

PROVERBS

PART 1

WISDOM THAT WORKS

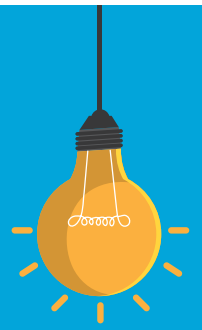
PARENT GUIDE



daily devos
RADIATE STUDENTS



WELCOME!



Dear Parents,

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 with your student.

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. The purpose of THIS material is to walk alongside your student as their primary disciple-maker. God has entrusted your child to you, and we pray that you will show them who Jesus is. We are here to support you!

When you download (or print) your parent guide, here's what to expect:

- 1. READ:** 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 verses to memorize during this series as a family.
- 2. REFLECT:** This section is an abbreviated version of what your student read in the Daily Devos. It's an explanation of the biblical passage for the day.
- 3. REAL TALK:** This section has questions that you will want to ask your student. Don't just talk through "number one," "number two," but really enjoy taking your time. The questions may include your personal examples, missional moments, or action steps. Enjoy the conversation!

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.

We've also provided an additional parent resource - "Real Talk" Cards! Print a set (or 3!) off and put them wherever you might have an opportunity to talk with your students - whether that's the dinner table, the car, your purse, or any other place you can think of. You can either use the cards every day, or choose your favorites. Many of the questions are targeted toward the content the students are studying each day, but much of it is applicable and relatable in every day life. We hope this will help you make the most of the time you have with your students!

Love,
The RADIATE Staff

P. S. - If you've done a series with us in the last few weeks, you'll notice this looks a lot different than the first one we did in James. That's because we took your feedback in order to meet you where you are in real families that are craving some time to connect. Let us know what you think! We really do rely on and appreciate your input.

WEEK 1 | DAY 1

READ: Proverbs 1:7

REFLECT:

Proverbs is a book of wise sayings found in the Bible that has really practical advice for living a godly life. 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. Solomon asked God for Wisdom and he made him the wisest man in the world.

Knowledge is a piece of information that you can learn, a fact. Wisdom is the ability to discern when to APPLY the knowledge you have. Wisdom and fearing God go hand-in-hand. Don't look for it anywhere else but God.

REAL TALK:

- Since Solomon asked God for wisdom, what would be your thing - what would you ask God for?
- Who is someone that you would say is wise?
- What is it about them that makes them wise?
- Are you willing to go tell the person that you just mentioned that you appreciate that they are wise?
- What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
- What is a situation in your life right now where you need wisdom?
- How can I support you in that situation?

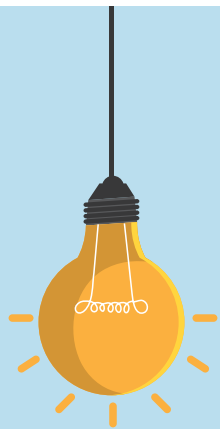


WEEK 1 | DAY 2

READ: Proverbs 3:5-6

REFLECT:

- **“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.
- **“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”:** It’s not just “oh yeah, hey God, I see you there”. Even though that may be enough. 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.



REAL TALK:

- How do you define trust?
- 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?
- What are you going to do if you feel anxious today?
- How can I pray for you today?

WEEK 1 | DAY 3

READ: Proverbs 4:23

REFLECT:

To be honest, the phrase, “follow your heart” is not biblical. In fact, the Bible teaches that our hearts are diseased, and that we need saving from our own hearts (see Jeremiah 17:9 and Matthew 15:18-19).

Instead of trusting my heart, Jesus tells me to trust him instead (see John 14:1).

And really, trusting God will bring peace and that will guard you in Christ (see Philippians 4:7).

Do you see how “guard your heart” is so much MORE than just about dating, based on today’s reading? 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.

Don’t forget to encourage your student to read the Daily Devos!

REAL TALK:

- Have you ever heard any of your friends say “just follow your heart”?
- What do you think the phrase means?
- What will be your response the next time you are tempted to follow your heart?
- How could you use the phrase “follow your heart” to segue into a gospel conversation?
- Have you ever found your heart to lead you astray?
- If so, how?
- How can you guard your heart in the area of friends? Relationships? Dreams?



WEEK 1 | DAY 4

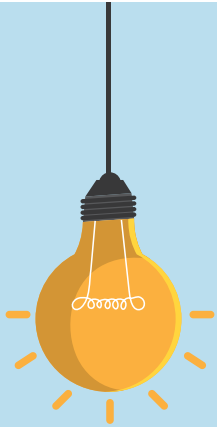
READ: Proverbs 5:13

REFLECT:

Solomon is warning his readers against sexual immorality. He 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.

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”.

You’re more than welcome to check out a little more in-depth teaching in the Daily Devo that your student is reading.



REAL TALK:

- Are you willing to commit to memorizing a few of these verses together during the series? Be thinking about which ones you want to memorize.
- Have you ever had a “why didn’t I listen” moment?
- If so, tell me about it – no judgement!
- Can you tell me about a time when you had a “I’m so glad I listened” moment?
- 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?
- Do you feel like you have someone you can talk to about this?

WEEK 1 | DAY 5

READ: Proverbs 6:16-19

REFLECT:

God hates...

1. Haughty eyes
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked plans
5. Feet that make haste to run to evil
6. A false witness who breathes out lies
7. One who sows discord among brothers

For more definitions and to go deeper on each item, check out the Daily Devos for students on the website.

REAL TALK:

- What is something you absolutely hate - your biggest pet peeve of all time?
- Why do you think that bothers you so much?
- What is something that upsets you in our family that you'd change if you could?
- Which of the seven things God hates also make you upset?
- Which of the seven do you personally struggle with the most?
- What would it look like for you to lovingly confront a friend that struggles with one of these?



READ: Proverbs 8:12-13

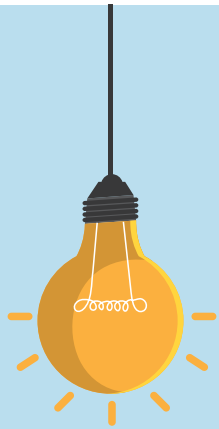
REFLECT:

Yesterday was about what God hates. Today is about what Wisdom hates. First, Wisdom hates Pride and Arrogance. If wisdom hates selfishness, it loves humility and a healthy perspective of self.

Second, Wisdom hates The Way of Evil. 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. Have you trusted him with your life and surrendered to him for salvation?

Third, Wisdom hates Perverted Speech. Pay attention to the words you're putting into your mind and the content you're consuming.

There are more resources for walking your student through salvation in the James Daily Devos on the website.



REAL TALK:

- Have you trusted Jesus with your life and surrendered to him for salvation?
- Which of the three things that Wisdom hates did you need to be reminded of today?
- Why that one?
- What are some selfless activities our family can participate in?
- How can we get better as a family at encouraging each other?

WEEK 1 | DAY 7

READ: Proverbs 9:9-10

REFLECT:

Whatever your idea of learning is, even Jesus himself grew in wisdom (see Luke 2:52). We can learn from his example and live our lives with a healthy balance of learning and growing mentally and spiritually.

How do you see the Bible? The gospel is for everyone who believes, and you can understand it with the Helper, the Holy Spirit. There is always something to learn.

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 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!

Don't forget you can go a little deeper by reading the Daily Devos student version!

REAL TALK:

- If you could devote one hour every day to learning whatever you wanted, what would it be?
- Why did you choose that thing?
- Why not start learning it now?
- What questions do you have for God?
- Can I tell you about some questions I've had for God before?
- Is there a book of the Bible you've always wanted to read?
- Would you be interested in studying it as a family?



WEEK 2 | DAY 1

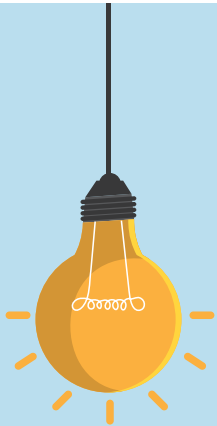
READ: Proverbs 10:4

REFLECT:

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

There is great, deep, and beautiful value in working hard. 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. He created the body to be able to lift, help, give, and serve.

Not motivated? That's fair. But see Colossians 3:17, 23, and 1 Corinthians 10:31. Maybe you need a fresh perspective on motivation. These verses and more are located in the student Daily Devos, where you can find more Scripture to walk through with your student.



REAL TALK:

- If you had \$1,000,000 right now, what would you do with it?
- If our family was given \$1,000 right now, and we were told to go serve someone with that money, how should we spend it?
- What is an area of your life where you have gotten lazy?
- What is one thing you feel like you are REALLY good at?
- How do you think God is going to use that in your life for his glory?
- How do you think you can use that gift to share the gospel?

WEEK 2 | DAY 2

READ: Proverbs 11:14

REFLECT:

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. Paul is Timothy's 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 (have a godly, older example in your life that you can go to for godly advice) and HAVE a Timothy (have a few younger, less mature people in your life that you are modeling godly living to).

Paul and Timothy are incredible examples of godly counselors/advisors. Ultimately we pray that you as the parent are the Paul to your Timothy in your homes right now. Follow along with what they are reading in the Daily Devos.

REAL TALK:

- Can I tell you about the Paul and Timothy in my own life?
- Who is your Paul?
- Can I help you think of some options of safe, godly mentors you could go to for godly wisdom?
- Who is your Timothy?
- Are you willing to pray about God putting some younger Christians in your path to help guide them in their faith?
- Do you feel like your life is worth modeling after, if someone was going to look up to you?



WEEK 2 | DAY 3

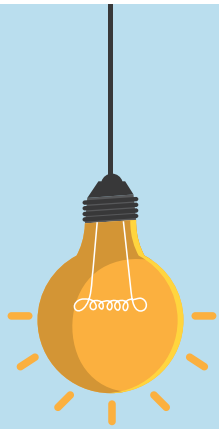
READ: Proverbs 12:17-22

REFLECT:

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 you looking bad, tell the truth.

Some of the meanest people we know 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. More practical Scripture can be found in the Daily Devo that your student is reading.



REAL TALK:

- What's one thing you're going to do after reading today's content?
- On a scale of 1-10 (1 being not so much, 10 being very much), how easy is it for you to lie?
- Why did you pick that number?
- Can I tell you about a time that I used honesty as an excuse to be hurtful to someone else?
- Now that you've heard the story, how could I have said that in a better way?
- Can you tell me about a time that you told the truth even though it made you look bad?
- How did that situation make you feel? How did you feel knowing that you did what's right?
- See Proverbs 26:18-19. Do you think we as a family can use "just kidding" less?

WEEK 2 | DAY 4

READ: Proverbs 13:20

REFLECT:

We have a saying around RADIATE: Show me your three best friends, and I'll show you who you're going to be in six months. Think about it: Who do you want to be? I mean, really. Surround yourself with those types of people. The quote has to do with CHARACTER. We're talking who a person really is.

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 want to challenge you to surround yourself with people that will lift you up toward godliness.

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.

REAL TALK:

- Who would you say are your three closest friends?
- How are your friends building each other up to follow Jesus?
- If your friends aren't building you up toward Jesus, what do you think you can do to help guide them and lead them in that direction?



WEEK 2 | DAY 5

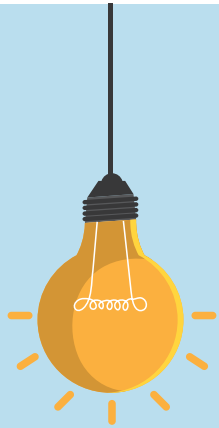
READ: Proverbs 14:12

REFLECT:

In the beginning of human history, people built a huge tower to try to get to God (see Genesis 11). God punished the people for their arrogance and confused the languages of the people trying to get to him. 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 grow into bitterness.

For a little more background on the Tower of Babel, you can read more in the Daily Devos your student is reading.



REAL TALK:

- How do you feel like today's content relates to your life?
- What is something in your life that SEEMS right, but it will not ultimately honor God?
- How can I be praying for you about that?
- Is there anything you want to talk to me about today?

WEEK 2 | DAY 6

READ: Proverbs 15:8

REFLECT:

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. It's basically impossible to be best friends with someone without ever talking.

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?

REAL TALK:

- How often would you say that you pray?
- How can I pray for you today?
- Who are some people in our family that we need to pray for?
- Are there any friends that we need to pray for?
- What are some things going on in the world that we can pray for?
- How can we be more thankful in the way that we pray, not just asking for things?



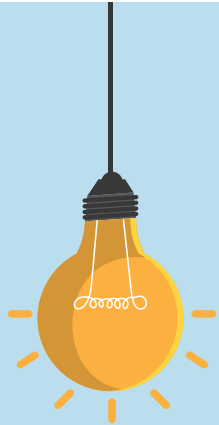
WEEK 2 | DAY 7

READ: Proverbs 16:9

REFLECT:

We make all sorts of plans all the time. 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. 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.



REAL TALK:

- What is a prayer you prayed when you were younger, that you're glad God didn't answer?
- Can I share one of mine?
- Are you someone that gets annoyed easily at interruptions?
- If not, how can you see that as a blessing/If so, how can you learn to look at interruptions as a good thing?
- What was your biggest takeaway from this whole series?