

- Last week we started to study in Proverbs. We noted that the book was written by King Solomon who was known worldwide for his great wisdom. In fact, this whole book is a collection of very short but powerful, and in many cases, well-known sayings about wisdom. It was also one of most frequently quoted books throughout the New Testament.
- The fourth Proverb is a father's wise advice to a son.
- Solomon tells about how his father taught him to seek and respect wisdom just as he is telling his son to do the same. (Proverbs 4:1-9)
- Solomon's advice is to hold onto wisdom all your life because wisdom will become your life. (Proverbs 4:10-13)
- Solomon says to avoid the place (the evil people) and contrast that with the place of wisdom which is much brighter. (Proverbs 4:14-19)
- Solomon once again reiterates the importance of his son listening to his message. (Proverbs 4:20-27)
- Solomon writes some practice advice on obtaining wisdom and wise conduct in the sixth chapter of Proverbs.
- Solomon starts out the sixth chapter of Proverbs by providing some advice on what to do if one has cosigned for a neighbor's loan and they defaulted on their loan leaving one "holding the bag." He advises tireless effort to intercede directly with those who have loaned the money. (Proverbs 6:1-5)
- Solomon advises lazy people to go and study ants because they have no leadership structure but they still get lots of work done. (Proverbs 6:6-11)
- Solomon says calamity will befall a worthless person. (Proverbs 6:12-15)
- Solomon says that there are 6 things, then he says, 7 things, the Lord hates: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers (Proverbs 6:16-19).
- Notice the last thing that Solomon mentions. This is the one that he lists last, probably because it is particularly offensive to God since other people are being led astray also. (Romans 16:17-18)
- In Proverbs 8 Solomon personifies wisdom, which means he makes wisdom into a character who speaks, and to which the audience can relate.
- Solomon makes wisdom say her instruction is 1) more important than riches 2) that wisdom is no respecter of persons (anyone can become wise) 3) those who rule do so because wisdom allows it, 4) wisdom is provided to those who diligently seek it. (Proverbs 8:1-21)
- There are several similarities with what Solomon says about wisdom and what we know about God's nature: God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

- Solomon concludes the Proverb still having Wisdom talk and says that God created all wisdom and those who truly seek Wisdom will find it. (Proverbs 8:22-36)
- Solomon notes that a wise person is prepared, especially when having guests over. (Proverbs 9:1-6)
- Solomon talks about correcting people. He says a wise person will take correction well but a unwise person will not. (Proverbs 9:7-12)
- Solomon also personifies folly (unwisdom) to make a point that it can be seductive and to look out for it. (Proverbs 9:13-18)

Questions:

1. Why was Proverbs 4 written?
2. What was the significance of how Solomon learned about the importance of wisdom?
3. Why does Solomon say to keep hold of wisdom all of one's life?
4. What does Solomon use to contrast to wisdom?
5. What is the 6th chapter of Proverbs about?
6. What does Solomon advise a person to who cosigns for his neighbor's loan?
7. Why does Solomon tell lazy people to study ants?
8. What does Solomon say will ultimately happen to a worthless person?
9. What are 7 things the Lord hates?
10. Why is sowing discord among brothers particularly bad?
11. What does it mean to personify something and why would Solomon do that?
12. What four things does Solomon say is true of wisdom?
13. Which of these four things to do know about God's nature too?
14. How long has wisdom been around?
15. What does Solomon say a wise person will do when they are expecting guests?
16. What does Solomon say is the difference between correcting a righteous and unrighteous person?
17. Why does Solomon personify unwisdom too?