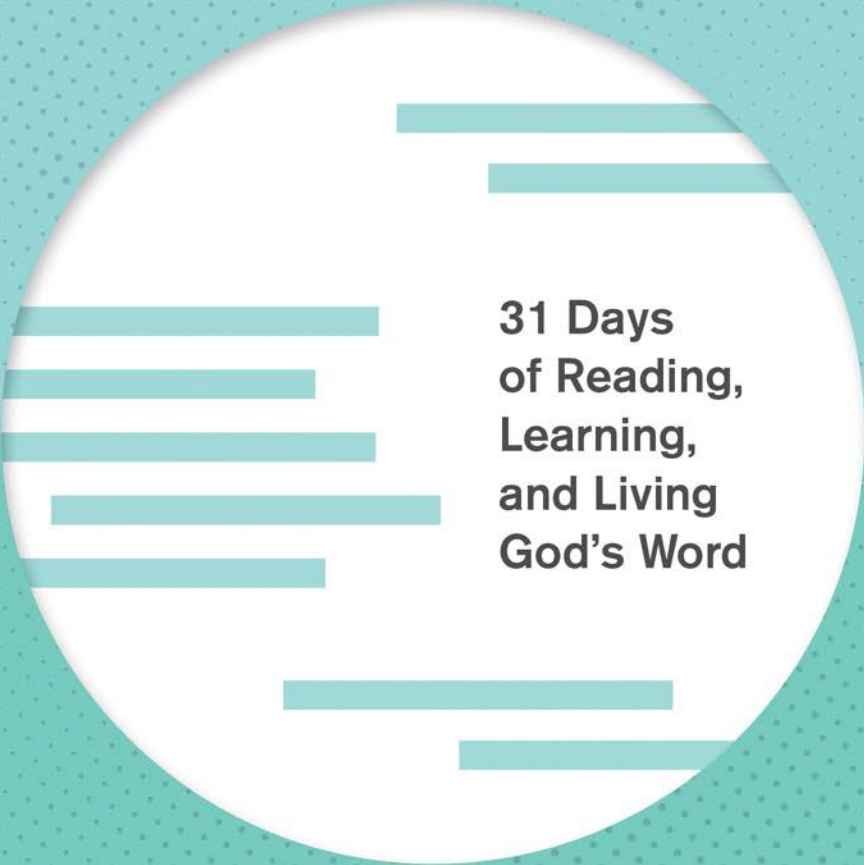


# EXPERIENCE

## THE WISDOM OF



31 Days  
of Reading,  
Learning,  
and Living  
God's Word

# proverbs

I have great hope for this upcoming generation of students. I believe they are hungry for God. And I'm thankful for resources like Andy Klenke's *Experience the Wisdom of Proverbs* that will equip these teens to engage with Scripture in meaningful ways. Klenke does a great job drawing out the wisdom embedded in Solomon's collection of proverbs and leads students through a variety of exercises to apply that wisdom directly to their lives. Students will find this resource understandable, relatable, and practical.

**Tammy Melchien**, teaching team pastor at Community Christian Church

*Experience the Wisdom of Proverbs* invites students to gain wisdom by going right to the Scriptures. The hands-on assignments welcome reflection without bogging [students] down in the details, a perennial problem for anyone who sits down to read through the book of Proverbs. The pace and tone of the study invite personal, thoughtful application. Solomon himself couldn't have asked for more.

**Norman Hubbard**, author and collegiate ministry staff member with The Navigators

When my boys were small, I adopted a nightly prayer over them: *Dear God, give my sons wisdom to know right from wrong, and give them the courage to do right—even when it's hard.* Now that they are young men, I rejoice to see God answering this prayer in mighty ways—including with this resource. *Experience the Wisdom of Proverbs* is a powerful guide to a Powerful Guide, written in a language we can all understand.

**Tricia Lott Williford**, author of *This Book Is for You* and coauthor of *You Are Safe Now*



EXPERIENCE

THE WISDOM OF

# proverbs

31 Days of Reading, Learning, and Living God's Word

Andy Klenke



A NavPress resource published in alliance  
with Tyndale House Publishers

*Experience the Wisdom of Proverbs: 31 Days of Reading, Learning, and Living God's Word*

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# introduction

Did you know that you can use Proverbs almost every day?

You make hundreds of decisions every day. Some big, some small. You choose what you wear, what you eat, who you talk to, what you say, how you spend your time, money, and energy. You choose whether or not you will stay up late to finish a season of your favorite show. You choose whether you are going to introduce yourself to the new kid in school who has no one to sit with at lunch. You choose whether you will listen to your parents the first time they ask you to do your chores or finish your homework. You choose how long you spend scrolling and posting on social media. Your life is made up of thousands upon thousands of choices. The question is, are you choosing wisely?

This is where Proverbs comes in. Proverbs is a book of wise advice and is meant to be used as a helpful tool to navigate daily decisions. And while some decisions may not seem like a big deal right now, our decisions now impact the habits and values we form as we get older. As you will quickly learn as you read this book, Proverbs contains wisdom for day-to-day life that is just as applicable to you in the twenty-first century as it was when it was written.

King Solomon, the author of most of the Proverbs, had a son named Rehoboam. As a way to prepare his son for the realities of this world, Solomon wrote down his advice in the book we now call Proverbs.



**Author.** Mostly Solomon

**Purpose.** To equip those who follow God to live a wise, God-honoring life.

**Style.** Quick, two-line statements about the realities of life. (These little phrases are also called *aphorisms*.)

**Key verses.**

Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;  
he's the one who will keep you on track.


PROVERBS 3:5-6

**Themes.**

- *Wisdom:* Proverbs is very concerned with helping people make wise decisions that honor God and lead to a flourishing life!
- *Foolishness:* Proverbs has harsh words for those who do not prioritize wisdom and instead choose a life of foolishness.
- *Wealth:* Proverbs has much to say about the role that money and wealth play in our ability to live a God-honoring life.
- *Caring for those in need:* Throughout the book, Proverbs highlights that wise people will care for those in need.

**Major characters.**

- *Solomon:* King David's son and the primary author of Proverbs. In addition to being one of the wealthiest people to ever live, Solomon is also considered to be one of the wisest people in history.
- *Lady Wisdom:* Lady Wisdom is a fictional character Solomon uses to help us understand what wisdom truly looks like.
- *Madame Prostitute:* Madame Prostitute (sometimes called Lady Folly) is a fictional character who represents foolishness and unwise behavior.



# how to get the most out of this book

This book, divided into thirty-one days of reading, learning, and living, is designed to help you experience Scripture. Use these step-by-step instructions to help understand how you can best use this tool.

## **Know before You Go**

This section explains the background information you need in order to understand the day's Scripture. In other words, it gives some ideas for you to know before you go and read.

## **Read the Passage**

The Scripture for the day's experience will be printed using *The Message* version of the Bible. Do not skip this reading! This is the most important step in your experience.

## **After the Passage**

This section explores the messages, themes, or confusing parts in the day's Scripture. It is not meant to be the answer key, since we will not address every question or issue that you may have after reading the passage. The point is to introduce you to Scripture and help you understand the main idea, or bottom line, for each day.

## **The Bottom Line**

This short statement distills the passage into a core concept for you to continue to reflect on.

## **Experience**

This section creates space for you to process or experience each day's Scripture. The questions are meant to engage different parts of your mind, so each day's experience will vary in style. We want you to go beyond simply reading Proverbs. We want you to experience its truth for yourself. Take time to respond to the questions provided and be honest with yourself as you experience Scripture. Do not feel boxed in by the questions! Use this space to explore what God is teaching you.

## **Takeaway and Pray**

This section prompts you to choose one personal application. Consider the ideas you have processed and commit to one as your main takeaway. Then focus your daily prayer on one specific request, confession, and/or praise. Naming this one specific prayer allows you to reflect on God's power and possible answer to prayer as time passes.

**WE ARE EXCITED FOR  
YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE  
WISDOM OF PROVERBS  
OVER THE NEXT  
THIRTY-ONE DAYS!**

# wisdom for all

*Proverbs 1*

## Know before You Go

King Solomon shares the importance of wisdom and how it benefits us at every stage of life.

## Read the Passage

<sup>1:1-6</sup> These are the wise sayings of Solomon,  
David's son, Israel's king—  
Written down so we'll know how to live well and right,  
to understand what life means and where it's going;  
A manual for living,  
for learning what's right and just and fair;  
To teach the inexperienced the ropes  
and give our young people a grasp on reality.  
There's something here also for seasoned men and women,  
still a thing or two for the experienced to learn—  
Fresh wisdom to probe and penetrate,  
the rhymes and reasons of wise men and women.

<sup>7</sup> Start with GOD—the first step in learning is bowing down to God;  
only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning.

<sup>8-19</sup> Pay close attention, friend, to what your father tells you;  
never forget what you learned at your mother's knee.  
Wear their counsel like a winning crown,  
like rings on your fingers.  
Dear friend, if bad companions tempt you,  
don't go along with them.  
If they say—"Let's go out and raise some hell.  
Let's beat up some old man, mug some old woman.  
Let's pick them clean  
and get them ready for their funerals.  
We'll load up on top-quality loot.  
We'll haul it home by the truckload.  
Join us for the time of your life!  
With us, it's share and share alike!"—  
Oh, friend, don't give them a second look;  
don't listen to them for a minute.  
They're racing to a very bad end,  
hurrying to ruin everything they lay hands on.  
Nobody robs a bank  
with everyone watching,  
Yet that's what these people are doing—  
they're doing themselves in.  
When you grab all you can get, that's what happens:  
the more you get, the less you are.

<sup>20-21</sup> Lady Wisdom goes out in the street and shouts.  
At the town center she makes her speech.  
In the middle of the traffic she takes her stand.  
At the busiest corner she calls out:

22-24 "Simpletons! How long will you wallow in ignorance?  
 Cynics! How long will you feed your cynicism?  
 Idiots! How long will you refuse to learn?  
 About face! I can revise your life.  
 Look, I'm ready to pour out my spirit on you;  
 I'm ready to tell you all I know.  
 As it is, I've called, but you've turned a deaf ear;  
 I've reached out to you, but you've ignored me.

25-28 "Since you laugh at my counsel  
 and make a joke of my advice,  
 How can I take you seriously?  
 I'll turn the tables and joke about *your* troubles!  
 What if the roof falls in,  
 and your whole life goes to pieces?  
 What if catastrophe strikes and there's nothing  
 to show for your life but rubble and ashes?  
 You'll need me then. You'll call for me, but don't expect  
 an answer.  
 No matter how hard you look, you won't find me.

29-33 "Because you hated Knowledge  
 and had nothing to do with the Fear-of-God,  
 Because you wouldn't take my advice  
 and brushed aside all my offers to train you,  
 Well, you've made your bed—now lie in it;  
 you wanted your own way—now, how do you like it?  
 Don't you see what happens, you simpletons, you idiots?  
 Carelessness kills; complacency is murder.  
 First pay attention to me, and then relax.  
 Now you can take it easy—you're in good hands."

## After the Passage

In his prologue, King Solomon gets right to the point in sharing why reading Proverbs is so important. With each new line, Solomon introduces a new reason why reading Proverbs is essential.

While Solomon wrote specifically to a “friend” (his son, Rehoboam), he describes several types of people who would also benefit from reading Proverbs. Reread Proverbs 1:1-7 to review the people and purposes Solomon mentions.

(*Hint: If Solomon doesn't mention a specific type of person, it's meant for everyone.*)

FOR	WHY PROVERBS IS IMPORTANT	WHOM IT BENEFITS
#1		
#2		
#3		
#4		

Solomon covers a wide range of people who will benefit from Proverbs, but he also points out one type of person who will never find Proverbs helpful: *the fool*.

## The Bottom Line

The advice in Proverbs is helpful for every person in every stage of life.

## EXPERIENCE

Who are the two wisest people you know? Ask them the following questions.

QUESTIONS	PERSON 1	PERSON 2
How did you gain wisdom?		
What is one piece of advice you have for me?		





## Takeaway and Pray

My takeaway from this experience is

My prayer today is a

REQUEST  CONFESSION  PRAISE