## CLASS SCHEDULE

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**LESSONS ON WISDOM ~ PROVERBS 1-9**

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**PROVERBS OF SOLOMON ~ PROVERBS 10-29**

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**SAYINGS OF AGUR AND LEMUEL ~ PROVERBS 30-31**

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INTRODUCTION TO PROVERBS

Proverbs provides God’s detailed instructions for His people to deal successfully with the practical affairs of everyday life: how to relate to God, parents, children, neighbors, and government. Solomon, the principal author, uses a combination of poetry, parables, pithy questions, short stories, and wise maxims to give in strikingly memorable form the common sense and divine perspective necessary to handle life’s challenges.

Because Solomon, the prototype of Israel’s wise man, was the principle contributor, the Hebrew title of the book is Mishle Shelomoh (“Parables of Solomon”). The English title of the book is derived from the Latin Liber Proverbiorum, or “Book of Proverbs.”

Author

Solomon’s name appears at the beginning of the three sections he wrote: chapters 1–9; 10:1–22:16; chapters 25–29. According to 1 Kings 4:32, Solomon spoke three thousand proverbs, of which about 800 are included in Proverbs. It is likely that Solomon collected and edited proverbs other than his own (Eccl. 12:9).

Proverbs 22:17–24:34 consists of “the words of the wise” (22:17; 24:23). Some of these sayings are quite similar to those found in The Wisdom of Amenemope, a document of teachings on civil service by an Egyptian who probably lived between 1000 and 600 B.C. It is possible that Egyptian wisdom traditions borrowed certain aphorisms from Hebrew literature. In addition, Proverbs includes oracles by the unknown figures named Agur the son of Jakeh (30:1) and King Lemuel (31:1).

Date

Solomon’s proverbs were written before 931 B.C., and his proverbs in chapters 25–29 were collected by Hezekiah about 230 years later. Thus portions of the book were completed no earlier than the time of the reign of Hezekiah and a reasonable date for completion is sometime in the fifth century B.C.

Such wisdom literature was not unique to Israel, and is found in other countries of the ancient Near East. In Egypt, written examples can be found as early as 2700 B.C. Although the style was similar to Israel’s wisdom literature, the proverbs and sayings of these countries differed from those of Israel in content because they lacked the character of the righteous standards of the Lord.

Themes and Literary Structure

The book of Proverbs may be divided into six segments: the purpose of Proverbs (1:1–7), the proverbs to the youth (1:8–9:18), the proverbs of Solomon (10:1–24:34), the proverbs of Solomon copied by Hezekiah’s men (25:1–29:27), the words of Agur (30:1–33), and the words of King Lemuel (31:1–31).

Proverbs is one of the few biblical books that clearly spells out its purpose: to impart moral discernment and discretion (1:3–5), and to develop mental clarity and perception (1:2, 6). The “wisdom” of which Proverbs speaks is literally “skill” in living. Wisdom is more than shrewdness or intelligence. Instead, it relates to practical righteousness and moral acumen. Proverbs deals with the most fundamental skill of all: practical righteousness before God in every area of life.
Typical of the proverbs in the ancient Near East, many proverbs seem to have arisen in the context of the home. The term “son” occurs in forty-four verses in the book, “father” in fifteen, and “mother” in eleven. Husband and wife are admonished to be united joyfully in a clearly monogamous union (despite the polygamy practiced at the time, especially by Solomon). Both parents are directed to share in the training of the children and nurturing them in faith. Sins which attack the order of the home are straightforwardly exposed.

Many proverbs present a contrast between wisdom and folly. Wisdom is to be preferred to folly because of its divine origin and rich benefits. There are different kinds of fools, ranging from those who are naive and uncommitted to scoffers who arrogantly despise the way of God. The fool is not mentally deficient, but appears self-sufficient and orders life as if there is no God.

In Proverbs chapter 8, wisdom is personified and seen in its perfection. It is divine (8:22–31), it is the source of biological and spiritual life (8:35, 36), it is righteous and moral (8:8, 9), and it is available to all who will receive it (8:1–6, 32–35). This wisdom became incarnate in Christ “in whom is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3; cf. 1 Cor. 1:30).  

OUTLINE

I. Introduction (1:1-7)
II. Thirteen Lessons on Wisdom (1:8-9:18)
   1. (1:8-33)
   2. (2:1-22)
   3. (3:1-10)
   4. (3:11-20)
   5. (3:21-35)
   6. (4:1-9)
   7. (4:10-19)
   8. (4:20-27)
   9. (5:1-23)
  10. (6:1-19)
  11. (6:20-35)
  12. (7:1-27)
  13. (8:1-36)
III. The Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)
IV. The Sayings of the Wise Men (22:17-24:34)
V. The Proverbs of Solomon Collected by Hezekiah’s Men (chaps. 25-29)
VI. The Words of Agur (chap. 30)
VII. The Words of King Lemuel taught by his mother (31:1-31)
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 1 - 2

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION 1:1-7
The purpose of the proverbs is explained. To understand wisdom, discipline and be guided in the right way of living.

What three types of individuals are mentioned by Solomon? (1:1-7)

How is the fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge? (1:7)

What does it mean to fear the Lord?

THE FIRST LESSON 1:8-33
Listen to the instruction of your parents. Advice is given regarding wicked companions. Listen to the call of wisdom.

About what sort of enticements did Solomon warn us? (1:8-19)

What happens to those who pursue ill-gotten gain? (1:19)

How did Solomon describe wisdom? (1:20-21)

What is the result of not accepting wisdom? (1:28-32)

What is the result of accepting wisdom? (1:33)

THE SECOND LESSON 2:1-22
This section stresses 3 things; 1) Wisdom requires diligent search. (1-5). If we receive, incline, apply, cry out, seek and search then you will understand and find it. 2) However, it is still God given (6). 3) God watches over those who walk in wisdom (7-9)

What did Solomon encourage us to do? Why? (2:1-5)

What does the Lord give? (2:6)

What did Solomon say the reader would understand? (2:9-11)

From what can wisdom save us? (2:12, 16)

How did Solomon describe wicked people? (2:12-15)

What will happen to the upright and to the wicked? (2:20-22)

Why do people pursue sin when they know it will destroy them?
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 3 - 4
Lesson 2

THE THIRD LESSON 3:1-10
The theme is "trust and obey". If you trust in God’s commandments and keep them you will have a long and peaceful life. Be careful not to lean upon your own understanding or wisdom
How should we trust in the Lord? (3:5-6)

What is the result of fearing the Lord and shunning evil? (3:7-8)

What does it mean to trust the Lord with all your heart?

THE FOURTH LESSON 3:11-20
The theme is the delight of wisdom. First a warning; that God may bring adversity as well as prosperity upon His children. This thought is brought into the New Covenant see Heb 12:6
Whom does the Lord discipline? (3:11-12)

How did Solomon describe wisdom and its benefits? (3:13-18)

THE FIFTH LESSON 3:21-35
The theme is sound wisdom and discretion will bring life, health, and peace.
What did Solomon say about sound judgment and discernment? (3:21-23)

What can help a person overcome fear? (3:25-26)

THE SIXTH LESSON 4:1-9
We seem to have some autobiography. It is possibly David encouraging Solomon to acquire wisdom. Could this be why Solomon asked for wisdom when God granted him a request?
What will wisdom do for the person who does not forsake it? (4:5-6)

THE SEVENTH LESSON 4:10-19
The theme is "do not walk in the way of evil". But first a plea to receive the instructions
Why did Solomon say to accept what he said? (4:10-12)

Why is it difficult to listen to instruction?

THE EIGHTH LESSON 4:20-27
The theme is “Establish yourself on the right path”. The instruction brings it in to your heart, mouth, eyes, and feet.
Why should we guard our hearts? (4:23)

What can we learn from our parents?
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 5 - 6

Lesson 3

THE NINTH LESSON 5:1-23
The theme is “The danger of sexual immorality”. The temptation of sexual immorality is personified as an immoral woman.

What did Solomon say about the temptation of sexual immorality? (5:3-4)

What did Solomon encourage us to do? (5:7-8)

Why should a person keep away from the adulteress? (5:9-14)

What did Solomon say about intimacy in marriage? (5:15-20)

What sort of damage can the evil deeds and sin of a wicked person do? (5:22)

How can sexual immorality ruin a person’s life?

THE TENTH LESSON 6:1-19
The theme is about being snared by one’s own sin. It seems to be expanding upon the idea presented in 5:22.

What sort of commitment does this chapter warn us about? (6:1-3)

What should we observe, and why? (6:6-8)

What happens to sluggards? (6:9-11)

What is detestable to the Lord? (6:17-19)

Why is putting up security for your neighbor a harmful thing to do?

THE ELEVENTH LESSON 6:20-35
The theme is the peril of sexual immorality.

What should we do with our parents’ commands and teachings? (6:20-22)

What is dangerous about sexual temptation? (6:24-29)

How did Solomon describe the difference between stealing and adultery? (6:30-35)

Why do people think that they can "play with fire" (sin) and "not be burned" (get away with it)?
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 7 - 9
Lesson 4

THE TWELVETH LESSON 7:1-27
The theme of sexual immorality continues, specifically adultery. It starts with the customary exhortation to listen to wisdom and make them a part of your family. We have described a young simple man being seduced by a lustful married woman.

Who did Solomon see outside his window? (7:6-8)

How did Solomon describe the woman who came out to meet the youth? (7:10-12)

How did the adulterous woman entice the young man? (7:14-20)

Why did Solomon tell young men to avoid adultery? (7:24-27)

Why do you think Solomon spent so much time warning us against adultery?

THE THIRTEENETH LESSON 8:1-36
Now wisdom herself calls out. It plays in stark contrast to the immoral woman calling out and snaring the simple.

Where is wisdom to be found? (8:1-3)

Why does wisdom say people should listen to her? (8:6-9)

What are wisdom, instruction, and knowledge better than? (8:10-11)

How is the fear of the Lord explained? (8:13)

What did wisdom say about her origin and her role in creation? (8:22-31)

What did wisdom say would be the result of finding or not finding her? (8:32-36)

SUMMARY 9:1-18
Some of the main topics found in chapters 1-8 are summarized here in the form of wisdom and folly calling the simple to a banquet.

For whom did Wisdom prepare her feast? (9:2-5)

What did Wisdom encourage the simple to do? (9:6)

How did Solomon depict Folly? (9:13-15)

What invitation did Folly issue, and to whom did she issue it? (9:16)

What did Solomon say about Folly’s guests? (9:18)
TOPICAL STUDY OUTLINE FOR PROVERBS CHAPTERS 10-29

For Lessons 5-12

This Topical Guide of the Book of Proverbs is by F. Lagard Smith as found in The Daily Bible, Harvest House Publishers. It is modified to contain only the proverbs in chapters 10-29

Value of Wise Sayings
22:17-21

Preeminence of God

Fear of the Lord

Trust in God or self

Divine Providence

Insight & Ignorance

Wisdom and folly

Dealing with fools
26:4-11, 27:22, 29:9

Discernment and understanding

Knowledge
10:14, 13:16, 14:18, 15:14, 18:15, 19:2, 20:15, 21:11, 23:12, 24:3-4

Sharing & Responding to Wisdom

Advice and Rebuke

Value of Advisors
11:14, 15:22, 20:18, 24:5-6

Discipline

Lawkeeping
28:4, 28:7, 29:9, 29:18

Repentance
14:9, 28:13

Good & Evil

Righteousness and wickedness
Integrity and perversion
10:9, 13:6, 15:26, 21:8, 24:8-9, 28:18, 29:10

Appropriate consequences

Sincere Motivation
Motives and the heart
False worship
15:8, 15:29, 21:3, 21:27
Duplicity
10:10-11, 11:3, 16:30, 20:14, 23:6-8, 26:23-26

Concern for Others
Love and faithfulness
16:6, 20:6, 25:19
Love, hatred, and compassion
Kindness and mercy
11:16-17, 12:10, 12:25, 21:10
Overstaying welcome
25:16-17

Concern for Self
Pride and humility
Selfishness
18:1
Jealousy
27:4
Envy
14:30, 24:19-20
Greed
28:25

Control of Self
Self-control
25:28, 29:11
Rashness
20:25, 21:5, 25:8, 29:20
Temper and patience
Drunkenness and gluttony
20:1, 23:19-21, 23:29-35
Adultery
   22:14
Prostitution
   23:26-28, 29:3

Control of the Tongue
  Wise and foolish talk
  Righteous and wicked talk
  Appropriate speech
  Maintaining silence
  Controlled Speech
   15:1, 17:27, 25:15
  Flattery
   26:28, 28:23, 29:5
  Slander and Gossip
  Hurtful talk
   11:12, 12:18, 15:4, 16:27, 25:23, 26:2
  Quarreling
   17:14, 17:19, 20:3, 22:10, 26:21
  Lying
  Power of the tongue
   18:20-21

Disharmony & Strife
  Solicitation to evil
   16:29, 25:26, 27:3, 28:10
  Violence
   21:7, 21:29
  Murderers
   28:17
  Revenge
   20:22, 24:28-29
  Dissension and strife
   17:1, 18:18, 18:19
  Meddling
   26:17

Honesty
  Truthfulness
   12:20, 13:5, 24:26, 26:18-19
Accurate weights
11:1, 16:11, 20:10, 20:23

Boundary stones
22:28, 23:10-11

Wrongfully attained gains
10:2, 13:11, 20:17, 20:21

Bribery
15:27, 17:8, 17:23, 21:14

**Economic Well-Being**

Wealth and poverty

Benevolence and generosity

Oppression of the poor

Industriousness

Conservation
21:20

Surety for another

**Persons & Attributes**

Parents and children

The elderly
16:31, 20:29

Women and wives

Kings and rulers

Messengers
13:17, 25:13

Companions

**Justice**

False witnesses
Open-mindedness
18:17
Judicial justice
17:15, 17:26, 18:5, 18:17, 21:15, 24:11-12, 24:23-25, 28:5, 29:26

Various Concerns
Caution
16:17, 22:3 & 27:12, 22:5
Reputation
22:1, 25:9-10
Courage
14:32, 22:13, 24:10, 26:13, 28:1
Hope
13:12, 13:19, 23:17, 18

Various Observations
Joy and grief
Good News
15:30, 25:25
Curiosity
27:20
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 10-29

Lesson 5

Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

Value of Wise Sayings
When you receive instruction from someone wiser than you, you should simply accept it and live by it to be wise yourself.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verses

Preeminence of God

Fear of the Lord
If you fear the LORD you will not sin, because you will be too afraid to do or say anything that could make the LORD angry with you.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verses

Trust in God or self
A wise man does not see himself as wise.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verses

Divine providence
We don’t need to plan in our life because the LORD will direct us.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verses

Insight & Ignorance

Wisdom and folly
Fools get to have all the fun in life.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verse

Dealing with fools
You should always correct fools when they are wrong so they are not wise in their own eyes.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verse

Discernment and understanding
Being happy and joyful is easy for fools because they are not grieved by understanding wisdom.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verse

Knowledge
If you don’t act quickly when an opportunity presents itself you will lose out.

T  F  _______________________  Support Verse
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 10-29

Lesson 6

Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

Sharing & Responding to Wisdom

Advice and rebuke
Verbal correction is more likely to effect positive change than physical discipline
T  F  
Support Verse

Value of advisors
We are able to make better decisions when we can get many different views on anything.
T  F  
Support Verse

Discipline
Physical discipline should not hurt very much. It should be a gentle reminder to teach or they might hate you.
T  F  
Support Verse

Lawkeeping
The person who obeys the law is happier than those who do not.
T  F  
Support Verse

Repentance
If you try to hide your sin it will hurt you.
T  F  
Support Verse

Good & Evil

Righteousness and wickedness
The thoughts and desires of those who practice righteousness are good and right.
T  F  
Support Verse

Integrity and perversion
People who pervert justice will have calamity fall upon them suddenly.
T  F  
Support Verse

Appropriate consequences
When disaster strikes a righteous person they will be able to endure it.
T  F  
Support Verse
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 10-29
Lesson 7
Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

Sincere Motivation

Motives and the heart
God is not concerned with what we think about, but only how we behave.

T F Support Verse

False worship
If you don’t want to do the right thing it doesn’t matter if you go to church.

T F Support Verse

Duplicity
You should always talk bad about an item you want to purchase so you can drive the price down and get the best deal and therefore be a good steward of your money.

T F Support Verse

Concern for Others

Love and faithfulness
If I am confident of the right thing to do, I should not listen to those who might tell me to do something different.

T F Support Verse

Love, hatred, and compassion
The best way to get back at someone who doesn’t like you is to do something nice to them and make them feel guilty.

T F Support Verse

Kindness and mercy
What one person sees as mercy another might hurtful.

T F Support Verse

Overstaying welcome
You should always accept the invitation to stay at someone’s house for as long as they say they will put you up.

T F Support Verse
Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

**Concern for Self**

**Pride and humility**
We should be proud of our Nation and heritage.

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**Selfishness**
It is important that we don’t bother others and bear our own burdens.

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**Jealousy**
Wrath and anger displayed is not as bad as being jealous.

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**Envy**
We should not desire good things like another person has.

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**Greed**
Money is the root of all evil.

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**Control of Self**

**Self-control**
Someone who lacks self-control is more easily taken advantage of by others.

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**Rashness**
If you get really mad it is important to express your feelings right away.

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**Temper and patience**
If you understand the conflict you will be less likely to lash out at others.

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**Drunkenness and gluttony**
Wine and food tantalize the eyes and tongue but a wise man is not drawn to them.

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**Adultery**
It is easy to avoid adultery because you can see it coming.

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**Prostitution**
Prostitution is a victimless crime.

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Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

**Control of the Tongue**

**Wise and foolish talk**
The way someone speaks isn’t always an indication of their heart.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Righteous and wicked talk**
Choice words are food for the heart.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Appropriate speech**
Praising a student will often reap bountiful rewards.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Maintaining silence**
It is hard to speak many words without sinning.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Controlled speech**
Gentle words are of little value when trying to denounce evil.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Flattery**
A little white lie doesn’t do any harm if it makes someone feel good.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Slander and gossip**
If you know something terrible it is better to never reveal it.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Hurtful talk**
Good wholesome words never hurt someone’s feelings.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Quarreling**
Fighting is normal, everyone does it, and it is good for releasing one’s emotions.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Lying**
Sometimes the ends justify the means.

- **T** __________ Support Verse

**Power of the tongue**
Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.

- **T** __________ Support Verse
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 10-29
Lesson 10
Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

Disharmony & Strife

Solicitation to evil
It’s worse to lead others in wrong doing than to follow others in their evil.

T  F  

Support Verse

Violence
Violent people will usually have violence done to them.

T  F  

Support Verse

Murderers
We should make sure we take good care of a murderer until they are punished.

T  F  

Support Verse

Revenge
We should respond in kind to anyone who attacks us or hurts us.

T  F  

Support Verse

Dissension and strife
When disputes arise sometimes we should draw straws to choose who will win.

T  F  

Support Verse

Meddling
We must help people settle their disputes like Paul urged Timothy with Euodia & Syntyche.

T  F  

Support Verse

Honesty

Truthfulness
Sometimes lies are necessary in order to not hurt someone’s life.

T  F  

Support Verse

Accurate weights
God knows when you cheat someone even if it is imperceptible to them.

T  F  

Support Verse

Boundary stones
No one is hurt if you move your fence a few feet into your neighbor’s yard.

T  F  

Support Verse

Wrongfully attained gains
One cannot do any good with money gained by dishonesty.

T  F  

Support Verse

Bribery
Everyone in politics has to take bribes to be elected.

T  F  

Support Verse
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 10-29
Lesson 11
Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

Economic Well-Being

Wealth and poverty
A faithful man will abound with riches.
T  F  Support Verse

Benevolence and generosity
Whatever one gives to the poor will return to them by the Lord.
T  F  Support Verse

Oppression of the poor
A rich nation like the U.S. should give a minimum amount of money to every poor person.
T  F  Support Verse

Industriousness
Poverty usually is linked to laziness.
T  F  Support Verse

Conservation
We should use only as much of our resources as needed.
T  F  Support Verse

Surety for another
You should never co-sign a loan for someone else.
T  F  Support Verse

Persons & Attributes

Parents and children
Children are not responsible for their parents’ sorrow.
T  F  Support Verse

The elderly
We should be proud of our gray hair, it means were wise.
T  F  Support Verse

Women and wives
A woman can’t be prudent and contentious.
T  F  Support Verse

Kings and rulers
A king affects the behavior of those who work for him.
T  F  Support Verse

Messengers
If we trust an unfaithful person with any responsibility we will suffer because of it.
T  F  Support Verse

Companions
Our friends are a reflection of us.
T  F  Support Verse
PROVERBS CHAPTERS 10-29
Lesson 12
Read all the verses in each section and then circle whether the statement is true or false, and write down the verses that support your answer.

Justice

False witnesses
A witness should lie if it leads to justice being done.
T  F  Support Verse

Open-mindedness
We rarely make judgments about issues when only one side is telling us the story.
T  F  Support Verse

Judicial justice
There will be no real justice until one stands before God.
T  F  Support Verse

Various Concerns

Caution
If we are wise we will know when to avoid certain situations.
T  F  Support Verse

Reputation
It takes a long time to earn a good reputation and a short time to ruin it.
T  F  Support Verse

Courage
The wiser someone is the more courage they will have.
T  F  Support Verse

Hope
We always have the hope of the hereafter, even if we act like fools.
T  F  Support Verse

Various Observations

Joy and grief
If someone is really sad we should do everything we can to cheer them up and make them laugh.
T  F  Support Verse

Good news
Good news can make us healthier.
T  F  Support Verse

Curiosity
We should rid ourselves of curiosity.
T  F  Support Verse
OVERVIEW
Here are the teachings of Agur the son of Jakeh about the greatness of God and His word. He asks two requests of God and teaches lessons from God’s creation.

EXPLORE IT
1. What did the speaker say about God’s word? (30:5-6)
2. What two things did the speaker ask of the Lord? Why? (30:7-9)
3. What four things are never satisfied? (30:15-16)
4. On what did Lemuel’s mother warn her son not to waste strength? (31:2-3)
5. What should kings avoid? Why? (31:4-5)
6. To whom did the author say to give strong drink and wine? Why? (31:6-7)
7. On whose behalf should we speak up? (31:8-9)
8. What is an excellent wife worth? (31:10)
9. What does her husband think of her? (31:11)
10. What does she do for her household? (31:21-27)
11. What does her family do for her, and what does she deserve? (31:28-31)
12. What is the danger of charm and beauty? (31:30)

GET IT
13. What do we learn from the four things that are wise though small? (30:24-28)
14. What is the lesson of the four things did the speaker not understand? (30:18-19)

APPLY IT
15. How can we be like the ant this week?