

PROVERBS

— PART 2 —

WISDOM THAT WORKS



daily devos
RADIATE STUDENTS



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!

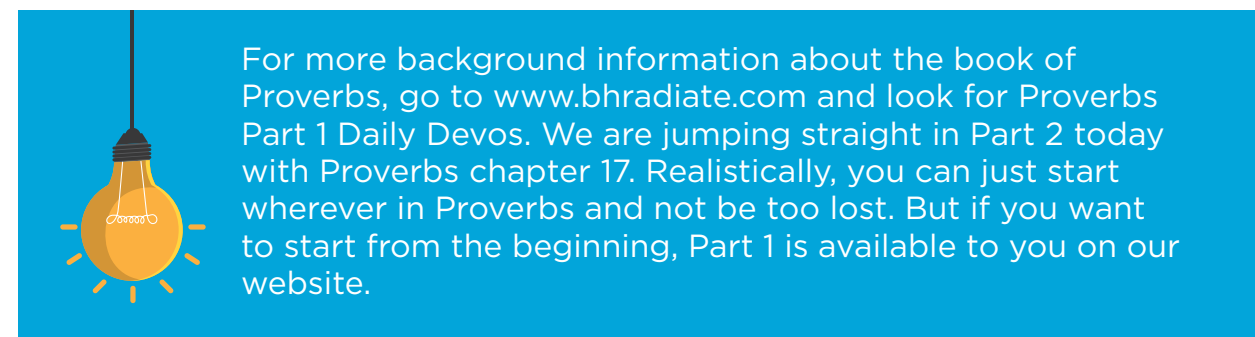
Love,
The RADIATE Staff

WEEK 1 | DAY 1

READ: Proverbs 17

REMEMBER: Proverbs 17:3

REFLECT:



What comes to mind when you hear the word "prune"? _____

Read John 15:1-11. There is a concept in Scripture called "pruning". It's the same as sanctification, refining, and purification. In John 15, Jesus says that if you bear fruit, he will prune you like a branch so that you will bear even more fruit. Lost yet? It's okay - not all of us are master gardeners.

Basically, one form of pruning is where a gardener clips off some parts of the stems or offshoots of a plant so that more stems grow in its place. It has to do with cutting off diseased parts of the plant or just clipping it to promote health and an even bigger, prettier plant.

God does this with 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.

Back to Proverbs. A crucible is a container to put metals in when they are subjected to extremely hot temperatures. If you just melted silver or gold, you would have liquid spilling everywhere. But if you want to melt it and still contain the metal, you put it in a crucible. The purpose of heating these metals is for the impurities to rise to the top to be scraped off. That way, the metal is purified to the highest quality.

God does this with 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.

WEEK 1 | DAY 2

Pray:

Teach me to view tough times as chances to get closer to you. God, I trust you. Even when it's uncomfortable, I want to lean in for whatever you are trying to do in my life.

RESPOND:

How could God be “pruning” your life right now? What impurities is he trying to get rid of?

REAL LIFE:

Today’s challenge is simple: LET HIM clip away and scrape off the impurities or diseased parts of your heart. It may hurt, sting, or bruise. But know that his plan is to make you more and more into the likeness of his Son Jesus. Spend some time today confessing your sin to him and asking him what he is trying to teach you right now in your life.


READ: Proverbs 18

REMEMBER: Proverbs 18:8

REFLECT:

What is your favorite dessert? _____

Today’s “Remember” verse tells us that gossip, rumors, and secrets are about as delicious as the tastiest dessert. That being said, let’s flip that concept on its head. Trying to resist the most delicious, mouth-watering desserts is the same as trying to resist gossip, rumors, and secrets. It’s hard!



Maybe you’re a salty person. Desserts aren’t as enticing to you. Go with us – remember that Pringles commercial? “Once you pop, the fun don’t stop.” The same is true with gossip: once you have a little taste, it’s so hard to resist indulging.

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? See Leviticus 19:16; Psalm 34:13; Proverbs 11:13, 16:28; Romans 1:29; 1 Thessalonians 4:11; and James 1:26. Notice that there are examples from both the Old Testament (including Proverbs!) and the New Testament.

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.”

WEEK 1 | DAY 3

Pray:

God, forgive me for the gossip I have taken part in today, this week, and in recent times. Point out the places in my life where I'm tempted to gossip, and help me avoid them.

RESPOND:

Read Proverbs 10:19. How does this verse connect to today's teaching?

REAL LIFE:

As we pointed out in the James Daily Devos, we are still responsible for the words we type and text. Gossip is gossip, even if it's formed by our thumbs not our lips. Next time you're tempted to screen shot a post and send it to a friend, ask yourself the motive. Next time you type out a text, imagine if you accidentally sent it to the person whose name you mention. Next time you follow someone just to dish about them to someone else, stop. If you don't have a phone yet or are temporarily without one, look for ways that you can avoid gossip in day-to-day conversation.


READ: Proverbs 19

REMEMBER: Proverbs 19:2

REFLECT:

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?

"Slow is smooth, and smooth is fast." This is a quote attributed to the military when it comes to combat. When you are rushing and frantic, you are more likely to make mistakes. If you slow down just a hair, you can be more steady and in control of your movements. Often if you practice slowly, the muscle memory is ingrained, and you are able to perform quickly.



It takes 10,000 hours of practice to be considered a Master at something. Stretching before a workout helps prevent injury. Breathing techniques before a speech help calm you down. These are three examples where it's a good thing to SLOW DOWN.

"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.

A lot of times we read the Bible in a hurry. We read it as part of a LifeGroup lesson or sermon, or we read it as a prelude to a devotional for the day. Have you ever sat down with the Bible and read a passage with no time limit, really wanting to soak up what you've read, with no limits on how long or short God wants you to sit in that moment? 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.

WEEK 1 | DAY 4

Pray:

Teach me to come to your Word with excited anticipation and patience. I really want to enjoy it and dig deep. I understand that learning about you and studying your Word is a lifetime commitment, and I won't get all the knowledge I want overnight. Thank you for how you set that up, and I pray that I am patient as I learn to love your Word.

RESPOND:

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? Answer in the blank below, and then answer these questions. Why did you choose that number? How can you move that number up one point in the next week?

REAL LIFE:

This Daily Devo has to do with Scripture, but it also has to do with people. The next time you go to church, school, practice, or just anywhere in public where you will see people, pray that you will slow down. Really look into the eyes of the people you see. If you ask someone how they are, wait for a real, honest answer. If you're hanging out with a friend, be patient and listen to what they are going through.


READ: Proverbs 20

REMEMBER: Proverbs 20:22

REFLECT:

What comes to mind when you hear the word "avenger"?

If your first instinct is somewhere along the lines of the Marvel franchise, you're probably not alone. Have you ever actually thought about what this word means, though? I bet you can guess now what we're talking about today...



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."

God says that vengeance is his; he will avenge. 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! This news is either incredibly settling or incredibly unsettling. If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, this news should be the best you've ever heard. If you don't know Jesus in a personal relationship, surrender your life to him - give him your all! - and let him save you from the punishment you deserve, eternity separated from him in Hell.

Some final thoughts: 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!


WEEK 1 | DAY 5

REMEMBER: Romans 5:8

REFLECT:

Based on yesterday’s reading (Proverbs 20:22), who can deliver you? _____

We’re not naïve to think that every single person that will read this devotion has a relationship with Jesus. So really, up to this point in our Daily Devos, you may think that salvation is all about doing good to earn God’s love, because we’ve focused on wisdom for the day-to-day life. The advice for godly living is great, but it’s just advice for people wanting to live for Jesus. These Daily Devos are nothing more than inspirational thoughts unless we are walking with Jesus and want to honor him with our lives. So how do you walk with God?



“The Roman’s Road” is just a name for a collection of verses in the book of Romans that walks you through the plan of salvation. And you may have learned a variation of what is listed below in a kid’s ministry or evangelism training class. It also made an appearance in the James Daily Devos. Read them with fresh eyes, and don’t just glaze over them because they may be familiar.

- 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’”

Yesterday focused on God’s wrath being taken by Jesus on the cross. Let him stand as the sacrifice for your sin. Accept the fact that he died on your behalf, because you yourself should die for your sins. Praise God for this plan that he set in motion.

Pray:

Thank you, God, for the fact that I don’t have to “get even” or settle the score when it comes to both salvation and day-to-day stuff. You are just, and you are fair. I appreciate how you have been just in my life and for all the mercy and grace you show me.

RESPOND:

Read Romans 12:17-21. What do these verses have to do with what we talked about today?

REAL LIFE:

Repay something evil with something good. And tell us about it! Share with a RADIATE staff member or LifeGroup leader your experience.

Check out tomorrow’s Daily Devo for more info on Jesus’s sacrifice.

RESPOND:

Have you given your life to Christ?

If your answer is "no":

What is keeping you from doing that today?

Pray: *God I need you. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to die for me. Forgive me of my sin, come into my life, and be my Savior and King. And may I never be ashamed!*

If "yes": Who have you told about it recently?

Pray: *Thank you, God, for salvation!*

REAL LIFE:

If you said "no" above: Reach out to Chip, Eli, Katie, a LifeGroup leader, or parent, and tell them that you need Jesus. If you said "yes": Take the Romans Road, and start memorizing it. Keep it near you at all times, and whip it out to share it with someone else this week.

WEEK 1 | DAY 6

READ: Proverbs 21


REMEMBER: Proverbs 21:19

REFLECT:

Today, we're going to borrow a question from Proverbs Part 1. If you walked through the first half of the book with us last week, then you will remember this question.

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

Last time we were faced with this question, we took a deep dive into Proverbs 16, studying the things that God hates. Today, as we are reminded of some of our loathsome annoyances, let's talk about how we react when we are faced with these things.



The Quarrelsome Woman verses are repeated throughout Proverbs, following the same basic structure. "It is better to [blank] than to [blank] with a quarrelsome woman." 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. But today's Proverb is different. It adds the word "fretful". The New Living Translation says, "It's better to live alone in the desert than with a quarrelsome, complaining wife."

This 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. Griping. 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?

WEEK 1 | DAY 7

Pray:

You have made it clear in your Word how you feel about complaining. I'm sorry for how I've blatantly disobeyed you. Teach me to hold my tongue and replace my complaining with encouragement, or nothing at all. I don't want to be falsely positive or fake. Show me how to admit when things are hard if they are hard, but still not complain when I'm tempted to complain.

RESPOND:

On a scale of 1-10, one being "not much" and ten being "a lot", how much do you complain? Answer in the blank below, and then answer why you chose the number that you did.

REAL LIFE:

Ask a friend how much you complain to them. Ask them to be really honest, and listen to their answer without getting defensive. Talk with that friend about how you can replace your complaining.


READ: Proverbs 22

REMEMBER: Proverbs 22:1

REFLECT:

If we polled five of your closest friends, how do you think each of them would describe you in one word each?

In the Old Testament times, the people of God were taught to have a somewhat indifferent but healthy view of money. Obviously, a lot of money tends to come with honor and success, based on the world's standards. But God wants his people to see that we should focus more on character bringing honor than how much money we have being the standard for honor.



We walk a fine line between "I shouldn't worry about what other people think about me," and "I should care about how people see me". There is a real tension as a Christian, am I right? On the one hand, the world pushes this on us: don't worry about what people think; you do you; be your own person. On the other hand, we are taught to die to self and that our own hearts can't even be trusted.

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, and as you'll see in Week 2 Day 4, the majority of the readers of this Daily Devo, if not all, have our needs met and are wealthy by most of the world's standards. 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.

Pray:

God, thank you for how the Bible has all we need for how to live godly lives. It touches on so many subjects, and I want to praise you for how deep it is. Forgive me for how I take it for granted. I pray that you would give me a healthy view of money. Continue to give me a love and desire to read your Word. Give me a heart that desires a good reputation more than lots of money.

RESPOND:

Read Philippians 2:3. What do you think this has to do with what we talked about today? In what area of your life do you need to practice this verse?

REAL LIFE:

It's not always a matter of choosing between the two, but remember that a good reputation is to be more desired, IF there was the choice. Put this into practice. The next time you have to choose between a good reputation and something that will benefit you, see how you can put other people in front of you.

WEEK 2 | DAY 1

READ: Proverbs 23-24

REMEMBER: Proverbs 23:17, 24:1-2

REFLECT:

Proverbs 23:17 says, "Let not your heart _____ sinners, but continue in the fear of the Lord all the day." And Proverbs 24:1-2 says, "Be not _____ of evil men, nor desire to be with them, for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble."

Why do you think Solomon would have asked us not to be envious or jealous of evildoers and sinners? _____

It may be easy to hear the word "evildoer" and "sinner" and jump straight to murder, rape, the "bad" ones. But really, aren't we all sinners? On some level, he is saying don't be jealous of sinners; and since we are all sinners, don't be jealous of anyone.



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"? For someone it may be sleeping with their boyfriend or girlfriend; for another it may be drinking; for someone else it may be getting away with cheating on a test; for another it may be the ability to get away with stuff in general.

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.

WEEK 2 | DAY 2

Pray:

Father, teach me to stay in my lane! Instead of being jealous of someone else that seems to be getting away with more stuff than me, teach me what it looks like to fear you more. I pray that everyday you would teach me how I can please you, not what I can get away with.

RESPOND:

Who are you jealous of right now, and why? Use this as an opportunity to confess that sin before God.

REAL LIFE:

Don't judge someone else's private life. The first "Remember" verse of the day says that instead, you should fear the Lord. It's a heart issue. Am I more concerned about that other person than where I stand with God? We've got to get away from judging what we see on the outside of someone else's life and assume what God is doing in and through them in private. He is working on you in private. Focus on that.

READ: Proverbs 25

REMEMBER: Proverbs 25:14

REFLECT:

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?

What if someone promised to pay your way toward an expensive international mission trip, but the day before you leave, they can't do it anymore? What if someone agrees to give you a piece of gum between classes before you talk to your crush, but they forget to find you?



Think about these examples in the Bible:

- What if Noah didn't build the ark like he said he would?
- What if Daniel didn't keep praying like he said he would?
- What if Jesus didn't die on the cross like he said he would?

Think about how it feels to be on the receiving end of someone's empty promise. No matter how big (like an absent parent) or small (like someone genuinely forgetting to let you borrow something), it feels bad!

Now turn that around. 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. If you tell someone you're in, do what you can do be in. If you make plans and better ones come along, don't lie to get out of the first plans. Keep your promises. After all, God does.

WEEK 2 | DAY 3

Pray:

God, thank you for keeping your promises to me. I pray that I would be someone that people look at and say, "they are reliable"! I want this attribute because it reflects you, not because it makes me look good.

RESPOND:

What was the last promise you made, no matter how big or small? Did you follow through? Why or why not?

REAL LIFE:

Do a quick Google search for, "God's Promises in the Bible". Take a deep dive into what you find, and enjoy looking up Bible verses about God's promises to you. For any of them that stand out to you, spend some time thanking him for his reliability.

READ: Proverbs 26

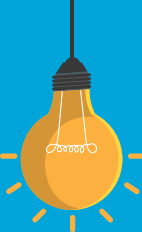
REMEMBER: Proverbs 26:17

REFLECT:

If you walked down the street, saw a random dog, and started yanking on its ears, what do you think would happen?

Best case scenario, you get a little growl. Worst case scenario, you're being chased by an angry dog that wants to bite you. And we'd all be sitting here thinking, well, you kind of had it coming. The writer of the book of wisdom is saying in this verse that it's about as smart to jump in the middle of an argument as it is to play out that scenario above.

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.



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.

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.

WEEK 2 | DAY 4

Pray:

God thank you for your Word. The Bible has so much to say to us about extremely practical situations and scenarios. It has more in it for me than I even realized. Thank you for this series that is showing me how to live in a godly way. I pray that the next time I'm tempted to jump in an argument where I don't belong, you will hold me back. Give me wisdom to know when to get involved when I should and not get involved when I shouldn't.

RESPOND:

So now you know not to jump in when you're not welcome to an argument. What can you do instead?

REAL LIFE:

If you have a friend struggling with a relationship in their life, encourage them to consider whether they jumped in where they weren't welcome. Is it possible that is why there is tension? Don't automatically jump to this conclusion, but keep it in mind for an option of what went wrong.

This is one of those verses in Scripture where we say, "Wow! I didn't realize God's Word has so much to say to me, and it has advice for almost any and every situation!" If you are struggling with a situation, whether it's interpersonal or how to treat someone, look to Scripture. It really does have wisdom for so many situations.

READ: Proverbs 27

REMEMBER: Proverbs 27:17

REFLECT:

How do you sharpen a knife? _____

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.



"Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more attractive will be the power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation."
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

You can read about the story of King David's sin in 2 Samuel 11. In the first two verses, before he sees Bathsheeba, before the adultery and pregnancy and drinking and murder... he is alone. His being alone was not in and of itself sinful, but it was a dangerous start to a slippery slope.

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?

Think about the ripple effects of COVID-19 and the climate of the world in which we currently live. Even when you were shut up in your house you (hopefully!) lived with at least one other human being. You probably had ways to communicate with people outside of your house, whether it was FaceTime or texting.

And now, 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!

WEEK 2 | DAY 5

Pray:

Jesus, thank you for salvation. Thank you for dying on the cross, rising from the dead, and promising forgiveness of sins and eternal life because of that! I pray that you would give me a godly friend to walk alongside in my life so that we can sharpen each other. Even if Jesus is all we have in common, we can walk together in our faith.

RESPOND:

How will you fight for godly, Christian community today?

REAL LIFE:

Shameless plug alert! Our staff and leadership here at RADIATE are committed to giving you opportunities to live in Christian community now more than ever. There are small groups, LifeGroups, Wednesday nights...and we respect the fact that some families are choosing to continue to worship from home right now because of health. Call someone you know and talk to them about the Daily Devos! Watch a RADIATE Livestream with a friend or sibling and talk about it after. Join a small group via zoom. Don't try to sharpen yourself alone.

READ: Proverbs 28

REMEMBER: Proverbs 28:27

REFLECT:

What do you consider to be the definition of "poor"?

Did you know?
 According to Business Insider, in 2012, 1.1 billion people survived on \$1 a day. A Gallup Poll in 2013 told us that the average monthly household income is just under \$10,000 a year.



The reality is, if you're reading this, you are considered among the wealthy of the population in the world. You most likely did not wake up this morning wondering where your next meal will come from or where you will sleep tonight. (It's possible that's you reading this, and if so, we love you and care for you and want to be there for you.) Most of you reading this are not among that 1.1 billion. You are blessed! Therefore, you have been commissioned with the charge to help the poor.

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."

WEEK 2 | DAY 6

Pray:

God, stir in my heart a love for helping people. Give me a desire to help the poor. Show me how I can help those in need around me. I pray that you will, like the song says, “break my heart for what breaks yours”.

RESPOND:

What are three realistic ways you can you help the poor?

REAL LIFE:

Talk with your friends about this. Fill them in on the statistics. Engage them in a brainstorm session for how you can help the poor. Ask your parents what you and your family can do to serve people in need. Don't just go about your business today and forget that it's our privilege as Christians to help the poor.

READ: Proverbs 29-30

REMEMBER: Proverbs 30:5-6

REFLECT:

What is something in your life that you have deep reverence for?



Reverence:

deep respect; profound adoration; a sense of awe for something; something that you treat really carefully because it's so serious and important.

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. That sense of great awe comes over you when you see a beautiful sunset, a rainbow after a storm, an expansive view on a mountain, or the sun rising in the morning.

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.

Today's "Remember" verses are talking about reverence for God and his Word. "Every word of God proves true." Not only are all of his words true, but they will be proven true, again and again. "He is a shield to those who take refuge in him." When you're out in the storm, and life is beating down on you, choose to take refuge in God instead of the things this world has to offer. He will be your shield! "Do not add to his words." They stand alone, they are enough, and they speak for themselves. "...lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar." That's a pretty 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.

Do you treat God's Word with respect? Do you find yourself seeing it as a First Responder or Last Resort? Every word of it proves true. You can trust it!

WEEK 2 | DAY 7

READ: Proverbs 31

REMEMBER: Proverbs 31:10

REFLECT:

Before you skip over this chapter, please don't. You may be a guy and think this has nothing to say to you. You may be a girl who is not married or a mom and think the references to husbands and children mean this isn't for you either. Guys, pay attention to the type of girl you will want to look for. Girls, think about what qualities you want to develop as a woman of God. Guys and girls, remove gender for a second and think through what qualities you want yourself and your friends to have. You can also go back and listen to Pastor Matt's Mother's Day message from this last May 2020. He preached on Proverbs 31, and it was a great message for all, not just the ladies/moms/wives.



- Verse 10: Do you add value to lives of the people around you?
- 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?

Pray:

God, I respect you. I want to revere you. Give me a healthy sense of reverence for your Word. I am sorry for how I have mishandled or mistreated your truth in the past. I pray that you would convict my heart anytime I am tempted to downplay, manipulate, or ignore the Bible.

RESPOND:

Have you ever thought about the fact that the word “awesome” conveys “awe”? What have you described as “awesome” in the past? What if you only reserved the word “awesome” for God and the things of God?

REAL LIFE:

Commit to praying every day over the next week for deeper awe for God and the Bible. In one week, write down a few thoughts on how your view of the Word has changed.

Pray:

Thank you God for this woman and her example. Show me where I can grow in my faith.

RESPOND:

Pick one or two of the previous questions and answer them in the space below. Ask God how you can grow in this area.

REAL LIFE:

Congratulations! We wish we could come say hey to each and every one of you reading this and give you a big high five. You finished! At this point, if you did Parts 1 & 2 of the Proverbs Daily Devos, you completed the whole book. One challenge moving forward is to take your time going back through this book, because for as much as we talked about, there is so much more that we didn't have the chance to discuss. There are 31 chapters of Proverbs and 31 (max) days of the month. Go through the book, and read whatever chapter goes with the day of the month (read chapter 11 on the 11th, and so forth). Enjoy!