

PROVERBS

— PART 1 —

WISDOM THAT WORKS



daily devos
RADIATE STUDENTS

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 (or print) 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, through 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

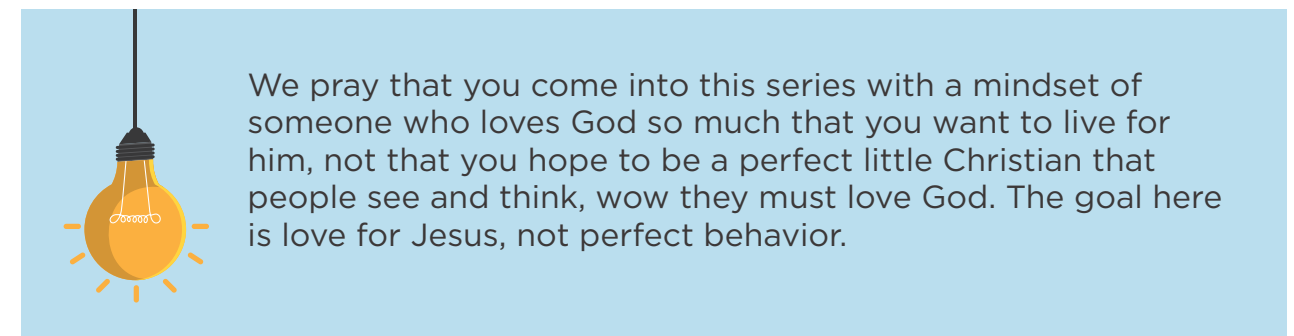
WEEK 1 | DAY 1

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.



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, "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.

WEEK 2 | DAY 3

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?

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.

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.

WEEK 2 | DAY 6

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...

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. Am I just taking the easier route?

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?

WEEK 2 | DAY 7

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

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.

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.

