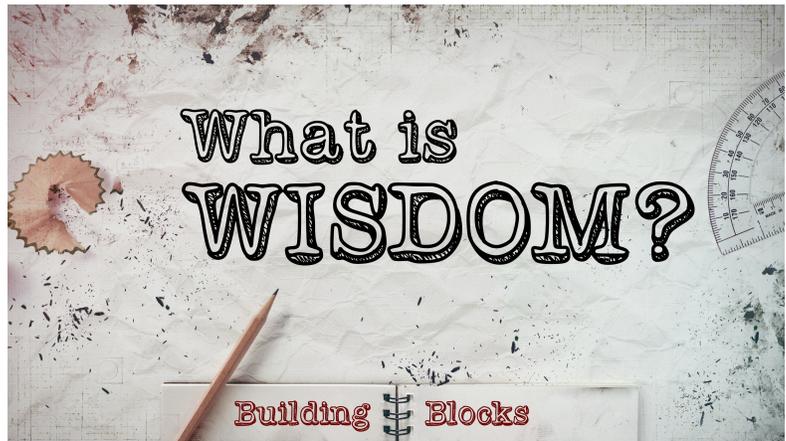


### 3 • Proverbs: A Book Full of Wisdom

“What is WISDOM?” The simple definition we’re using is “**knowing which way to go.**” And God has given us a book full of wisdom right in the middle of our Bibles: the book of *Proverbs*.



**So what’s a proverb?** A **proverb** is **a short saying of everyday truth that’s easy to remember.** Do you realize that you grew up hearing proverbs that aren’t in the Bible?

- “Look before you \_\_\_\_\_.”
- “The early bird gets the \_\_\_\_\_.”
- “A picture is worth a thousand \_\_\_\_\_.”
- “An apple a day keeps the \_\_\_\_\_ away.”

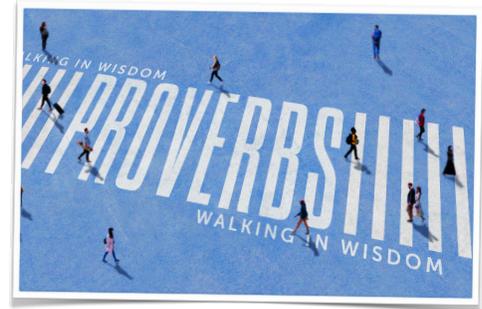
These short sayings (and many more) are passed on from generation to generation because (1) they’re easy to remember and (2) they contain nuggets of truth for life.

But as valuable as those common phrases are, nothing can compare with the wisdom God has given us in our Bibles. We need more than lists of facts to memorize and rules to follow. We need **wisdom** to make everyday decisions that are good for the people around us, will keep us away from danger, and honor our Father in heaven (**Prov 1:1-7**). Some proverbs help us develop and practice good everyday “common sense.” For example:

Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising \_\_\_\_\_ in the morning, will be counted as cursing. (**Prov 27:14**)

But many of the proverbs get very personal and practical on issues of life that can be much more critical than waking a neighbor up too early. For example:

- The \_\_\_\_\_ we spend time with (**Prov 1:10-19**)
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ ethic (**Prov 6:6-11**)
- Things that God \_\_\_\_\_ (**Prov 6:16-19**)



Does *Proverbs* address every single experience we could possibly have or every single pitfall that could cause us trouble? Not at all. Can you imagine how **BIG** that book would have to be? But it *does* help us “fill in the blanks” of life, giving us what we need to face everyday decisions thoughtfully—with God-shaped consciences and carefully guarded hearts—so that we can choose life the way it was meant to be.

The world often says, “Live and learn.” Throughout the book of *Proverbs*, God is saying, “Learn and live” (**Prov 4:1-9**). Thank God for such an incredible gift!

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Can you think of some other examples of everyday “proverbs” that aren’t in the Bible?
  
- As you survey the “mission statement” of **Proverbs in 1:2-6**, how would you summarize what Solomon is communicating from the beginning of this book of wisdom? What’s the real value of this book in the heart of our Bibles?
  
- How can passages like **Proverbs 1:10-19, 6:6-11** and **6:16-19** help us in a *different* way than Bible history, lists, commands, and rules?
  
- Let’s use **Proverbs 27** as a good case study. *Proverbs* doesn’t address every single experience we could possibly have or every single pitfall that could cause us trouble, but it *does* help us “fill in the blanks” of life, giving us what we need to face everyday decisions thoughtfully and carefully. For instance, what can we learn from...
  - ◆ Proverbs 27:1 -
  - ◆ Proverbs 27:2 -
  - ◆ Proverbs 27:6 -
  - ◆ Proverbs 27:12 -
  - ◆ Proverbs 27:17 -
  - ◆ Proverbs 27:19 -...how can these ancient proverbs help us choose life the way it was meant to be?
  
- The call to “walk in wisdom” also shows up in the New Testament. Let’s read **Colossians 4:5-6** together. In your own words, what is it going to mean to “walk in wisdom”? In what ways do disciples of Christ need wisdom just as surely as any of God’s people who have ever lived in any era?

## For NEXT Wednesday:

- Next Wednesday we’ll look into the face of Jesus Christ, described in **1 Corinthians 1:30** as the one “**who became to us wisdom from God.**”