

# PROVERBS

PART 2

WISDOM THAT WORKS

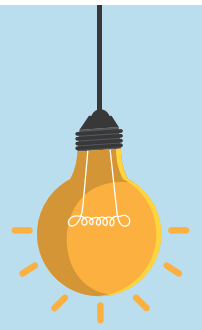
PARENT GUIDE



**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 17:3

**REFLECT:**

There is a concept in Scripture called “pruning”. It’s the same as sanctification, refining, and purification.

God prunes his children. As the “vine dresser”, he is the one that clips off the diseased or wasteful parts of our lives. The clipping hurts, but what grows in its place is even more lush greenery. God is the crucible for his children. He is the one who holds our hearts, and he will allow us to be put over the fire so that any impure parts of us will be exposed. The scraping is uncomfortable, but the results are beautiful.

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

**REAL TALK:**

- What has been the best part of your day so far?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word “prune”?
- How could God be “pruning” your life right now?
- What impurities is he trying to get rid of?
- Have you ever gone through a tough time and blamed God?
- How do you see that situation differently now that you know the concept of purification?



# WEEK 1 | DAY 2

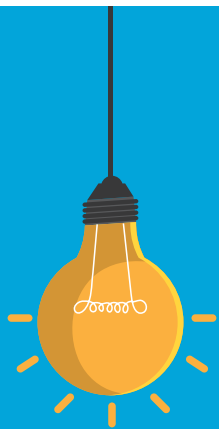
**READ:** Proverbs 18:8

**REFLECT:**

**Why do we gossip?** There could be many reasons. We are bored. We are seeking connection. We are genuinely curious. We want people to know we have information they don't. It makes us seem more important. We come out looking better by putting someone down.

**Is gossip really that bad?** Your student saw verses from both the Old Testament (including Proverbs!) and the New Testament answering that question.

**How can we resist gossip?** There are many ways! Change the subject. Compliment the person that's being put down instead of joining the trash talk. Physically remove yourself from the conversation. Say something like, "I understand that we may be genuinely concerned for this person, but I would rather we only say things that we'd be okay if she overheard."



**REAL TALK:**

- What is your favorite dessert?
- Why do you think you gossip?
- Are there certain subjects you tend to gossip about more than others? If so, what are they?
- Are there certain people you tend to gossip with more than others? If so, who are they?
- Do you see the things you say on your phone about other people as the same as gossip?
- What do you think you'll do next time you're in a group and gossip starts up?

# WEEK 1 | DAY 3

**READ:** Proverbs 19:2

**REFLECT:**

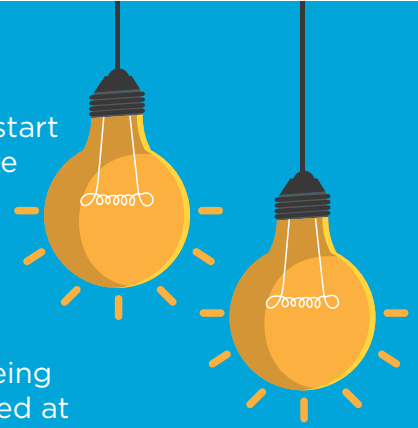
“Haste makes mistakes.” That’s how the NLT puts Proverbs 19:2. Today’s teaching could be a pep talk about that skill or class you’re trying to master, but that’s not the purpose of the Daily Devos. Let’s apply this concept to Scripture.

Slowing down and taking more time gives you room to really learn. Digging into biblical context and cultural background can enhance your time in the Bible as you pick up on things you may have missed. It also allows for fewer interpretation mistakes. Next time you read your Bible, take our advice: slow down.

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:**

- Describe a situation where you were really excited to start something. Then, once you started it, you realized were in over your head. Did you quit? How did it go? How did you feel?
- Can I tell you about a time this happened to me?
- On a scale of 1-10, one being “insanely fast” and ten being “painstakingly slow”, how would you describe the speed at which you spend time in God’s Word, typically?
- Why did you choose that number?
- How can you move that number up one point in the next week?
- Do you tend to walk down a hall in your own world or really seeing the people around you?



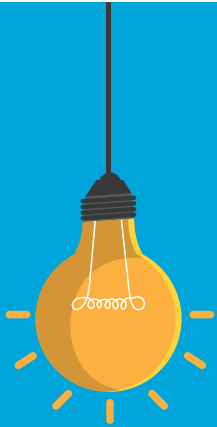
# WEEK 1 | DAY 4

**READ:** Proverbs 20:22

**REFLECT:**

The Biblical concept of vengeance via Romans 12:19 involves God's people waiting for him to settle the score over God's wrath over sin. This gets into the two options for vengeance: eternal punishment (what we deserve) or forgiveness of sins (because of Jesus). Forgiveness seems like the better option, right? Well, Jesus paid the price; he "bore the wrath" of God, on the cross. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." He will make sure the score is settled, that justice is paid, and that his indescribable wrath over sin is absolved. It will either be poured out on you when you die, or you can trust Christ and the sacrifice that he made for you on the cross and let that death count as the death that needs to be paid toward your sins. This is the gospel!

On a smaller, more day-to-day scale, remember that "getting even" is not your job. God sees the wrong that has been done to you and will repay that person for their sin. It may not be today or tomorrow, but you can trust him that he's got it handled!



**REAL TALK:**

- What comes to mind when you hear the word "avenge"?
- When was the last time you "got even" with someone?
- Next time you're tempted to, how can you trust God that he will settle the score?
- How can you repay something evil with something good?
- How can we as a family do good for a neighbor today?

# WEEK 1 | DAY 5

**READ:** Romans 5:8

**REFLECT:**

**Romans 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

**Romans 3:10** “as it is written: ‘None is righteous, no, not one’”

**Romans 5:12** “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Romans 5:8** “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**Romans 10:9-10** “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

**Romans 10:13** “For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’”

To go deeper, check out the Daily Devos for students on the website.

**REAL TALK:**

- In your personal opinion, what do you think it takes to get to heaven when you die?
- (If the answer is anything but Jesus...) Can I tell you what the Bible says about that? (see above)
- (If the answer is Jesus/faith...) Can you tell me about when you gave your life to him?



# WEEK 1 | DAY 6

**READ:** Proverbs 21:19

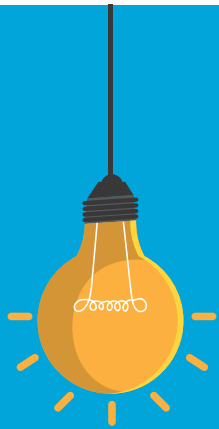
**REFLECT:**

Solomon is explaining that there is a lot of junk in life that you will put up with, before you want to live in the same house with a negative person.

Complaining is something we all struggle with on some level, if we're honest. One of the most frustrating aspects of this sin is that it's everywhere. We have become so callous to it that we may not even recognize it when we see it. Venting. Grumbling. Moaning. Disapproving. Gripping. Complaining. It's easy to point a finger and say, he is such a complainer. She is always complaining. But today's not about them. It's about you.

Why don't we let the Bible speak for itself? Philippians 2:14 says, "Do everything without complaining and arguing." Need we say more?

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



**REAL TALK:**

- What is something you absolutely hate? That makes your blood boil? That you absolutely despise with every fiber of your being?
- How much complaining goes on in our house?
- How much do you contribute to that? How much of that is on me?
- What can we do as a family to cut back on the complaining?
- What are some verbal ways that we can replace complaining within our family?
- How can I help you cut back on complaining?



# WEEK 1 | DAY 7

**READ:** Proverbs 22:1

**REFLECT:**

We should be more careful to do that which would produce a good reputation than that which would make us a lot of money. There are plenty of godly people with money. Money is not evil here. It's just that your goal should be a godly reputation not money. Favor is BETTER than money.

Isn't money the root of all evil? Actually, throwing it back to Jack Potts for a second, the Bible doesn't actually say that. The LOVE of money is the root of ALL KINDS of evil, according to 1 Timothy 6:10. It's easy to see how loving money leads to all kinds of trouble. Money itself is not evil. But loving it can be.

Let's be people that choose a good reputation over success and money.

**REAL TALK:**

- If we polled five of your closest friends, how do you think each of them would describe you in one word each?
- What do you think of these two phrases: "I shouldn't worry about what other people think about me," and "I should care about how people see me"?
- How do you think we as Christians should live between these two phrases?
- Do you think you are more hungry for success or a good reputation?
- What are some ways you can gain a good reputation?



# WEEK 2 | DAY 1

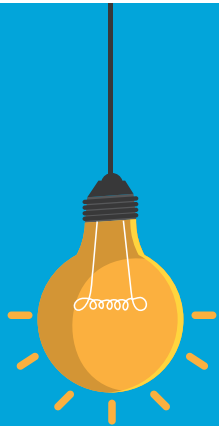
**READ:** Proverbs 23:17, 24:1-2

**REFLECT:**

I don't know who needs to hear this today, but don't be jealous of that person you know is doing wrong.

It's so tempting to be jealous of people that seem to get away with things without consequences, responsibility, or obstacles. You don't actually know what someone is going through, so maybe they are torn up over their sin. Maybe they aren't, and they are on a path to destruction. Today's Daily Devo boils down to this: don't be jealous of the sin (or innocence) of someone else. Be concerned about what God wants instead.

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



**REAL TALK:**

- Why do you think Solomon would have asked us not to be envious or jealous of evildoers and sinners?
- When was the last time you saw something on social media or TV and thought, "I know that's wrong, but I wish I could get away with that"?
- Who are you jealous of right now?
- Why?
- What are you assuming about that person by judging their private life?
- Are you more concerned about that other person than where you stand with God?

# WEEK 2 | DAY 2

**READ:** Proverbs 25:14

**REFLECT:**

Think about how it feels to be on the receiving end of someone's empty promise. No matter how big or small, it feels bad!

So many times, we justify, make excuses, or possibly just forget a promise we make to someone. But that puts the other person in an uncomfortable and potentially threatening position.

Commitment. Follow-through. Reliability. Call it what you want, but God's people should have it! When you tell someone you're going to do something and you don't do it, that's as frustrating and unreliable as ominous clouds that don't ever rain. When you make a commitment, stick to it. Keep your promises. After all, God does.

Follow along with what your student is reading in the Daily Devos.

**REAL TALK:**

- What was the last project you started and didn't finish?
- When was the last time you told someone you'd do something and then you didn't?
- Have I ever made a promise to you that I didn't keep?
- What was it?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was the last promise you made, no matter how big or small?
- Did you follow through? Why or why not?



# WEEK 2 | DAY 3

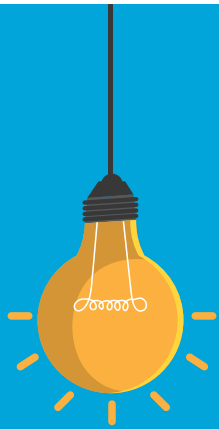
**READ:** Proverbs 26:17

**REFLECT:**

Look back at what our “Remember” verse says. The key phrase here is “not his own”. Getting involved in an argument in which you don’t belong and aren’t welcome is dangerous.

Shouldn’t we fight for the cause of the oppressed? Stand up for vulnerable children, widows, and orphans? Step in when someone is being bullied? Of course. A resounding “yes” to those two questions. This verse has more to do with a disagreement that’s none of your business between two OTHER people.

Proverbs 20:3 says, “It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.” And Proverbs 3:30 says, “Do not contend with a man for no reason, when he has done you no harm.” Matching these two verses with our “Remember” verse is great advice for you the next time you are tempted to jump in and argue for the sake of arguing.



**REAL TALK:**

- If you walked down the street, saw a random dog, and started yanking on its ears, what do you think would happen?
- What was the last argument you jumped in that you weren't part of?
- How did that work out for you?
- Can I tell you about a time that I did that?
- So now you know not to jump in when you're not welcome to an argument. What can you do instead?

# WEEK 2 | DAY 4

**READ:** Proverbs 27:17

**REFLECT:**

When you (or a trusted adult) want to sharpen the knives in the kitchen, you don't run it across the top of the tub of butter in the fridge. You let the friction of another knife sharpen it. The same is true with friends, according to Proverbs. When it comes to your walk with Christ, you've got to have friends who are also walking with him.

If you want to grow in your walk with Christ, don't isolate yourself. Could you be a fine Christian on an island? Sure. But don't you want to be a thriving follower of Christ, not just a fine one?

We want to encourage you to fight for community. It's so healthy for us as Christians to have other Christians that we walk alongside, digitally or in person. How silly to stand in the kitchen waving two knives around randomly. They have to mingle to sharpen each other!

**REAL TALK:**

- Who are your closest friends?
- Which of them are walking closely with Jesus?
- Do you think it's wise for your closest friends to be close to Jesus?
- Can I tell you about the godly friends in my life and how they sharpen me?
- How can you make sure you are in godly community during these times?
- How can I support you in making that happen?
- How can I pray for you today?



# WEEK 2 | DAY 5

**READ:** Proverbs 28:27

**REFLECT:**

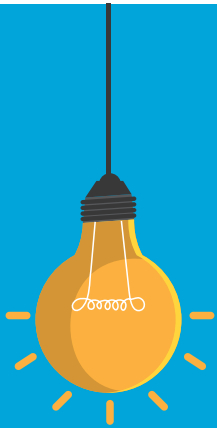
**Deuteronomy 15:11** says, “For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’”

**Proverbs 14:21** says, “Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.”

**Matthew 5:42** says, “Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.”

**Luke 12:33-34** says, “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

**Galatians 6:2** says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”



**REAL TALK:**

- What do you consider to be the definition of “poor”?
- What are three realistic ways you can help the poor?
- How can I support you in making that happen?
- How can we as a family serve the needy?
- How can we think of ways to give that are a natural part of our day-to-day lives?

# WEEK 2 | DAY 6

**READ:** Proverbs 30:5-6

**REFLECT:**

Some people revere a football team, the American flag, scheduled family time, the national anthem, a sports schedule, a trophy, a gift, a loved one, or a holiday tradition.

Reverence is a word that seems churchy, only because it's used a lot of times to convey respect to a higher degree. It's like saying you really, REALLY respect and cherish it. It is good to have things that you revere. If I had no respect or reverence for anything, I would be reckless and a little rude, probably. We gave those examples to prove that you know what reverence is, and you've at least seen it before. Now apply that to the Bible.

Today's reading holds a serious warning that you will be found a liar if you add to his words. This is the exact kind of warning that should bring about a very serious sense of warning and reverence.

**REAL TALK:**

- What is something in your life that you have deep reverence for?
- Do you treat God's Word with respect?
- If so, how? If not, why not?
- Do you find yourself seeing it as a First Responder or Last Resort?
- How so?
- What are things that our family has great reverence and awe for?
- What can we do as a family to have greater reverence for God and his Word?

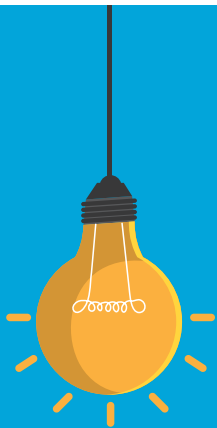


# WEEK 2 | DAY 7

**READ:** Proverbs 31

**REFLECT:**

Today's "real talk" questions were part of the teaching. See below for some questions corresponding with Proverbs 31. Whether your student is a guy or girl, pick a few to talk about.



**REAL TALK:**

- Verse 11: Can people trust you?
- Verse 12: How well do you treat the people closest to you?
- Verse 13: Do you look at your daily tasks with drudgery or willingness?
- Verses 14-15: Is your first thought of the day, how can I serve you today, Jesus?
- Verse 16: Are you considered an indecisive person?
- Verse 17: Would your closest friends describe you as having dignity or indecency?
- Verse 18: Are you willing to stay up late to get your commitments done?
- Verse 19: How are you creative?
- Verse 20: How can you serve the poor and needy? (see Week 2 Day 5)
- Verse 21, 25: How afraid or excited are you about the future?
- Verse 22: Does the way you dress reflect a godly heart?
- Verse 23: Do your authority figures respect you?
- Verse 24: Where do you have influence?
- Verse 26: Are wisdom and kindness consistently found coming out of your mouth?
- Verse 27: Do you spend your time wisely?
- Verse 28: Has God given you someone you could mentor?
- Verse 29: Are you more concerned with perfection (unhealthy) or excellence (healthy)?
- Verses 30-31: Do you care more about outward appearance or your heart?