

PROVERBS

— PART 1 —

WISDOM THAT WORKS





WELCOME!

Dear Students,

Thank you for joining us for our third series of Daily Devos! Our team is so excited that you've jumped in with us to go deeper with God and study his Word.

Let us just say before we get started that the purpose of the Daily Devos is to get into the habit of spending time with God daily. We pray that you would also learn to continuously talk with God throughout your day and enjoy getting to know him deeper.

When you download your Daily Devos, here's what to expect:

- 1. Start by Praying:** "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Talk to him. After all, it's a relationship!
- 2. Read:** If you do all the readings for all 14 days of this series and the next one, you will have read the entire book of Proverbs!
- 3. Remember:** Focus on the verse or two under this section. God's Word is filled to the brim with things that he wants to tell us, and Proverbs is filled with wisdom. It was incredibly hard to pick just one thing to talk about each day, but soak it up. We also challenge you to pick a few Remember verses to memorize during this series.
- 4. Reflect:** This is an explanation of the biblical passage for the day. It may include some teaching and illustrations, but it is meant to go deeper and get you thinking!
- 5. Respond:** This section has questions that you will want to answer. Don't just think about them, really take the time to answer.
- 6. Real Life:** This involves taking your Daily Devos outside of your personal alone time and into your daily interactions with other people. This could be a missional moment or action step to really live out what we talked about.

This content will really be about what you take the time to put into it. You can skim the paragraphs in a minute and move on, or you can learn to enjoy taking your time digesting the Bible. We are praying for you and we love you. Let us know what you think!

Love,
The RADIATE Staff

WEEK 1 | DAY 1

READ: [Proverbs 1-2](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 1:7](#)

REFLECT:

Proverbs is a book of wise sayings found in the Bible. The cool thing is that it's not just interesting sayings to think about – it has really practical advice for living a godly life. It's possible that this book addresses the very thing that you find yourself struggling with currently. It has a lot to say about how to live, how to treat people, and how to honor God.

We pray that you come into this series with a mindset of someone who loves God so much that you want to live for him, not that you hope to be a perfect little Christian that people see and think, wow they must love God. The goal here is love for Jesus, not perfect behavior.



The author of this book of sayings is Solomon. You may be thinking, Who is he to teach us about wisdom? What makes him a credible source for giving wise counsel? We're glad you asked. In 1 Kings 3:5-14, God tells Solomon in a dream that he will give him anything he asks for. The answer is unexpected: He asks for wisdom!

Knowledge: a piece of information that you can learn, a fact.

Wisdom: the ability to discern when to APPLY the knowledge you have.

If you could ask God for anything, what would it be?

A new phone, maybe. Some shoes, perhaps. But wisdom? Solomon asks for it, and God says something like, "Okay, then I'll make you the wisest man there ever was." The sad part about Solomon's life is that he didn't take a lot of his own advice. By the end of his life, he was sort of a mess. So he's really a guy that would look at you if he could come out of the pages of Scripture and say, "Don't make the same mistakes I did. Live this godly wisdom stuff out, because I didn't, and it messed me up big time."

Wisdom and fearing God go hand-in-hand. Don't look for it anywhere else. Wisdom is not just knowing the right thing, and it's not just applying the right thing. It's applying the right info to a situation in a godly way.

Pray:

If a fool despises wisdom, I pray that you would show me how to love it. Give me a deep love for your word, God. Show me how to apply your Word to my life through this series.

RESPOND:

Who is someone that you would describe as wise? What is it about them that makes them wise? (click to type your answer)

REAL LIFE:

Let's start this series with a bold task: go tell the person that you just mentioned above that you appreciate that they are wise, and you can come to them with advice.

WEEK 1 | DAY 2

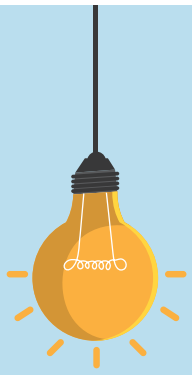
READ: [Proverbs 3](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

REFLECT:

Today's Scripture may be a familiar passage to some of you. You may have memorized it as a kid. You may have heard someone say it before and thought it was just a common phrase in Christianity. We want to challenge you to pray that God would help you internalize this passage, no matter how familiar. Let your mind read it as if you're hearing it for the first time.

How would you define "trust"?



You know how to trust. You are trusting the chair/bed/floor/car you're sitting on right now to hold you up and not collapse. You are trusting that your heart will keep beating and your lungs keep breathing by the time you finish this sentence.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”: trust is something that does not come easy for many people. You trust all day long, but WHERE you put your trust is the hard part. We should trust God with our whole hearts.

“do not lean on your own understanding”: it's almost like Solomon knew that we all tend to trust ourselves most. The idea that “I won't let myself down” is not true. Do you lean on your parent's understanding? A mentor? A friend or significant other?

“in all your ways acknowledge him”: not just “oh yeah, hey God, I see you there”. You may need to start acknowledging that he is right there in the room alone with you when your temptation is at it's strongest. But also, it's welcoming him into every area of your life and keeping him in the center of it all.

“he will make straight your paths”: this does not mean that your road will be smooth. It doesn't mean your life will have zero speed bumps or roadblocks. It means that he will show you where to go.

Pray:

Forgive me, Father, for all the times I leaned on my own understanding. I can't do life without you, and I don't want to try. I trust you. Holy Spirit, lovingly convict me when I'm tempted to lean on myself and not acknowledge you in my life.

RESPOND:

In what situation in your life are you leaning on your own understanding? How have you gone through this situation without acknowledging God? What will it look like for you to trust him with all your heart in this area? (click to type)

REAL LIFE:

Read [1 Peter 5:6-8](#). Satan is seeking whom to destroy, and he wants to destroy you. One way he wants to do that is by making you feel anxious and like you can't trust God. Today, if you come to a place where you feel nervous, anxious, or worried, stop right then and there. Ask yourself, "Am I trusting God?"

WEEK 1 | DAY 3

READ: [Proverbs 4](#)

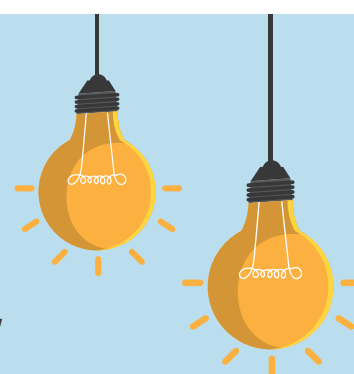
REMEMBER: [Proverbs 4:23](#)

REFLECT:

What does the phrase “follow your heart” mean?

To be honest, this phrase is not biblical. In fact, the Bible teaches that our hearts are diseased, and that we need saving from our own hearts.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Matthew 15:18-19 says, “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.”



Lying, sick, evil, murderous, deceitful. Does this sound like someone worth following? The good news is that in John 14:1, Jesus says, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” Instead of trusting my heart, Jesus tells me to trust him instead. So how can we guard our hearts, like this Proverb is telling us? Paul says in Philippians 4:7, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” So really, trusting God will bring peace and that will guard you in Christ. What a beautiful promise!

A lot of times growing up, you may have heard “guard your heart” in the context of dating. Okay, guys, guard your heart, because you don’t want to give your heart away until you meet your wife. Alright, ladies, guard your heart until the man God has for you comes along.

Do you see how it’s so much MORE than this, based on today’s reading? While it’s true that we hope you are spared the experience of getting your heart broken several times before you get married, that’s not exactly what this verse is getting at. It doesn’t say, guard your heart, single people. It says guard your heart. Period. We all need God to guard us against our own sinfulness, the deceit that is in our heart, and against the schemes of Satan to take us down.

Pray:

God, I give you my sinful heart. Guard it with your peace. Instead of trusting and following my heart, you instruct me to trust and follow you and guard my heart. Thank you for your peace that is so great I can't even understand it.

RESPOND:

What will be your response the next time you are tempted to follow your heart? (click to type)

REAL LIFE:

The next time you hear someone say, “follow your heart”, or something along those lines, engage them in conversation. What do they think that means? Have they ever found their heart to lead them astray? This topic is a natural segue into a conversation about the gospel.

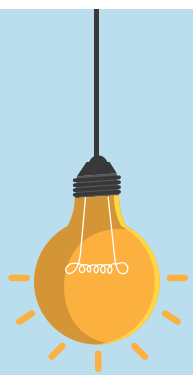
WEEK 1 | DAY 4

READ: [Proverbs 5](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 5:13](#)

REFLECT:

In this chapter of Proverbs, Solomon is warning his readers against sexual immorality. What does Paul say to do with sexual sin in 1 Corinthians 6:18?



Quick Facts:

A few times in this book, Solomon will compare the woman named Wisdom with the woman named Forbidden or Folly. He is personifying those two ideas in the form of a woman. Basically he is just talking about the two subjects in a poetic way.

Solomon is not just talking about lust. He warns us about all sorts of sexual sin that may tempt us: adultery, homosexuality, premarital sex, pornography, etc. The crazy thing is, if you remember from the first day, he himself struggled with this. I find that extremely comforting to know he wasn't like, hey, I'm perfect at this stuff, so get like me. No! He had literally hundreds of wives. I think a guy that has hundreds of wives struggles with lust....

But here's an interesting take on a familiar subject. He gets done telling us to stay far, far away from the Forbidden Woman (AKA sexual sin). If you don't, you'll be saying, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. I am at the brink of utter ruin..." (Proverbs 5:12-14). When you don't listen to the godly advice of mentors about sexual sin, you'll be in "utter ruin".

The New Living Translation says, "Why didn't I listen?" Our prayer for you is that no matter what is in your past, you can put a stake in the ground and today commit to purity in every area of your life. We want you to be someone that looks back and says, "I'm so glad I listened", not, "Why didn't I listen".

Pray:

God, I need you to be the guard of my heart. I pray that you would let me find purity more attractive than sexual sin. Warn me when I'm close to temptation, please. I'm desperate for your guidance on this topic.

RESPOND:

With which sexual sin do you most often struggle? What steps can you take to remove yourself from this sin and avoid temptation all together? *(click to type)*

REAL LIFE:

There is no shame in struggling with something and opening up about it. Confession is the first step to healing. And healing brings peace and freedom. There is freedom in confession, and we as the church are called to encourage and help one another. Consider talking to your LifeGroup table leader, or a RADIATE mentor (Katie/Savannah for girls, Chip/Eli/Micah/Seth/Stephen for guys) about your answer in the section above.

WEEK 1 | DAY 5

READ: [Proverbs 6](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 6:16-19](#)

REFLECT:

What is something you absolutely hate? That makes your blood boil? That you absolutely despise with every fiber of your being?

Possible Answers Include, But Not Limited To:

nails on a chalkboard, people who are always late, texting while I'm trying to tell you something, the phrase "all the feels", slow walkers, loud talkers, super long captions, people who don't use a turn signal, talking on speaker phone, people who pour the milk in before the cereal, cocky people, lying, PDA, when the toilet paper goes under not over, treating God like Santa, chewing loudly.



Are you mad yet? Do you hate any of those things above with a burning passion? Now listen to what God hates:

- 1. Haughty eyes:** aka "looking down your nose", or when you are too selfish and arrogant to really see others and appreciate the people in front of you.
- 2. A lying tongue:** pretty self-explanatory.
- 3. Hands that shed innocent blood:** obviously murdering innocent people is disgusting to God.
- 4. A heart that devises wicked plans:** "premeditated" is usually followed by "murder", but when you plan anything wrong beforehand, God hates it. Even if it's when to meet up to cheat on a test together.
- 5. Feet that make haste to run to evil:** there are few times we actually, physically run to something we're excited about; are you running toward evil or toward good?
- 6. A false witness who breathes out lies:** not only does God hate lying, he goes a step further to say he hates when someone is really fast and good at it.
- 7. One who sows discord among brothers:** the phrase "stirring the pot" comes to mind; this involves someone planting seeds of distrust, gossip, and disunity between family, friends, and the church.

Pray:

God, instead of making us guess what you do and don't like, thank you for your Word that is crystal clear. It is easy to sometimes see the Bible as a list of dos and don'ts, but really you are merciful to lay out your expectations of your followers clearly. Today is not about a list of rules, though. At the end of the day, it's about knowing what the person I love hates. I want to avoid these things because I love you, not because I am a rule follower. I pray that you would show me if I am participating in any of these seven things.

RESPOND:

Which of the seven do you struggle with the most?
(click to type)

REAL LIFE:

If you have a Christian friend that struggles with any of these seven, consider striking up a loving conversation with them about it. It's possible that if they know that God not only disapproves but actually hates what they are doing, they would be willing to listen to a calm, gentle friend.

WEEK 1 | DAY 6

READ: [Proverbs 7-8](#)

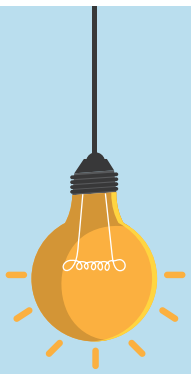
REMEMBER: [Proverbs 8:12-13](#)

REFLECT:

Yesterday was about what God hates. Today is about what Wisdom hates. Try to write the seven things God hates without looking back at yesterday's Daily Devo. When you've remembered as many as you can, write the rest.

First, Wisdom hates Pride and Arrogance. If you're focused on yourself, good or bad, that is selfish. It's interesting that the wisest man on earth is telling us don't get proud. Again, he's probably speaking from experience here: pride and wisdom cannot coexist. If wisdom hates selfishness, it loves humility and a healthy perspective of self.

Second, Wisdom hates The Way of Evil.



The use of this word **“way”** reminds us of the New Testament use of the word. Acts 11 tells us about the first time that followers of Jesus were called “Christians”, but before that, these people were said to belong to **The Way** (see Acts 9:1-2). It's probably got to do with the use of the word in John 14:6, when Jesus said he is **the Way** (to God), and in Isaiah 40:3 where they were told to “prepare **the way** of the Lord”. You could ask someone if they were part of **the Way**, just like today you may ask someone if they are a Christian.

Briefly we want to point out that there is one way to God. It's not by the good things that you do, and it's not something you can earn. Jesus said very clearly in John 14:6 that he is the only way we can get to God. Have you trusted him with your life and surrendered to him for salvation? Wisdom hates the way of evil, which means it loves the way of goodness. And the only way to be good or in good standing with God is to trust Jesus with it all.

Third, Wisdom hates Perverted Speech. Read [Ephesians 5:4](#). Have you ever repeated a crude joke, made a reference so something dirty, or had a “mind in the gutter” moment? Of course! We all have. Pay attention to the words that come out of your mouth. Then pay attention to the words you’re putting into your mind and the content you’re consuming.

Pray:

Thank you for making a way for me to get to you and spend eternity with you. I turn away from pride, arrogance, the way of evil, and perverted speech today.

RESPOND:

Which of the three things that Wisdom hates did you need to be reminded of today, and why? (click to type)

REAL LIFE:

We challenge you to only consume things today that are the opposite of perverted speech. No cuss words, no dirty jokes, no insinuations. By taking inventory and taking it out of your day, you will realize just how much it was a part of your day. And if wisdom hates perverted speech, it loves Ephesians 4:29 speech, like thanksgiving, encouragement, building up, and telling the truth.

WEEK 1 | DAY 7

READ: [Proverbs 9](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 9:9-10](#)

REFLECT:

If you could devote one hour every day to learning whatever you wanted, what would it be and why?

Did you let yourself dream big there? A lot of us have an interesting relationship with “learning”, to say the least. Some of us associate it with school, so it seems like a chore. Some of us think of working really hard to get good grades. Some of us think of a skill or talent that we love to learn more about.

Luke 2:52 says, “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”



Whatever your idea of learning is, even Jesus himself grew in wisdom. We can learn from his example and live our lives with a healthy balance of learning and growing mentally and spiritually. Today’s theme is this: Never stop learning...about God!

The incredible thing about the Bible is that a small child can understand it enough to believe in Jesus; and a grown up with years and years of study can still find something new and exciting to learn from it. It is like an ocean that you can wade on the shore as a child or swim in the depths as an experienced diver.

How do you see the Bible? Is it too hard to “get”? Then be encouraged that the gospel is for everyone who believes, and you can understand it with the Helper, the Holy Spirit. Maybe you’re on the other end and you think, I’ve got the gist of it, I’m good. Don’t be deceived! “Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be wiser still.” There is always something to learn.

Remember, “the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” Open your heart to the understanding that you should never stop learning when it comes to Scripture and the things of God. You’re getting to know him! The one that loves you and died for you. Let your curiosity grow, don’t stifle your questions, and enjoy the wooing of the Holy Spirit through the pages of Scripture for the rest of your life!

Pray:

I pray, God, for a deep passion for your Word. I pray that you would teach me to love it, to crave it, to enjoy it, and to not live without it.

RESPOND:

What questions do you have for God? (click to type)

REAL LIFE:

Is there a book of the Bible you've never read or don't know much about? Go read it! Do research, learn, dig as deep as you can!

WEEK 2 | DAY 1

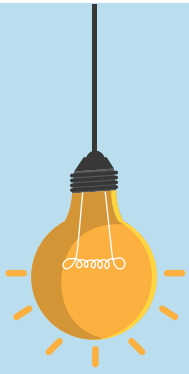
READ: [Proverbs 10](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 10:4](#)

REFLECT:

If you had \$1,000,000 right now, what would you buy?

This Proverb is not saying if you work hard you are rich, and if you don't you are poor. The world has plenty of hard-working poor people and lazy rich people. The focus is on the DILIGENCE, not the outcome.



Biblical Examples of Hard Work:

- Adam worked hard in the garden (Genesis 2:15).
- Several disciples that Jesus recruited were hard-working fishermen (Matthew 4:18-2).
- Joseph was given a huge responsibility in his job (Genesis 41:37-41).
- Ruth worked in the fields to provide for her family (Ruth 2:1-4).
- Noah built a larger-than-life boat while being laughed at the whole time (Genesis 6:9-22).
- Joshua was a great military leader (Deuteronomy 1:38).
- Esther persevered to save her people (Esther 9:11-15).

There is great, deep, and beautiful value in hard work.

From 6th through 12th grade, only about two, maybe three grades represented are even old enough to get part-time, after-school jobs. So you may be reading this thinking, “Okay great, another devo that is for someone else. I’m not old enough to get a job. But here’s a key principle to remember from today’s teaching: “work” does not just mean “job”. It is so much more than that.

God is the one that allows you to work. He is the one that provided you with unique skills and talents and has a plan to use you through those things. He gave you the arms and legs you have. He created the body to be able to lift, help, give, and serve.

Do you lack motivation? That's fair. But Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not men." First Corinthians 10:31 says, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Pray:

God, I praise you for the intentional way that you made my body to serve you. Whatever I do today, I want to do it for your glory, not my own. I pray that my hard work would honor you today.

RESPOND:

What is an area of your life where you have gotten lazy?
(Click to type)

REAL LIFE:

Pray that God would reveal to you the talents that he gave you. Yesterday we talked about how we can never stop learning about God. In the same way, we should never stop learning new things in general. Take up that instrument. Audition for that play. Try out for that sport. Reach out about that hobby. You get to learn what skills God gave you. Pray that God would give you a godly motivation.

WEEK 2 | DAY 2

READ: [Proverbs 11](#)

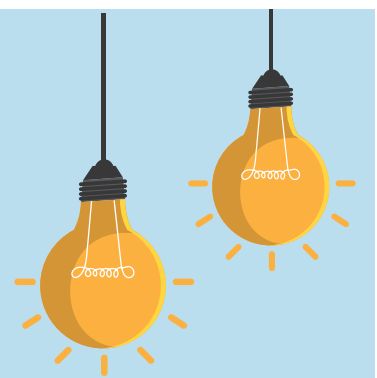
REMEMBER: [Proverbs 11:14](#)

REFLECT:

John 16:13 says, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will _____ you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

Revelation 12:10 says, “And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the _____ of our brothers has been thrown down, who _____ them day and night before our God.”

Satan is the accuser. Holy Spirit is the guide. If we are to follow Jesus, we are to look to the Holy Spirit for guidance. He is the one that advises, teaches, comforts, and renews us. That’s amazing! The voice of the enemy is accusing: he blames, condemns, and wants to destroy us.



We should BE the type of person in others’ lives that bring renewal and comfort, not accusation and condemnation. We should also SURROUND ourselves with people in our lives that uplift and teach godliness, not people that blame and want to destroy us.

Paul is one of the best examples in the Bible of what godly guidance looks like. We see his mentor relationship with Timothy grow in the New Testament, and in 2 Timothy 1:2 Paul calls Timothy his dear son in the faith. Paul is his mentor, and Timothy is now a leader in the church looking to Paul for advice on how to lead too.

We should all be a Timothy and have a Timothy

- To BE a Timothy means you have a few people in your life, a little bit older, a little bit stronger in their faith, a little bit ahead of you in life, that you can go to for godly advice – someone that models godly living as well.
- To HAVE a Timothy means you have a few people in your life, a little bit younger, a little bit newer to their faith, a little bit behind you in life, that you can be their go-to for godly advice – someone you can model godly living to as well.

Pray:

Thank you, Jesus, for being the best example of all. I pray that you should show me who I can have as a mentor and a mentee, but I pray that these relationships center around the awesome God that we serve. Thank you for setting up these relationships in your family.

RESPOND:

Who is your Paul? Who is your Timothy? (click to type)

REAL LIFE:

To search for a Paul, start with your LifeGroup leader or a RADIATE staff member of the same gender. Pray that God would show you who you can trust for godly advice. To search for a Timothy, you must make sure that your life example is a godly example. And talk to your friends about who your friend group could pour into, a grade or two younger than you.

WEEK 2 | DAY 3

READ: [Proverbs 12](#)

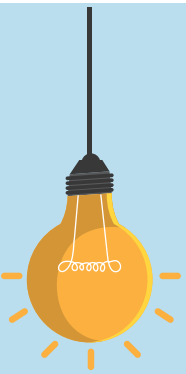
REMEMBER: [Proverbs 12:17-22](#)

REFLECT:

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” That is such a vivid image that Solomon uses: Sword thrusts are rash, crazed, haphazard, all over the place. Wisdom brings healing. Telling lies brings violence, chaos, hurt, and pain. Telling the truth brings healing.

John 14:6 says, “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the _____, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 8:44 says, “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the _____, because there is no _____ in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”



More Reading on Truth:

Exodus 20:16; Psalm 25:5; Psalm 51:6;
Psalm 86:11; Psalm 145:18; Zechariah 8:16;
John 1:14; John 16:13; Philippians 4:8;
3 John 1:3-4

Jesus is the truth. Satan is the deceiver. We should reflect Jesus. When it’s hard, tell the truth. When it’s uncomfortable, tell the truth. When it risks making you look bad, tell the truth.

You may notice that some verses we pick out in this Daily Devo series are repeated elsewhere in the book. The subject of Truth is no different. Proverbs speaks multiple times about telling the truth, breathing out lies, giving false witness, and saying a good and honest thing.

To wrap up today, we want to remind you that some of the meanest people may use “truth” as an excuse. They may say something incredibly hurtful, and follow it up with, “Hey, I’m just telling the truth!” “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). Don’t use honesty as an excuse to be hurtful. Be honest in a loving and gentle way as you become more mature like Jesus.

Pray:

Because you ARE truth, Jesus, I pray that I would reflect you and be truthful. Your Word is the truth, so I will use it as my standard for what is right.

RESPOND:

What was the last lie you told? Why did you tell it?
(click to type)

REAL LIFE:

Proverbs 26:18-19 says, “Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who deceives their neighbor and says, ‘I was only joking!’” Let’s remove “just kidding” from our vocabularies, because usually it follows something hurtful or deceitful.

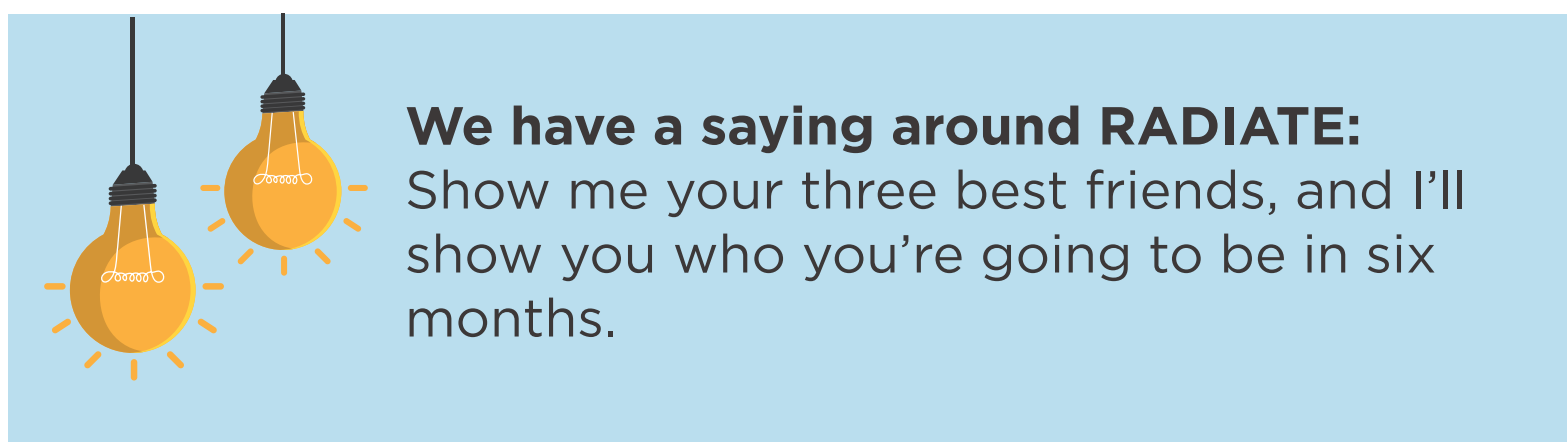
WEEK 2 | DAY 4

READ: [Proverbs 13](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 13:20](#)

REFLECT:

Who are your three closest friends?



Think about it: Who do you want to be? I mean, really. Surround yourself with those types of people.

Of course, it isn't a perfect statement. If you want to be the best basketball player that the Metro Atlanta area has ever seen, but you are fully grown at 5'1", can't run very well, and have no skills with your hands... no matter how many excellent basketball players you hang around with, you probably won't be the number one athlete that you hope to be six months from now.

That's because the idea has to do with CHARACTER. Go deeper than the surface: we're talking who a person really is. What's that quote about character – it's who you are when no one's looking? That's the direction we're going today.

This Daily Devo is not a free pass to treat your friends bad, judge people, and bash your friends because they aren't perfect little Christians. News flash: you're not either, because no one is! We are all in desperate need of our Savior Jesus to wash us pure white and cleanse us of our sins. We're saying that we want to challenge you to surround yourself with people that will lift you up toward godliness. Find friends of character.

Pray:

I have been desperate for acceptance, Lord. Help me to realize you accept me. I have wanted to fit in with people that don't honor you. Forgive me, Lord. It's not worth it. Proverbs is all about wisdom, which means knowing when to apply the right thing. So I pray that you would give me that wisdom that I need to navigate friendships in a godly way.

RESPOND:

How are your friends building each other up to follow Jesus?
(click to type)

REAL LIFE:

If you have close friends that don't want the same closeness with Jesus that you do, tread lightly. How does it look for you to ditch your friends and say, well I don't want to hang out with y'all anymore because I'm trying to be a good Christian. Ouch! Please don't ditch your friends and blame it on God. Instead, do what you can to start encouraging your friends, introducing Jesus into the conversation, and challenging each other with Bible reading and prayer. And then, if you still feel like you are not surrounded by people that want to prioritize Jesus, pray that God would give you one friend that is a mature believer. In the meantime, be careful not to get caught up in sin. Talk to an older, trusted Christian like that Paul we talked about two days ago, to help you know what to do.

WEEK 2 | DAY 5

READ: [Proverbs 14](#)

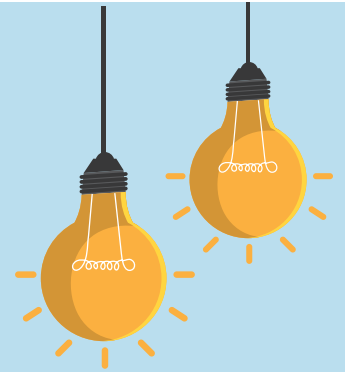
REMEMBER: [Proverbs 14:12](#)

REFLECT:

Read [Genesis 11:1-9](#). Where did the people say they wanted to build a tower to in verse four? _____

Remember:

All the way back in the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter 3, Eve was tempted to be like God and wanted to be wise. So she and Adam sinned and were the cause of the sin problem that infects the entire human race.



In the beginning of human history, people built a huge tower to try to get to God. God punished the people for their arrogance and confused the languages of the people trying to get to him. The wisdom that they thought they wanted and the fame they thought they could reach was bigger than man was designed to bear.

It's not that God doesn't want us to get to him – that's obviously not true because he sent Jesus to die and resurrect so that we COULD get to him. The point is this: the way that seems right to man is our own human wisdom and personal fame, but in the end, it's crushing and isn't what he desired for us.

Here are some real-life examples of ways that “seem” right but are destructive: It may seem right to lie to someone to spare their feelings, but lies are always more hurtful. It may feel good to withhold forgiveness, but it really hurts you more than the other person. It may seem right to cheat on your homework with friends, but it is dishonest and against what your authority asks of you. It may seem okay to send that picture, but it will only lead to hurt and pain. It may feel really good to gossip about that person that hurt you, but it is just fueling selfishness and jealousy that grows into bitterness.

What's crazy is that when we truly deny ourselves and devote our lives to the glory and fame of God, he will use us to leave an eternal mark. When you reject God, you're saying you want to be more famous than him. Ultimately that leads to a life that doesn't honor him at all, and it is the path to death.

Pray:

I want to honor you, because I love you, not because I am following a list of rules. So I pray that I would honor you with my mind today. Give me discernment to know what is right.

RESPOND:

Look back at the examples. What is something in your life that SEEMS right, but it will not ultimately lead to life or honor God? It may seem right to...but... (click to type)

REAL LIFE:

Think about the connection with this Daily Devo and the one about “follow your heart”. Remember that sometimes things seem right because they are easier. It’s easier to lie and not deal with the consequences. It’s easier to cheat than to work hard. Next time you’re tempted to do what seems right, ask God if it is. Are you just taking the easier route?

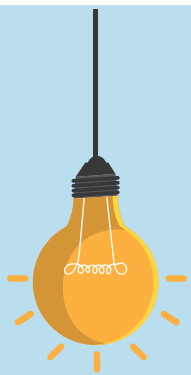
WEEK 2 | DAY 6

READ: [Proverbs 15](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 15:8](#)

REFLECT:

How would you describe your “prayer life”? Is it constant? Do you have to remind yourself to pray? Is it hard for you to remember the last time you prayed?



Prayer is not a task to be completed like homework. It is basically the main way that we get to communicate with God outside of his Word. Prayer is an honor. Think about it: the God that created the universe, the Savior of the world, the Holiest, Most High, God Almighty invites you to talk with him... and is right there willing and ready to listen. When you think about it, every time you pray, you are participating in a miracle.

Do you have a best friend? Do you have a sibling that you're close to or a parent you feel comfortable talking to? If you tried to have a relationship with someone and never talked with each other, it would be hard to really know each other. You could read about them, get information about them from other people that know them, and learn about them from watching them interact with others. But it's basically impossible to be best friends with someone without ever talking.

To take this a step further, you typically have conversations with people close with you that involve two people talking. Very rarely do you have text conversations that include only one person texting, or watch someone talking to another person that never looks up from the book they are reading. At the very least you wouldn't think they are friends, let alone best friends.

The same is true for prayer. We call salvation a “relationship” with God. We get the honor of engaging in a two-way dialogue with God. Not only do we get to talk to him, but he talks back. He speaks through the Bible, the Holy Spirit's promptings, and through other people that are walking closely with him. Closeness with God involves talking with him yourself. So what are you waiting for?

Pray:

Thank you for the amazing gift that is prayer. I want to be in an attitude of prayer all day.

RESPOND:

Here are some acronyms that may help you take your prayers to the next level. Try one of these out.

PRAISE: Praise God for who he is; Repent of your sin and confess it to God; Acknowledge your need for him and his authority in your life; Intercede/pray for others; Self/pray for your own requests; Equipping/pray for how you can serve him today.

ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.
(click to type)

REAL LIFE:

First Samuel 12:23 says, “As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you.” Wow – let’s learn to take that seriously in our lives. Next time someone asks you to pray for them about something, stop and pray right then and there, whether it’s over text or in person. You have no idea how meaningful that will be for them. Plus, you will be obeying God by following through with praying for them.

WEEK 2 | DAY 7

READ: [Proverbs 16](#)

REMEMBER: [Proverbs 16:9](#)

REFLECT:

What is a prayer you prayed when you were younger, that you're glad God didn't answer? _____

We make all sorts of plans. We decide we will wear to something, so we make sure it's clean beforehand. We save money so that we can spend it on ice cream later. We apply to the college we want to go to, instead of just showing up.. We think ahead toward a friend's birthday. We weigh the pros and cons of what school will look like for our families. We look forward to dinner.

Fun Fact:

If you look around on the internet for how many choices a person makes in a day, you'll find that the average adult makes 35,000 conscious decisions every single day. That's about 774,000 decisions in a lifetime. How many do you think you've made so far today?



Think about how many plans have been cancelled, postponed, refunded, changed, etc., in the last six months of our lives. I don't know about you, but I've come to think of plans as just that: something I plan for but can't necessarily count on.

There is nothing quite so frustrating as when you have the perfect plans and they get interrupted. You have timed out your day perfectly, and you hit traffic. Or you planned to spend a quiet evening at home, and a sibling or friend won't stop talking. Maybe you thought you were going to eat with a group, but someone you don't like is now coming. Interruptions are frustrating.

What if we learned to view interruptions as positive things, not negative? What if we prayed every day for God to direct our steps into the exact conversation, situation, or circle of people that he wants us to be in. God could use you to speak hope and life into someone else, if only you'll let him interrupt you.

Pray:

I give my plans to you, God. Teach me that interruptions can be a good thing.

RESPOND:

Think of a time that someone encouraged you or made you feel special. What if that situation was not on their radar that day, but you were an interruption to their plans? How do you see your upcoming day differently, knowing God may have a great interruption in store for you? (click to type)

REAL LIFE:

You did it! Congratulations on finishing the first half of our series on Proverbs. You have spent two weeks diving into godly wisdom. Think of one way you've grown in the last two weeks and tell a friend. Post on your social media or tell a friend that you finished the series and hope they join you for the next one.