

## STUDY GUIDE

*This week we will look to the end of the Book of Proverbs to give us some ancient wisdom for our modern families. As you read Proverbs don't try to take in the entire chapter. Instead, read it searching for one or two verses in each chapter that you most need to hear. As you read Proverbs throughout your life you will find it continually speaks to you and you will discover there will be different verses in each chapter that stand out each time you read it.*

**Monday September 26** – Note in today's reading we learn these particular Proverbs were attributed to Solomon but copied by the scribes working for Hezekiah who lived 250 years after Solomon. Were these lost but then rediscovered during Hezekiah's reign? Were they oral traditions that were finally written down? We don't know, but it is a tantalizing bit of information. **Read Proverbs 25** searching for the one or two Proverbs you would most like to remember, or you most need to hear today. How do verses like 6 and 7 relate to us today? What do you think a "word aptly spoken" means in verse 11? Verses 21 and 22 are quoted by Paul 700 years later in Romans 12:20 demonstrating Paul would have done as we are doing – he sought Wisdom in Proverbs! How does this verse speak to you? Verse 26 speaks of moral compromise. Use what you've read in Proverbs 25 as the basis for your prayer time.

**Tuesday, September 27** – Today's readings are filled with similes – likening one thing to another. **Read Proverbs 26 – 27:9**. Chapter 26 focuses on the life and actions of a fool. Do you find yourself in any of these verses? Verse 27:1 is cited by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount showing that Jesus would have studied the Proverbs just as you are doing. What is that verse warning against? 27:2 is an important word to remember. What does 27: 6 mean to you? Allow your prayer to be shaped by your reading today.

**Wednesday, September 28** – **Read Proverbs 27:10-28:28**. Search for those verses, which most address your life situation. What does 27:17 mean? Do you have any friends with whom you are iron sharpening iron? Why does the wicked flee though no one pursues in 28:1? Chapter 28 has as a common theme justice and concern for the poor. What does it teach us about God's expectations for how we treat the poor? How have you found 28:13 to be true? How or why is 28:23 true? What does 28:24 look like in modern times? Reflect upon 28:27. Reflect upon your notes from last weekend's sermon as you pray.

**Thursday, September 29** – **Read Proverbs 29**. Which verses speak to you? Verses 7 and 14 speak of justice and concern for the poor. How do you pursue these? Does verse 11 speak to you? Verses 15 and 17 address parenting. How do you practically apply these principles? Verse 18 is more familiar in the King James, "Without a vision the people will perish." Verse 23 is echoed throughout the New Testament. **Read Proverbs 30** - a new collection of Proverbs that have a bit different literary style than the rest including a form that is much like a riddle – it requires some pondering to consider the connections made in the Proverb. Consider the message of 30:7-9. How have you seen the truth of these verses in the lives of others?

**Friday, September 30** - **Read Proverbs 31:1-9**. Read verses 8 and 9 again. These are among the loftiest verses in the Proverbs. What do they mean? Who are those who cannot speak for themselves in our world today? **Read Proverbs 31:10-31**. What does this teach us about being a woman of noble character? About being a good husband? About family life 2,500 years ago? Verse 30 is an important verse to remember. Allow today's reading to shape your prayer time.