishness, the kind that likes to start problems among others. Sometimes people do this so they can feel in control. Sometimes they do it so that they can feel better about themselves. It is often the strutting, fussy rooster who feels in control of the flock.

When a group of young men are together, it's natural for them to jest and "talk tough." Likewise, a group of girls together might tease each other playfully. However, there is a soberness and gentleness of heart that young people in God's family must learn to have with others, especially when they are in mixed company. We must remember that we are commanded to honor one another in all purity (1 Timothy 5:2) and shine the light of Christ upon everyone we meet.

Good-natured teasing & playful arguing can quickly turn into hurt feelings. You're old enough now to know the difference. You can see how important it is to build people up with encouragement and kindness, and how much this shows Christ to others. We must remember that we can't lead others to Christ unless we show them His love. People will not want to be part of God's family if that family cannot get along.

The following essay was printed in Small Means and Great Ends, a collection of stories edited by Mrs. M.H. Adams and published in 1851. The book may be read free online.

"ARE WE NOT ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS?"

That the human race is one, bound together by the strongest and holiest ties, is one of the sublimest truths announced by the Master. Indeed, so close and intimate is the connection subsisting between the various members of the common family, that to tear one from the body would be like following the direction of Solomon to his servant, and dividing the living child in two, leaving life's purple current to spout forth from either half. An appreciation of this truth is what the world, heart-sick and weary as it

is, now needs above all things else. And to illustrate and enforce the fact that it is not a vain shadow, but a solid reality, too solemn to be trifled with, and too important to be neglected,--to illustrate this by deeds which bear joy to the joyless and hope to the hopeless,--is the work which Christians, the young as well as old, are now called to perform. Will it need the voice of duty, which speaketh as from the skies? This is the great truth, also, which, with all its relations to life and duty, is to be impressed by the present, upon the minds of the rising, generation. This is what my young readers are to learn,--and not simply to learn, but to practise:--that we are all brothers and sisters, no matter in what clime or country we may have been born, or with what complexion we may be clothed.

A little girl, some five years of age, whom the writer of this has often fondled in his arms, had well learned this most important lesson. By pious parents and earnest Sabbath school teachers had she been taught, that to be like Jesus, who took little children in his arms and blessed them, she must love and do good unto all, as brothers and sisters. This had sunk deep into her young and tender mind; and when, on a visit at the house of a friend, she was asked that familiar question, which is so often put to children, "whom she loved?"

After a moment's hesitation she replied, that she loved everybody. "Indeed!" said the querist; "how can that be? You certainly do not love me as well as you do your own brothers and sisters; do you?"

After another short pause she replied, "Yes, I think I do; for you, too, are my sister."

"Your sister?" said the lady, in surprise; "how can that be possible?" Looking up with a countenance in which all heaven's innocence and purity were mirrored, she exclaimed, "Is not God our Father? and are we not all brothers and sisters? and should we not love each other as such?"

There was no further argument to be used. Though hid from many wise and prudent, yet the truth was thus revealed to babes.

Yes, we are all brethren and sisters, having a common origin, a common destination, and a common home. And may all those children who read this short article ever recollect this important truth. When you behold a poor, unfortunate man, with torn and filthy garments, and perhaps intoxicated, reeling through the streets, do not hoot after, and throw stones at him, as I have known many boys do, but think within yourselves, "He is our brother."

When one of your number abuses the rest, and you are tempted to injure and beat him, wait till you have said to yourselves, "He is still our brother; and though he has done us wrong, why should we strike or injure him?"

When you see a companion in trouble, and one to whom your assistance can do much good, recollect he is a brother, or she is a sister, and fly to help him. And oh! if all, both old and young, would act upon this principle, how different would be the aspect of affairs from what it now is! Then the kingdom of God would dawn upon us. Then the wolf and the lamb would lie down together, and the lion eat straw like an ox. Then we should be like little children, and the blessing-smile of Jehovah would shed upon us choicest benediction.

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 26:18-22
- Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Have you ever wondered how there can be so many religious people in the world who read the Bible and yet don't follow God's Word? Have you ever wondered how even older Christians can get caught up in sin and fall away from Christ? Today's reading in Timothy tells us how. In verse 7, Paul talks about people who always learn but never really know the Truth. Can that really happen? Could it happen to us?

Turning away from God's Word doesn't happen overnight. What happened to these people? Verses 2-5 give us a hint. Gradually, men can get caught up in greed, pride, and hate. When this happens, they fall away little by little. Think of how this relates to this week's reading from Proverbs – when these sins occur, it can cause so much division in God's family.

Paul gives Timothy the example of Jannes and Jambres, who didn't want to follow Moses. Can you imagine someone fighting against Moses, the leader of the Israelites and the giver of their law? But men do it to Christ every day when they would rather do what please them instead of what pleases Him.

While considering Proverbs 26, read Ephesians 4:29-32. What kind of words should be coming from our mouths?

While considering Proverbs 26, read Acts 2:42-47. This was written about the church in Jerusalem. How did the people in this church act like a family? What helped them remember to love one another so well?

Day 4: Journal ~

List the names of all your family members. Also list your three closest friends. Now list three other young people whom you know, but not very well. Next to each person's name, list three good things about them. Over the next few weeks, how can you compliment these people for their good qualities? How can you be a kind and gentle encouragement to them?

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 26 again.

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

Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 27~ Proverbs 27 Our Daily Bread

Memory Verse

Choose one: verse 1 or verse 24.

- Day 1:** Read Proverbs chapter 27.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

- Day 2:** Read Proverbs 27:23-27

Imagine that you came home one day and there was no refrigerator in your home. Imagine that there was no pantry or cupboards. What you ate was whatever you could catch or find. How much would you trust in God if you didn't know when you would eat again?

These verses in Proverbs show us a particular kind of wisdom, the kind that comes from knowing God will provide for us. It is the kind of wisdom that takes care of our blessings and makes the most of the riches around us. It is the kind of wisdom that is thankful for God's bountiful care. It is so easy for us to expect to be fed and clothed. We forget that the food piled up in our pantries and the many clothes hanging in our closets are because God has ordained for the earth to bring forth its growth every season, and for the animals to multiply and sustain us.

Wise children of God remember that His hand blesses them *every single day*. Do you have this kind of wisdom?

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 27:23-27
 Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Timothy had been taught about God since he was a little boy. Do you remember who taught Timothy? In verse 16, what four things can the Scripture do? In verse 17, what is the result of studying the Bible? How do verses 16 and 17 help us trust in God to give us everything we need, as we read from Proverbs this week? When we see the power and greatness of God's Word, we can remember that the Almighty God who gave us the Bible is also the loving Father who wants to provide for our daily necessities. Consider all the fullness and wisdom contained in His Word. This is the same God who says He will give you bread for the table and clothing for your body (Matthew 6:25-33).
- Read Exodus 16:1-7. How did God teach the Israelites to depend on Him? In Matthew chapter 10, Christ sends his twelve disciples out to begin their work for Him. In verses 9-11, He gives them some commandments about how they will be cared for during their journeys. Why do you think they can't take anything with them?
- Several weeks ago, you studied 1 Timothy chapter 6. What instructions were given about riches in

this chapter? Read Philippians 4:10-19, especially verse 19. How will our attitude about our riches influence the way we help and share with others?

There are several verses in Proverbs 27 that address the concept of loyalty. Read verses 5-13. What different examples of loyalty and betrayal are listed here? Why is loyalty such an important concept for the Christian to understand?

Day 4: Journal ~

Imagine you only have one shelf in your refrigerator and one shelf in your pantry. Imagine you only have room for three outfits in your closet, and one pair of shoes. What could you live without? What would you try to keep?

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 27 again.

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

Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 28~ Proverbs 28 The Path to Forgiveness

Memory Verse

Choose one: verse 9, 13, or 14

Day 1: Read Proverbs chapter 28.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

Day 2: Read Proverbs 28:9-14

Have you ever made a mistake? Have you ever accidentally done something? Have you ever suddenly realized that you had done something to displease God? How did you feel?

God knows that we will make mistakes. What has God given us to help us overcome our faults? These verses in Proverbs tell us that God wants us to listen to His commandments. When we realize we haven't been following them, we can confess our wrongs and He will be compassionate. What does it mean to be compassionate? It means that God will feel sorry for us and sympathize with us, because He knows we are frail and need Him. He wants to help us feel better and do better. Isn't that what we want too?

What about the man who "turns away his ear from listening to the law" (verse 9)? What about the man who "conceals his transgressions" (verse 13)? What about the man who "hardens his heart" (verse 14)? Have you heard of people in the Bible who did this? Have you ever tried to cover up something you've done wrong? Why does this not work with God?

We have to remember that God sees everything. This is something to fear, but it's also a great comfort. He is watching and waiting for us to return to Him. His arms are open and ready for us! It's a great blessing to have forgiveness in God. We should never turn away from the opportunity to make things right with Him and others.

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 on the internet.

COME

There is not a girl or boy here this morning who does not feel within the desire to do good. The drawing power of good--in other words, the drawing power of God. He it is who says to you, "Come."

I want to illustrate this by a few things which I have here. The first is this magnet. And here are some small nails. These tiny nails represent girls and boys of about eleven or twelve years of age. I apply the magnet to these nails and I lift up--can you see me--twenty-five or thirty nails. You see it is a great deal

easier to respond to the drawing power of good, to answer the great "Come," in girlhood and boyhood.

Now here are some nails that are a little larger. I can lift up only five or six of these larger nails. They represent young people of eighteen or nineteen. As one gets older he does not hear as readily, at least he does not answer, Christ's blessed "Come."

Next we have some nails still larger. The magnet will lift up only one or two of these. They stand for men and women in mature life. Oh, if one has not responded to Christ's call in childhood or youth, it becomes increasingly difficult as the years pass. How seldom, how very seldom, does an aged one answer the divine call and give his heart to the Lord!

Here is a very large nail, and it is rusty. Indeed it is literally coated with rust. This represents the life that is deep in sin. For long years this life has been persisting in his evil ways. As the magnet must be very strong to penetrate the rust and grip the nail, so Christ's call must be strong and loving to reach the sinful soul. Christ can save "from the uttermost," but how much better it is to say in early youth, "I hear thy voice, my Lord. Gladly I come."

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 28:9-14
- Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8. What does Paul want Timothy to be ready to do? What kind of men will be against Timothy? What encouragement does Paul give Timothy to help him stay faithful to the end? How do these verses relate to your reading from Proverbs 28 on confession, repentance, and forgiveness?
- Confession* is such an important part of a life in Christ. Telling God that we know we did wrong shows Him that we are serious about doing better. Telling others what we did wrong can help us resolve to do better. It can also encourage others to confess their wrongs, which helps us understand and encourage one another. There is nothing shameful in telling your church family that you need help. Read James 5:16-20. What great things can God accomplish when we confess our wrongs to one another?

Day 4: Journal ~

- God is ready and willing to forgive. Are you that way too? If we are commanded to confess our sins to one another, *what kind of person ought you to be* so that others will feel free to confess their sins to you? What can you *think about* to help you be more forgiving towards others?
- 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 28 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 29~ Proverbs 29 On Parental Discipline

Memory Verse

Choose one: verse 15, 17, or 18.

Day 1: Read Proverbs chapter 29.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

Day 2: Read Proverbs 29:15-21

The following story was written by Howard J. Chidley and published in Fifty-Two Story Talks for Boys and Girls in 1914. The book can be read free online.

A HINT FROM A CARIBOU

This is an animal-story. It is about a caribou. A caribou is a kind of reindeer, and lives in Canada.

One day a man was out in a stumpy pasture-field beside a woods in Canada, and he saw a mother caribou and her little calf feeding quietly down in a valley nearby.

He was on a little hill some distance away, but the wind was blowing in the direction of the caribou. Presently the mother caribou raised her head, sniffed the air, and looked in the direction where the man was hidden behind a stump. She had caught the scent of a human being. That meant danger to her calf. Soon the mother caribou, leaving her calf in the valley, started in the direction of the man. He slipped from his hiding-place to another stump. On came the caribou till she reached the very stump behind which the man had first hidden. There she smelled the ground, and then a strange thing happened. She called her calf to her, had it smell the ground, too, so as to get the scent of the man. When that was done, she got behind that little caribou and butted it down the valley as fast as it could go. Why did she do that? It was to teach her calf that whenever it got that scent on the air, there was danger, and it must get away as quickly as possible.

Ever after that, even before the calf knew that this scent belonged to a man, or had seen a man, it would run away from it.

Your parents are constantly doing for you what that mother caribou did for her little one. When they tell you that such and such a thing is wrong, and you must not do it; when again they tell you there is danger in going to a certain place, or in chumming with a particular boy or girl, they are again doing the same thing for you. And when they punish you, as that mother caribou did her calf, it is because they know the danger far better than you, and they know that your safety depends upon keeping away from such things.

Then, bye and bye, perhaps, as you grow older, you will begin to see for yourself what the danger meant, just as the little caribou might some day see a hunter for itself. And then you will no longer think your parents cruel or strict; you will be thankful that they were so wise and kind.

...what does the Lord your God require from you,
but to fear the Lord your God,
to walk in all His ways and love Him....
And to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes
which I am commanding you today
for your good?
Deuteronomy 10:12-13

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 29:15-21
- Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Read 2 Timothy 4:9-22. Paul is closing his letter to Timothy. He repeats his desire to see Timothy soon. He tells Timothy what's been happening with some of their friends. Why had Demas deserted Paul? What had Alexander done to Paul? How had Paul been strengthened even when his friends hurt him? You can read about Paul's confidence in verse 18. There is no doubt in his mind that Jesus is with him! Think of this week's reading from Proverbs. Remember that Paul thought of Timothy as his son in the faith. Paul was concerned with Timothy's discipline and instruction. What do you think Paul would have wanted Timothy – and us – to learn from these verses? In verse 22, Paul says the Lord will be with Timothy also. This is something God wants all His children to know.
- Think about the reading from Proverbs 29:15-21. The book of Proverbs has a lot of advice from Solomon to his son about discipline. Did you ever think that Solomon was thinking of his *grandchildren* when he taught his son about discipline? Read Proverbs 17:6 to see how thankful Solomon was for his children and grandchildren. It's no wonder, then, that Solomon wanted them to please the Lord. Read other verses about discipline in Proverbs 13:24, 19:28, 22:6, and 22:15.
- Read Hebrews 12:7-13. If we want to call God our Father, what must we accept from Him? What is the purpose of discipline?

Day 4: Journal ~

- When have you received discipline? How did it help you? If you had a child that acted *exactly as you act*, how would you discipline him or her? Why?
- 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 29 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 30~ Proverbs 30 Contentment

Memory Verse

Every word of God is tested;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.
Proverbs 30:5

Day 1: Read Proverbs chapter 30.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

Day 2: Read Proverbs 30:5-9

This chapter in Proverbs was written by a man named Agur. Do you think he was a wise man? What did he say in these verses that was very wise?

Why can we have confidence in God's Word (verse 5)? Do you ever doubt God's Word? Someday you may hear someone ask, "How can you know that the Bible is true?" How would you answer?

Verse 6 says that we shouldn't add to God's Word. What would be an example of adding to the Word of God? We wouldn't want God to call us a liar, would we?

What does Agur ask from the Lord in verses 7-9? How do these show Agur's confidence in God?

"April" was written by Bruce S. Wright and published in The Children's Six Minutes in 1922. The book is now out of print but may be read free on the internet.

I have in my hand a small branch from a big tree. This branch is from an apple tree. Here are seen the tiny buds, the promise of the blossom, and after that the fruit. Have you ever seen an apple orchard in blossom? People rave about the cherry blossoms of Japan, and the fire trees, flaming red, of the Philippines. I have been in both countries, but I think there is no more beautiful sight in any country than the blossoming apple orchards of America.

[In April you may see] all along the streets and avenues hundreds of trees like this branch, sending forth their first buds. What do these buds tell us?

First of all they tell us of God. I do not see how any one can live through the awakening spring season and not think daily thoughts of God. Most people remember the Creator. Only one person has ever denied God. "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." He said it to himself, he did not dare speak it out loud.

In the second place, this branch tells us of God's Love. He, the loving Father of all people, makes blessed provision for the care and nurture of his children. He reminds us each year, in seedtime and harvest, of his boundless love. His love never fails. There have been many hundreds of years in the history of the world, yet each year has had its spring, its seedtime, and its [rebirth]. Young people, let

God's April speak to you.

"When I am gone, somehow I hope that April
Will typify my life, my faith,
My hope of victory through the years,
My steadiness of step, my clear and visioned eye.
The early flowers, the birds
Singing in the rain,
The increasing light, the slowly opening buds,
The almond blooms, the trees in vernal dress
Are like the silver crown upon the head;
A prophecy of heaven's summer time.
Yes, even now it is the April
Of my great immortality."

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 30:5-9
- Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- Last week you finished the book of 2 Timothy. Today, see if you can Review/Narrate something from each chapter:
 - Chapter 1 ~ What does Paul tell Timothy so that he will not be ashamed of the gospel that he's been taught?
 - Chapter 2 ~ How does Paul encourage Timothy to remain useful for God?
 - Chapter 3 ~ What warnings does Paul give about those who make no progress in the Word?
 - Chapter 4 ~ What encouragement does Paul give as he closes this letter?

- Agur's prayer in Proverbs 30:7-9 show us the value of *being content with what you have*. They also show us how important it is to be *thankful* and to *honor God*. How important are these qualities? Read verses 11-33 and you can see what happens when people are discontented and ungrateful.

Day 4: Journal ~

- If you could ask two things of God, what would they be?
- 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 30 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.

LESSON 31~ Proverbs 31 Worthy Women

Memory Verse

Charm is deceitful and beauty if vain,
But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.
Proverbs 31:30

- Day 1:** Read Proverbs chapter 31.
 Start on your memory verse for this week.

- Day 2:** Read Proverbs 31:10-31

Have you ever won an award? When was the last time someone complimented you? When was the last time someone said, "I'm proud of you"?

You know it is not Christ-like to brag about yourself. But we all like being told that we are appreciated, don't we? In Proverbs 31, a good woman is described by the Lord. She is hard-working, devoted, and smart. She is kind and generous.

But she does not win awards. She is not famous. She is not on any magazine covers or in the news. In fact, we don't even know this woman's name.

But she is loved and she is praised! Who praises this woman? Her children praise her because they know she takes care of them so well. Her husband praises her because he knows he could not accomplish much without her. Her works praise her because they attest to her diligence and care. And the Lord praises her because she shows His light to others by her goodness.

There are many, many women in the Lord's church who work silently every day in their homes and with their families. Although they do not win awards or medals, there would be little progress in Christ's kingdom without them!

- Review/Narrate Proverbs 30:5-9
 Recite your memory verse.

Day 3: For Further Study ~

- You have finished studying the books of 1 and 2 Timothy! Give yourself a pat on the back! What important lessons have you learned from these books? What have you learned in the following areas:
- The power of the Word of God
 - Worldly wisdom vs. spiritual wisdom
 - Important roles in the church (older vs. younger, elders and deacons, widows, etc.)
 - Money
 - Fighting the good fight of faith
 - Dealing with unrest/dissension in the church

Keeping the Word pure

Our attitude towards leaders, government, employers, etc.

- Read Proverbs 31: 10-31, and then read about these of “excellent women” in the New Testament. How are they examples of the qualities described in Proverbs 31?

Ruth (Ruth 1:14-17; 2:11-13; 3:10-11)

Abigail (1 Samuel 25:14-25)

Lydia (Acts 16:14-16)

Priscilla (Acts 18:2; 18:24-28; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19)

- Sometimes women (and men too) worry about things like their appearance, their careers, what kind of house they live in, and what other people think about them. How does Proverbs 31 tell us about what God looks for in each of these areas? How is this different from the world’s viewpoint?

Day 4: Journal ~

- Who are the “worthy women” in your congregation? How do they exhibit the qualities that are mentioned in Proverbs 31? How can you show your appreciation to them? How can you encourage and help them?
- For girls: What do you need to learn in order to become like the woman described in Proverbs 31? How do you see yourself exhibiting these qualities when you are older?
- 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 31 again.
- Review/Narrate what you have learned this week from Proverbs.
- Recite your memory verse.