

## Better-Than Statements Sword Drill

Students will need a copy of the Bible, or student pairs may share a copy. Start with all Bibles closed. Choose four or five of the following passages, all of which follow a better-than pattern. Then, one by one, call out a passage and see who can find it first. Have the student who finds the verse first read it aloud. As a class, figure out which two or more things are being compared.

1. Proverbs 12:9: “Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.”
2. Proverbs 15:16: “Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.”
3. Proverbs 15:17: “Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.”
4. Proverbs 16:8: “Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.”
5. Proverbs 16:16: “How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!”
6. Proverbs 16:19: “Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.”
7. Proverbs 16:32: “Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.”
8. Proverbs 17:1: “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.”
9. Proverbs 17:12: “Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool bent on folly.”
10. Proverbs 19:1: “Better the poor whose walk is blameless than a fool whose lips are perverse.”
11. Proverbs 21:9: “Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.”
12. Proverbs 21:19: “Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.”
13. Proverbs 22:1: “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.”
14. Proverbs 25:7: “It is better for him [the king] to say to you, ‘Come up here,’ than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.”
15. Proverbs 27:5: “Better is open rebuke than hidden love.”
16. Proverbs 27:10: “Do not forsake your friend or a friend of the family, and do not go to your relative’s house when disaster strikes you—better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away.”
17. Proverbs 28:6: “Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse.”

## “Fear” Sword Drill

Students will need a copy of the Bible, or student pairs may share a copy. Start with all Bibles closed. Choose four or five of the following passages, all of which discuss one or the other definition of “fear” as it pertains to the Book of Proverbs. Then, one by one, call out a passage and see who can find it first. Have the student who finds the verse first read it aloud. As a class, figure out which category of fear is being discussed (fright, or awe and reverence).

1. Proverbs 1:7: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
2. Proverbs 1:29: “Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD . . .”
3. Proverbs 1:33: “But whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”
4. Proverbs 2:5: “Then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.”
5. Proverbs 3:7: “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.”
6. Proverbs 3:25: “Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked.”
7. Proverbs 8:13: “To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”
8. Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”
9. Proverbs 10:27: “The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.”
10. Proverbs 14:2: “Whoever fears the LORD walks uprightly, but those who despise him are devious in their ways.”
11. Proverbs 14:16: “The wise fear the LORD and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure.”
12. Proverbs 14:26: “Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.”
13. Proverbs 14:27: “The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.”
14. Proverbs 15:16: “Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.”
15. Proverbs 15:33: “Wisdom’s instruction is to fear the LORD, and humility comes before honor.”
16. Proverbs 16:6: “Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided.”
17. Proverbs 19:23: “The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.”
18. Proverbs 22:4: “Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life.”
19. Proverbs 23:17: “Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.”
20. Proverbs 24:21: “Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with rebellious officials.”
21. Proverbs 28:14: “Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.”
22. Proverbs 29:25: “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.”
23. Proverbs 31:21: “When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.”
24. Proverbs 31:30: “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”

“You warned them in order to turn them back to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, of which you said, ‘The person who obeys them will live by them.’ Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you warned them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you gave them into the hands of the neighboring peoples. But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God” (Nehemiah 9:29–31).

## Ezra Quotations

Duplicate these quotations onto colored cardstock, and cut them into eight separate strips.

These are taken directly from Ezra 8 and 9 and Nehemiah 8.

“I assembled them at the canal that flows toward Ahava, and we camped there three days. When I checked among the people and the priests, I found no Levites there. . . . Because the gracious hand of our God was on us, they brought us Sherebiah, a capable man, from the descendants of . . . Levi, . . .and Sherebiah’s sons and brothers, 18 in all; and Hashabiah, together with . . . his brothers and nephews, 20 in all. They also brought 220 of the temple servants—a body that David and the officials had established to assist the Levites. All were registered by name.”

“I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, ‘The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him.’ So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.”

“I set apart twelve of the leading priests, . . . and I weighed out to them the offering of silver and gold and the articles that the king, his advisers, his officials and all Israel present there had donated for the house of our God. . . . I said to them, ‘You as well as these articles are consecrated to the Lord. The silver and gold are a freewill offering to the LORD, the God of your ancestors. Guard them carefully.’”

“On the first day of the seventh month [I] brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. [I] read it aloud from daybreak till noon as [I] faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. [I] stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion.”

“The whole company that had returned from exile built temporary shelters and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great. Day after day, from the first day to the last, [I] read from the Book of the Law of God.”

“I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice. Then, at the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the LORD my God and prayed.”

“Though we are slaves, our God has not forsaken us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.”

“But now, our God, what can we say after this? For we have forsaken the commands you gave through your servants the prophets when you said: ‘The land you are entering to possess is a land polluted by the corruption of its peoples. By their detestable practices they have filled it with their impurity from one end to the other.’”

## Nehemiah Quotations

Duplicate these quotations onto colored cardstock, and cut them into eight separate strips.

These quotations are taken directly from Nehemiah 2, 5, and 13.

“I was cupbearer to the king. . . . I took the wine and gave it to [King Artaxerxes]. I had not been sad in his presence before; so the king asked me, ‘Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart.’ I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, ‘May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?’”

“‘May I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the royal park, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?’ And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.”

“I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.”

“I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, ‘In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!’”

“Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes . . . until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. . . . I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we did not acquire any land.”

“I also learned that the portions assigned to the Levites had not been given to them, and that all the Levites and musicians responsible for the service had gone back to their own fields. So I rebuked the officials and asked them, ‘Why is the house of God neglected?’ Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts.”

“Remember me for this, my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services. . . . I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads. And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day.”

“When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. I stationed some of my own men at the gates so that no load could be brought in on the Sabbath day.”

“Though I scatter them among the peoples, yet in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive, and they will return” (Zechariah 10:9).

“‘At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,’ says the LORD” (Zephaniah 3:20).

“‘In that day,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever’” (Micah 4:6–7).

“‘So there is hope for your descendants,’ declares the LORD. ‘Your children will return to their own land’” (Jeremiah 31:17).

“But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze’” (Isaiah 43:1–2).



**Carefully read** the following passages, and then answer the questions that follow.

### 1 SAMUEL 8

1. What events made the people clamor for a king? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Samuel react to their request? (See verse 6.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Notice what the Lord told Samuel in verse 7. Whom were the people rejecting? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Samuel did his best to change their minds. What reasons did he give for their being better off not having a king? (See verses 10–18.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did the people respond? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 1 SAMUEL 9:1—10:8

6. How is Saul described in verse 2? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How did Saul meet Samuel? (See verses 3–10.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did Samuel show that Saul was going to be king? (See 1 Samuel 10:1.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. It seems as though Saul had a hard time believing Samuel that he was going to be king. What three signs did Samuel give Saul to show that what he had told him was true? (See 1 Samuel 10:2–7.) \_\_\_\_\_

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### 1 SAMUEL 10:17–26

10. Samuel called all the people together to introduce them to their new king, but first he had a message for them. What did Samuel tell the people? (See verses 17–19.) \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Did Saul act as though he wanted to be king? Explain why or why not. \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What was significant about Samuel’s actions in verse 25? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 1 SAMUEL 11

13. Even though Saul was anointed and publicly proclaimed king, he waited for God to show him what to do next. How is this reflected in this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. In what ways do we see that the Lord was with Saul? (See verses 11 and 13.) \_\_\_\_\_

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15. What might it mean that the people “made Saul king *in the presence of the LORD*” in verse 15? \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Read Leviticus 23:33–43 and together as a class discuss the focus or main points of this feast. Verse 43 answers the question of why the people were to live in booths for seven days: “So your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.” \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The Jewish mind-set is multisensory. What do you think Jerusalem may have looked, smelled, and sounded like during Sukkot? How do you think the food in the booths tasted? How did the experience feel? Numbers 29:12–40 may help you answer these questions, and Leviticus 23 provides details on the materials used to make each booth. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. In Exodus 23:16b, the Feast of Sukkot is referred to as the Feast of Ingathering, celebrating the end of the agricultural year, when all of the crops were harvested. Why is “Feast of Ingathering” also a fitting name for this celebration? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. In Nehemiah 8:14–17, the Jewish people were reminded of this Festival of Booths, which God had commanded them to celebrate. Read the passage and write down some of the phrases that stand out in your mind about this particular celebration of Sukkot. \_\_\_\_\_

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“OBEY what I COMMAND you today”  
(EXODUS 34:11A).



## FEAST OF TABERNACLES/SUKKOT

Read **John 7** and its study notes, and answer the following questions.

1. Why did Jesus attend the Feast of Sukkot? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. We read that halfway through the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus started teaching in the temple. What were the people wondering about him? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles a special ceremony was held. Describe what happened. Do you recall the special Sukkot prayers for rain? What were some of the details?

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4. What connections can we make between what Jesus said, the special ceremony for rain, the water drawn from the Pool of Siloam, and the need for rain to grow crops? What was Jesus saying? \_\_\_\_\_

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## PASSOVER/PESACH, FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD, FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

5. Read John 1:29 and John 1:35–37. What do you notice in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on the first day of Passover week. This was “Lamb Selection Day” for the Jews—the day when Jewish families selected the lambs they would sacrifice. The lamb was selected, fed, and cared for over the next four days, after which it was slaughtered. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on this specific day, he was in effect saying, “Here I am. Will you select me as your Passover lamb?” Do you think anyone made a connection to John the Baptist’s reference of a few years earlier to Jesus as the Lamb of God? What do you think could have been going through the minds and hearts of the Jewish people? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Complete the chart to summarize how Jesus fulfilled all three feasts.

The Feasts	How Jesus Fulfilled the Feast
Feast of Passover	
Feast of Unleavened Bread	
Feast of Firstfruits	

## FEAST OF WEEKS/PENTECOST/SHAVUOT

8. Read Matthew 9:37–38. What was Jesus saying about the “harvest”? \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. Read Acts 2. What does this passage say about the “harvest”? \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. Read Acts 2:45b. How does this verse tie in with the concern for the poor at Shavuot? \_\_\_\_\_  
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11. Read Acts 2:1–6. Where did all the Jewish people go to celebrate the Feast of Shavuot? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Why were there so many Jews who spoke different languages in Jerusalem for Shavuot? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
12. How was God’s presence manifested in Acts 2? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
13. In the Old Testament, fire represented God’s presence. Where was God present now? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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14. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. What does this verse say about God’s presence? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**“You have DECLARED this day that the LORD IS YOUR GOD  
 and that you will WALK IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM”** (DEUTERONOMY 26:17A).



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**CODE**

Solve the coded puzzle below to find out what God wants from you (it's really not a secret!).

**A** = 16; **B** = 27; **C** = 8; **D** = 81; **E** = 32; **F** = 42; **G** = 13;

**H** = 20; **I** = 56; **J** = 7; **K** = 18; **L** = 35; **M** = 21;

**N** = 14; **O** = 10; **P** = 90; **Q** = 110; **R** = 28; **S** = 36; **T** = 4;

**U** = 22; **V** = 88; **W** = 17; **X** = 45; **Y** = 72; **Z** = 24

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21 x 2   64 ÷ 2   4 x 4   56 ÷ 2      10 + 3   2 x 5   9 x 9      32 ÷ 2   7 x 2   85 - 4

6 x 3   2 x 16   8 x 4   9 x 10      26 - 6   8 x 7   29 + 7

16 ÷ 2   13 - 3   7 x 3   42 ÷ 2   8 x 2   28 ÷ 2   72 + 9   25 - 4   4 x 8   23 - 9   2 x 2   18 x 2

7 x 6   7 + 3   4 x 7      2 + 2   4 x 5   48 + 8   3 x 12      7 x 8   28 + 8

7 - 3   17 + 3   4 x 8      77 + 4   2 x 11   4 - 0   144 ÷ 2      6 + 4   49 - 7

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18 - 2   42 - 7   5 x 7      32 - 11   8 x 2   17 - 3   9 x 2   112 ÷ 2   12 + 2   85 - 4

(              12:13b).

27 + 5   64 ÷ 8   15 - 7   17 + 18   32 ÷ 1   6 x 6   62 - 6   9 + 7   36 x 1   0 + 4   11 + 21   48 - 12



**Read the references** listed and answer the following question.

1. Who wrote the Book of Proverbs (Proverbs 1:1; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Read Proverbs 1:1–7**, and answer the following questions.

2. What is the stated purpose for which the Book of Proverbs was written (verses 4–5)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the motto or theme of the Book of Proverbs, according to verse 7 (also see Proverbs 9:10)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. According to verses 2–3 and 6, what are some of the benefits we can receive from studying wisdom in the Book of Proverbs? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you know about some of the wise people identified in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Were these wise men and their writings unique to the land of Israel? Read Genesis 41:8; Exodus 7:11; 1 Kings 4:30; Daniel 2:12; and Obadiah 8 before responding. Explain your answer, using specific references to these verses. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“My son, DO NOT FORGET my teaching,

7. Read the passages below and write down what was/is unique about the wisdom of “the Wise” in Israelite society (and among Christians of all ages).

• 1 Kings 3:11–12; Proverbs 2:6; Ecclesiastes 2:26; and James 1:5: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Daniel 2:20–23; 1 Corinthians 1:18–30; and Colossians 2:2–3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• James 3:13–17: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Whom do we consider the “wise” of our own day? Can you name particular people society looks up to as “wise,” both within the Christian and the non-Christian communities? \_\_\_\_\_

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but **KEEP MY COMMANDS** in your heart,  
for they will **PROLONG YOUR LIFE** many years  
and **BRING YOU PEACE AND PROSPERITY”**

(PROVERBS 3:1–2).



A proverb is a brief saying that contains practical truth or provides guidance for conduct. It blends verbal skill with human insight and experience. Because its brevity is striking, causing it to linger in the memory, it is an excellent teaching tool for imparting wisdom to the young and inexperienced.

## PART A

**Find a proverb** that exemplifies each of the qualities below. Write out the proverb and its reference.

- A biblical proverb is brief. Following is one possible answer, to give you an idea of what is being asked for here: (Proverbs 12:15: "The way of a fool seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.") \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs are worded to be memorable (not easily forgotten). Some are even humorous to our ears. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_
- Some proverbs use personification, attributing human actions to nonhuman abstractions, like Lady Wisdom or Lady Folly. Find proverbs personifying each of these examples.

Lady Wisdom: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lady Folly: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Proverbs use vivid (and again sometimes humorous to our ears) images, metaphors, or similes. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Some proverbs prescribe a course of action (or a course to avoid). \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Some proverbs describe a reality or universal truth. \_\_\_\_\_

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**PART B**

Proverbs make assertive statements as a device aiding memory. Still, a proverb intends to communicate a general truth or rule of thumb, not always a literal truth, to which there will be no exceptions in real life. Here are some guidelines to help make sense of some of the proverbs.

7. Proverbs are intensely practical. They do not answer theological or historical questions.

Record an example of this kind of practical, rule-of-thumb, everyday proverb. \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Proverbs are always to be understood within the broader context of God's Word and God's will. Sometimes, in a descriptive, not prescriptive sense, they state the very opposite of biblical principles. It's important to remember that a proverb is not necessarily a command or a promise. Record an example of a proverb that is not intended as a command to be obeyed but is instead a general guideline for making wise choices. (Such proverbs may even contradict each other!) \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Record an example of a proverb that is not necessarily a literal promise but is instead a general truth. \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Proverbs are loosely organized and should be taken individually. Find and record a series of three or four proverbs that give completely separate and unrelated pieces of advice. \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Success in the Book of Proverbs never implies our modern idea of material success. Record an example of a proverb that promises a kind of success different from material wealth.

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*“Let Love and  
faithfulness never leave you;  
BIND THEM  
around your neck,  
WRITE THEM  
on the tablet of your heart”*  
(PROVERBS 3:3).



**Look up the** following proverbs, and fill in the blanks to complete the **Better-Than** statements.

1. Proverbs 12:9: “Better to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and yet have a servant than \_\_\_\_\_ to be somebody and have \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Proverbs 15:16: “Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. Proverbs 15:17: “Better a small serving of \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ than a fattened calf with \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. Proverbs 16:8: “Better a little with \_\_\_\_\_ than much gain with \_\_\_\_\_.”
5. Proverbs 16:16: “How much better to get wisdom than \_\_\_\_\_, to get insight rather than \_\_\_\_\_!”
6. Proverbs 16:19: “Better to be lowly in spirit \_\_\_\_\_ with the oppressed than to share plunder with the \_\_\_\_\_.”
7. Proverbs 16:32: “Better a \_\_\_\_\_ person than a warrior, one with \_\_\_\_\_ than one who takes a city.”
8. Proverbs 17:1: “Better a dry crust with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ than a house full of feasting, with \_\_\_\_\_.”
9. Proverbs 17:12: “Better to meet a \_\_\_\_\_ robbed of her cubs than a \_\_\_\_\_ bent on folly.”
10. Proverbs 19:1: “Better the poor whose walk is \_\_\_\_\_ than a fool whose \_\_\_\_\_ are perverse.”
11. Proverbs 21:9: “Better to live on a corner of the \_\_\_\_\_ than share a house with a \_\_\_\_\_ wife.”
12. Proverbs 21:19: “Better to live in a \_\_\_\_\_ than with a quarrelsome and \_\_\_\_\_ wife.”
13. Proverbs 22:1: “A \_\_\_\_\_ is more desirable than \_\_\_\_\_; to be \_\_\_\_\_ is better than silver or gold.”
14. Proverbs 25:7: “It is better for him [the king] to say to you, ‘Come up here,’ than for him to \_\_\_\_\_ you before his nobles.”

15. Proverbs 27:5: “Better is open \_\_\_\_\_ than hidden \_\_\_\_\_.”
16. Proverbs 27:10: “Do not forsake your friend and the friend of the family, and do not go to your relative’s house when disaster strikes you—better a \_\_\_\_\_ nearby than a relative \_\_\_\_\_.”
17. Proverbs 28:6: “Better the poor whose walk is \_\_\_\_\_ than the rich whose ways are \_\_\_\_\_.”

“In all  
your ways  
*submit*  
to him,  
and he will  
make your  
paths straight”

(PROVERBS 3:6).



**What issues does** the Book of Proverbs address? The verses below reflect some of the topics covered. Check them out and record, on the line provided, the subject(s) covered in each group of verses.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Proverbs 9:7, 8, 12; 14:9; 17:5 _____<br/>_____</p>           | <p>9. Proverbs 11:25; 19:17; 22:9 _____<br/>_____</p>   |
| <p>2. Proverbs 11:13; 16:28; 18:8; 26:20 _____<br/>_____</p>        | <p>10. Proverbs 6:6–11; 10:4–5; 14:23; 21:5–6;<br/>22:16; 23:21; 27:23–27 _____<br/>_____</p> |
| <p>3. Proverbs 14:6; 15:14; 16:21; 17:24 _____<br/>_____</p>        | <p>11. Proverbs 14:29; 15:18; 16:32 _____<br/>_____</p>                                       |
| <p>4. Proverbs 1:3; 4:27; 10:7; 14:12, 34 _____<br/>_____</p>       | <p>12. Proverbs 16:32; 25:28; 29:11 _____<br/>_____</p>                                       |
| <p>5. Proverbs 11:1; 14:5; 16:13; 23:23 _____<br/>_____</p>         | <p>13. Proverbs 10:22; 15:27; 22:2; 28:8 _____<br/>_____</p>                                  |
| <p>6. Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 15:33; 16:18; 18:12 _____<br/>_____</p> | <p>14. Proverbs 30:7–8, 11–14; 31:8–9 _____<br/>_____</p>                                     |
| <p>7. Proverbs 8:11; 16:16 _____<br/>_____</p>                      | <p>15. Proverbs 17:9, 17; 18:24; 22:24–25; 27:6 _____<br/>_____</p>                           |
| <p>8. Proverbs 2:7; 10:9; 11:3; 16:11–13; 28:6 _____<br/>_____</p>  | <p>16. Proverbs 11:13; 25:13 _____<br/>_____</p>  |

*In all  
your ways*  
 submit to  
**HIM,**  
 and he will make your paths straight”  
 (PROVERBS 3:6).



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## FEAR

As a class, you have just defined two different types of fear. Look at the following passages, and decide whether they are talking about fear as in being scared or about fear as in awe of God. Write a lower case “fear” if the answer is the first type and a capitalized “FEAR” if it is the second type.

1. Joshua 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Psalm 19:9 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Psalm 34:9 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 John 4:18 \_\_\_\_\_

What does the Book of Proverbs say about “fear” and “FEAR”? (In your answers, use uppercase letters for “FEAR” if appropriate to the context.)

5. Proverbs 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Proverbs 3:25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Proverbs 9:10 \_\_\_\_\_
8. Proverbs 22:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WISDOM

9. What is the danger in failing to follow wisdom? (See Proverbs 1:20–33.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Summarize the main ideas of Proverbs 2:1–5. If you \_\_\_\_\_, then you will \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Proverbs 2:9–10 says that you will \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Read Proverbs 2:11–12. What are the benefits of:
  - Discretion: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Understanding: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Wisdom: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Proverbs 3:21–26 are verses of comfort for those who follow wisdom. How are these verses a comfort to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Read the following acts of wisdom. Describe each act in your own words:

- Proverbs 3:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 3:28 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 3:29 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 3:30 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 3:31 \_\_\_\_\_

### WARNINGS AGAINST FOLLY

**Think back to** the definition and examples of folly you have come up with to help you with these next questions.

15. When we are faced with the follies of this world and of our friends, Proverbs 3:5–6 gives us advice on what we should do. Read the verse and fill in the blanks below.

“\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ with all your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ not on your own \_\_\_\_\_; in \_\_\_\_\_ your ways \_\_\_\_\_ to him, and \_\_\_\_\_ will make your \_\_\_\_\_.”

16. What does a verse like this mean to you personally? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. What are some results of following or being lured by folly? Read the following passages, and write the main outcome of folly next to each verse.

- Proverbs 5:11–14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 5:21–23 \_\_\_\_\_

### CLOSING COMMANDS AND THOUGHTS

18. Read Proverbs 4:7. What does this verse tell us to do about wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. After all we’ve read and discussed, why is wisdom so important? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. What does Proverbs 4:23 say about what we should guard? Why do you think this is so important? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





Read **Proverbs 6:16–19** from the NIV and then compare it in your mind to the wording of *The Message*, below.

### PROVERBS 6:16–19 (NIV)

“There are six things the LORD hates,  
seven that are detestable to him:  
haughty eyes,  
a lying tongue,  
hands that shed innocent blood,  
a heart that devises wicked schemes,  
feet that are quick to rush into evil,  
a false witness who pours out lies  
and a person who stirs up conflict in  
the community.”

### PROVERBS 6:16–19 (THE MESSAGE)

“Here are six things God hates,  
and one more that he loathes with a passion:  
eyes that are arrogant,  
a tongue that lies,  
hands that murder the innocent,  
a heart that hatches evil plots,  
feet that race down a wicked track,  
a mouth that lies under oath,  
a troublemaker in the family.”

**Now that you** have compared the wording of the same passage in different translations, separate the things that are detestable to God and try to define each one a bit more closely. Think about how the words translate into our lives today. God doesn’t change—and neither does our human nature.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

**Working with** a partner, draw the outline of a human body on a large piece of poster board. Then, in the correct location, write in the part of the verse that applies to each body part. Include not only the verse but what it means or should mean to us. Make these posters colorful and creative! (For example, draw an arrow to the eyes, and write “haughty eyes”; then write down in your own words what that means.)



**What does the Book of Proverbs say about parents and discipline? Answer the following questions for a summary.**

### WISDOM FROM PARENTS

1. What benefits are there from listening to “godly” advice from parents and those in authority over you? (Proverbs 3:1–2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a godly, caring father’s greatest desire for his child? (Proverbs 4:1–9) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What benefit is there from achieving this? (Proverbs 4:10–13) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Write out the message of Proverbs 6:20–23 in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Read Ephesians 6:1–4 again. What does it mean to honor your parents? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How do you show honor to your parents? Give a specific answer from your own life. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Are there times when you know you are disrespectful to your parents? Explain your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How do you need to change in terms of your respect for your parents? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DISCIPLINE

9. Why do our parents discipline us? (Proverbs 3:11–12) Why does God discipline his children? (Hebrews 12:4–11) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What are some of the consequences of not being disciplined?

- Proverbs 5:11–14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 13:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 19:18; 23:13 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What good does discipline bring about?

- Proverbs 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 13:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 22:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 23:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 29:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 29:17 \_\_\_\_\_

## PROVERBS

Fill in the blanks to finish these verses.

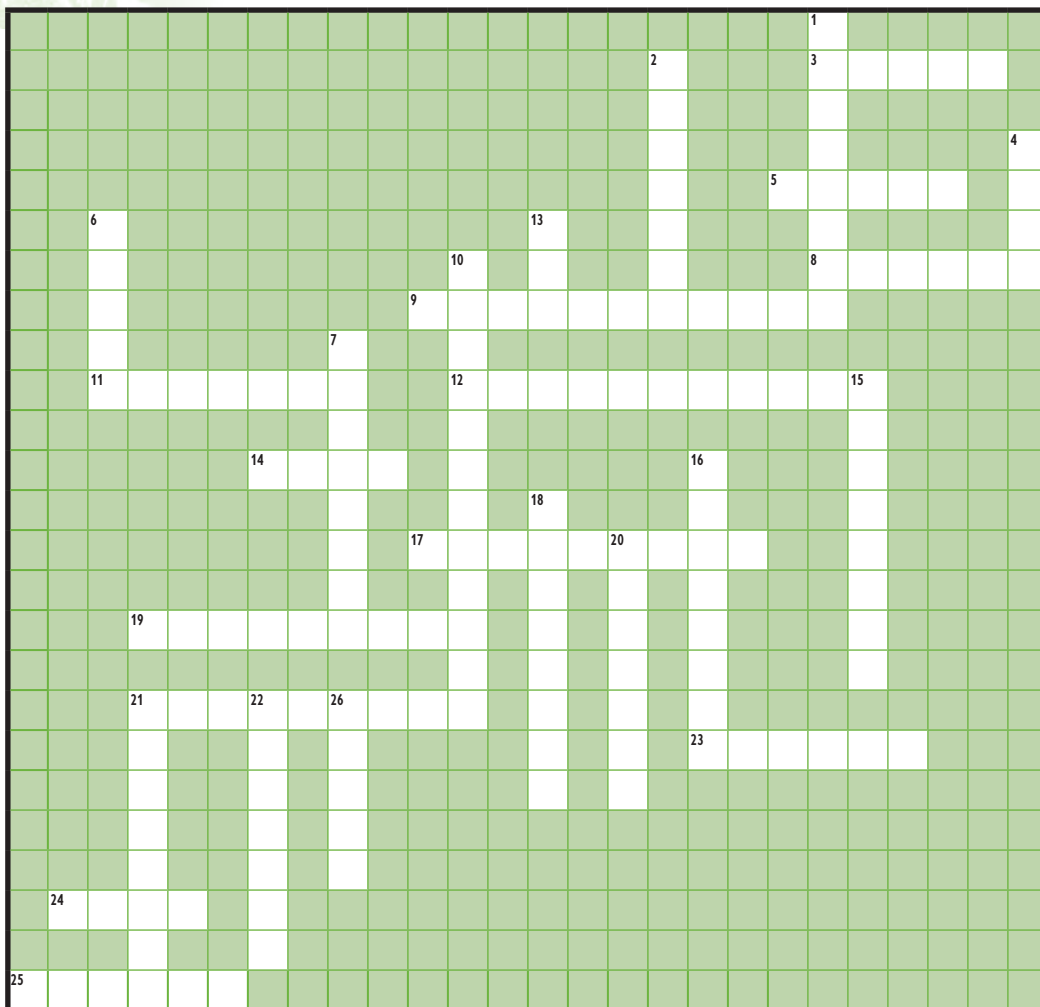
12. Proverbs 1:7: “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_, but fools despise \_\_\_\_\_ and instruction.”
13. Proverbs 9:10: “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy One is \_\_\_\_\_.”
14. Proverbs 13:24: “Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ the rod \_\_\_\_\_ their children, but the one who \_\_\_\_\_ their children is careful to \_\_\_\_\_ them.”
15. Proverbs 23:23: “Buy the \_\_\_\_\_ and do not \_\_\_\_\_ it— \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as well.”

*Honor*  
the LORD with your WEALTH,  
with the FIRSTFRUITS  
of all your crops”

(PROVERBS 3:9).



The following puzzle will help you explore the Book of Habakkuk. Use your Bible to find answers for the clues.



## ACROSS

- 3 If you worship these, you don't know and trust God (2:18).
- 5 Because of the coming invasion, this crop would fail (3:17).
- 8 What the Earth should be before God (2:20).
- 9 They are incredibly cruel and ruthless (1:6).
- 11 Others would \_\_\_\_\_ the Babylonians because they did this to other nations (2:8).
- 12 God cannot tolerate this kind of person (1:13).
- 14 The captives hated this piece of metal (1:15).
- 17 Don't build your city on this (2:12).
- 19 When Habakkuk wanted God's help (3:2; three words).
- 21 The Babylonians hemmed in \_\_\_\_\_ people (1:4).
- 23 Like conflict, it was all over the place in Judah (1:3).
- 24 The source of strength for people of faith (3:19).
- 25 Their \_\_\_\_\_ can outrun leopards (1:8).

## DOWN

- 1 Idols are only \_\_\_\_\_ stones (2:19).
- 2 The Babylonians destroyed the animals, lands, and cities of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:17).
- 4 Habakkuk needed to \_\_\_\_\_ patiently for the Lord (3:16).
- 6 The Babylonians emptied these pens (3:17).
- 7 Extremely proud, like the Babylonians (2:5).
- 10 The righteous live by this (2:4).
- 13 Faith in God brings this (3:18).
- 15 God's like a sunrise's \_\_\_\_\_ (3:4).
- 16 Justice never \_\_\_\_\_ for poor people in the courts of Judah (1:4).
- 18 God cannot \_\_\_\_\_ evil (1:13; two words).
- 20 The invaders would do this to rulers (1:10; two words).
- 21 The place where Habakkuk waited for God (2:1).
- 22 A name for God that Isaiah also used (1:12; two words).
- 26 The invaders were like this bird of prey (1:8).



**Unscramble** the following words.

1. cirh \_\_\_\_\_
2. vwies \_\_\_\_\_
3. rbhightirt \_\_\_\_\_
4. bandl \_\_\_\_\_
5. inlesbgs \_\_\_\_\_
6. noss \_\_\_\_\_
7. veedicre \_\_\_\_\_
8. nopedicet \_\_\_\_\_

**Place each** unscrambled word in the correct blank below.

1. Jacob was a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He got what he wanted through \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He received the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ by tricking his father and brother.
4. He had many \_\_\_\_\_ and two \_\_\_\_\_, one of whom he loved very much.
5. He was \_\_\_\_\_ after working with his uncle \_\_\_\_\_.

“If my people,  
**who are called by my name,**  
 will humble themselves and pray  
**AND SEEK MY FACE**  
 and turn from their wicked ways,  
**then will I HEAR from heaven,**  
**and I will FORGIVE their sin and will HEAL their land”**

(2 CHRONICLES 7:14).



**The Book of Isaiah** can be divided into two themes: judgment (chapters 1–39) and hope (chapters 40–66). Using your Bible, find examples of each. Jot down words and phrases found in the verses that reflect judgment and hope.

Judgment	Hope



“I will BUILD you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be REBUILT.”

## Questions FOR Reflection

1. Why do you think the message of judgment is just as important as the message of hope?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Can you see any parallels between what Isaiah was pointing out to the Israelites of his time and our lives today? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you view the world differently, now that you know Isaiah’s messages of judgment and hope? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Again you will take up your  
timbrels  
and go out to  
dance with the joyful”  
(JEREMIAH 31:4).



1. Epistle: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Epistles written by Paul: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Other epistles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Following are several verses found in the epistles. Read through them, and record how you would explain them to someone who was hearing them for the first time.
  - a. Romans 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 2 Corinthians 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 2 Corinthians 4:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Ephesians 6:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - f. James 1:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - g. James 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - h. 1 John 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“LET PERSEVERANCE** finish its work  
so that you may be *mature* and **COMPLETE,**  
not lacking anything”

(JAMES 1:4).





Carefully read the following passages, and then answer the questions that follow.

### 1 SAMUEL 8

1. What events made the people clamor for a king? **Samuel was growing old, and his sons were corrupt. The people also wanted to be like all the other nations.**
2. How did Samuel react to their request? (See verse 6.) **Samuel was displeased, but he prayed to the Lord on their behalf.**
3. Notice what the Lord told Samuel in verse 7. Whom were the people rejecting? **The Lord**
4. Samuel did his best to change their minds. What reasons did he give for their being better off not having a king? (See verses 10–18.) **The king would take their sons and daughters and make them work in his service. He would take the best of their property and give it to his attendants. He would tax them and take the best of their possessions.**
5. How did the people respond? **They refused to listen to Samuel’s arguments and again insisted that they wanted a king “like all the other nations.”**

### 1 SAMUEL 9:1—10:8

6. How is Saul described in verse 2? **Impressive, without equal among the Israelites, and a head taller than any of the others.**
7. How did Saul meet Samuel? (See verses 3–10.) **Saul was looking for some lost donkeys for his father, and his servant suggested that they seek advice from Samuel about where to look for them.**
8. How did Samuel show that Saul was going to be king? (See 1 Samuel 10:1.) **Samuel poured oil over Saul’s head, thereby anointing him king.**

9. It seems as though Saul had a hard time believing Samuel that he was going to be king. What three signs did Samuel give Saul to show that what he had told him was true? (See 1 Samuel 10:2–7.) **Two men would meet Saul and inform him that the donkeys had been found. Saul would meet men carrying goats, bread, and wine; they would give him two loaves of bread. Saul would be heading home to Gibeah and would meet up with a group of prophets. The Spirit of the Lord would come upon him, and he would prophesy with them and be changed into a different person.**

### 1 SAMUEL 10:17–26

10. Samuel called all the people together to introduce them to their new king, but first he had a message for them. What did Samuel tell the people? (See verses 17–19.) **Samuel reminded the people that God had saved them in the past and that they needed to trust in him now. God was going to give them a king despite the problems this would cause.**
11. Did Saul act as though he wanted to be king? Explain why or why not. **Answers may vary, but the fact that Saul was hiding among the baggage seem to indicate that he did not.**
12. What was significant about Samuel’s actions in verse 25? **Samuel was reminding the people that as king, Saul’s task would be to ensure that they remained faithful to God’s covenant.**

### 1 SAMUEL 11

13. Even though Saul was anointed and publicly proclaimed king, he waited for God to show him what to do next. How is this reflected in this chapter? **Verses 4 and 5 indicate that Saul went back home and returned to his farming.**
14. In what ways do we see that the Lord was with Saul? (See verses 11 and 13.) **Saul was victorious over the enemies of God’s people, and he gave the credit to the Lord.**
15. What might it mean that the people “made Saul king *in the presence of the LORD*” in verse 15? **These phrases seem to show that they understand that Saul was subject to God’s covenant and that the Lord was with Saul.**



1. Read Leviticus 23:33–43 and together as a class discuss the focus or main points of this feast. Verse 43 answers the question of why the people were to live in booths for seven days: “So your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.” **The people were to bring choice fruits from the trees, as well as palm fronds and branches. They were to rejoice for seven days. The first and eighth days were for sacred assemblies and offerings, with no work being done.**
2. The Jewish mind-set is multisensory. What do you think Jerusalem may have looked, smelled, and sounded like during Sukkot? How do you think the food in the booths tasted? How did the experience feel? Numbers 29:12–40 may help you answer these questions, and Leviticus 23 provides details on the materials used to make each booth. **Answers will vary but may include crowded streets, noisy booths, a great deal of food, milling crowds, people eating in their booths, noisy and smelly animals of many types, blood, the smell of sacrifices, joyful people, and the smells of cooking fires.**
3. In Exodus 23:16b, the Feast of Sukkot is referred to as the Feast of Ingathering, celebrating the end of the agricultural year, when all of the crops were harvested. Why is “Feast of Ingathering” also a fitting name for this celebration? **“Ingathering” makes one think about the crops that were gathered in: olives, grapes, wheat, and fruit—the same crops that were hanging from the booths!**
4. In Nehemiah 8:14–17, the Jewish people were reminded of this Festival of Booths, which God had commanded them to celebrate. Read the passage and write down some of the phrases that stand out in your mind about this particular celebration of Sukkot. **Answers will vary but may include that the people had to bring their own branches from a variety of trees for making the booths; that they built the booths all over Jerusalem—on rooftops, in courtyards, in the temple courts, and by the city gates; that all of the people participated in the celebration; that they had not celebrated like this since Joshua’s time, making their joy particularly great; and that they read the Book of the Law day after day during the feast.**

**“OBEY** what I **COMMAND** you today”  
(EXODUS 34:11A).



## FEAST OF TABERNACLES/SUKKOT

Read **John 7** and its study notes, and answer the following questions.

1. Why did Jesus attend the Feast of Sukkot? **Answers will vary but may include that all Jewish men were required to go; that Jews regularly traveled to Jerusalem for the three pilgrim festivals, of which this was one; that Jesus' brothers wanted him to attend but that he had to go secretly because some of the Jews in Jerusalem wanted to kill him; and that Jesus stated that the right time had not yet come for him.**
2. We read that halfway through the Feast of Tabernacles Jesus started teaching in the temple. What were the people wondering about him? **The people were wondering whether he was indeed the messiah; whether or not he had come from Galilee; and, if this were true, how he could possibly be the Christ.**
3. On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles a special ceremony was held. Describe what happened. Do you recall the special Sukkot prayers for rain? What were some of the details? **The people went to the temple for the afternoon (3:00) sacrifice and the special ceremony of prayers for rain, which they needed in order for there to be a harvest the following year. They cried out for God's living water; the priests gathered and marched to the Pool of Siloam, where one priest collected a golden pitcher full of the water; and together they returned in a procession to the temple. As they entered the temple, the shofar was blown, and the priest carrying the golden pitcher of water poured the water into a bowl at the altar.**
4. What connections can we make between what Jesus said, the special ceremony for rain, the water drawn from the Pool of Siloam, and the need for rain to grow crops? What was Jesus saying? **Answers will vary but may include that Jesus was inviting the people to come to him and drink. He was declaring that streams of water would flow from them, that he himself is the source and wellspring of life, that he invites people to believe in him, that we need him in order to grow and live, that we need to depend upon him, that we need a relationship with him, and that he is living water.**

## PASSOVER/PESACH, FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD, FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

5. Read John 1:29 and John 1:35–37. What do you notice in these verses? **John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. This proclamation caused two new disciples to follow Jesus.**

6. Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on the first day of Passover week. This was “Lamb Selection Day” for the Jews—the day when Jewish families selected the lambs they would sacrifice. The lamb was selected, fed, and cared for over the next four days, after which it was slaughtered. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on this specific day, he was in effect saying, “Here I am. Will you select me as your Passover lamb?” Do you think anyone made a connection to John the Baptist’s reference of a few years earlier to Jesus as the Lamb of God? What do you think could have been going through the minds and hearts of the Jewish people? **Answers will vary.**

7. Complete the chart to summarize how Jesus fulfilled all three feasts.

The Feasts	How Jesus Fulfilled the Feast
Feast of Passover	Jesus replaced the Passover lamb. He himself was a young male, unblemished and perfect, and he would sacrifice his own life to save us from our sins.
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Jesus planted seeds in his disciples and in others to lead people to new life in him, just as a wheat seed is planted to grow food to sustain life. Jesus was perfect, having no sin (yeast) in himself.
Feast of Firstfruits	Jesus rose from the dead, becoming the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Jesus conquered death, and we will do so as well if we believe in him as our Savior from sin.

**FEAST OF WEEKS/PENTECOST/SHAVUOT**

8. Read Matthew 9:37–38. What was Jesus saying about the “harvest”? **Answers will vary but may include that the harvest is people, that we are to reach out to others, and that workers are needed to tell others about Jesus.**
9. Read Acts 2. What does this passage say about the “harvest”? **The harvest isn’t just about wheat; it is also about saving people from their sins.**
10. Read Acts 2:45b. How does this verse tie in with the concern for the poor at Shavuot? **The believers gave to anyone in need.**
11. Read Acts 2:1–6. Where did all the Jewish people go to celebrate the Feast of Shavuot? **To Jerusalem, to the temple** \_\_\_\_\_ Why were there so many Jews who spoke different languages in Jerusalem for Shavuot? **This was a pilgrim festival for the Jews, who had been scattered all over the Roman Empire and the surrounding regions of the world after the captivity and the exile.**
12. How was God’s presence manifested in Acts 2? **A sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the house. Tongues of fire separated and came to rest upon each of the disciples. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other tongues.**
13. In the Old Testament, fire represented God’s presence. Where was God present now? **God’s presence went out to the people, giving power to the new community of believers. The Holy Spirit came into the people, and now the presence of God resides within each of us. God isn’t just living in the building called the temple anymore. We who believe are God’s temple.**
14. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. What does this verse say about God’s presence? **God’s presence is within us, we are God’s temple, he gave us power to be his witnesses, and we really are God’s people—his representatives in the world.**

**“You have DECLARED this day that the LORD IS YOUR GOD  
and that you will WALK IN OBEDIENCE TO HIM”** (DEUTERONOMY 26:17A).



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**CODE**

Solve the coded puzzle below to find out what God wants from you (it's really not a secret!).

A = 16; B = 27; C = 8; D = 81; E = 32; F = 42; G = 13;

H = 20; I = 56; J = 7; K = 18; L = 35; M = 21;

N = 14; O = 10; P = 90; Q = 110; R = 28; S = 36; T = 4;

U = 22; V = 88; W = 17; X = 45; Y = 72; Z = 24

“ **F** **E** **A** **R** $\frac{21 \times 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{64 \div 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{4 \times 4}{\quad}$   $\frac{56 \div 2}{\quad}$ **G** **O** **D** $\frac{10 + 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{2 \times 5}{\quad}$   $\frac{9 \times 9}{\quad}$ **A** **N** **D** $\frac{32 \div 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{7 \times 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{85 - 4}{\quad}$ **K** **E** **E** **P** $\frac{6 \times 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{2 \times 16}{\quad}$   $\frac{8 \times 4}{\quad}$   $\frac{9 \times 10}{\quad}$ **H** **I** **S** $\frac{26 - 6}{\quad}$   $\frac{8 \times 7}{\quad}$   $\frac{29 + 7}{\quad}$ **C** **O** **M** **M** **A** **N** **D** **M** **E** **N** **T** **S**, $\frac{16 \div 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{13 - 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{7 \times 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{42 \div 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{8 \times 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{28 \div 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{72 + 9}{\quad}$   $\frac{25 - 4}{\quad}$   $\frac{4 \times 8}{\quad}$   $\frac{23 - 9}{\quad}$   $\frac{2 \times 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{18 \times 2}{\quad}$ **F** **O** **R** $\frac{7 \times 6}{\quad}$   $\frac{7 + 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{4 \times 7}{\quad}$ **T** **H** **I** **S** $\frac{2 + 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{4 \times 5}{\quad}$   $\frac{48 + 8}{\quad}$   $\frac{3 \times 12}{\quad}$ **I** **S** $\frac{7 \times 8}{\quad}$   $\frac{28 + 8}{\quad}$ **T** **H** **E** $\frac{7 - 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{17 + 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{4 \times 8}{\quad}$ **D** **U** **T** **Y** $\frac{77 + 4}{\quad}$   $\frac{2 \times 11}{\quad}$   $\frac{4 - 0}{\quad}$   $\frac{144 \div 2}{\quad}$ **O** **F** $\frac{6 + 4}{\quad}$   $\frac{49 - 7}{\quad}$ **A** **L** **L** $\frac{18 - 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{42 - 7}{\quad}$   $\frac{5 \times 7}{\quad}$ **M** **A** **N** **K** **I** **N** **D**” $\frac{32 - 11}{\quad}$   $\frac{8 \times 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{17 - 3}{\quad}$   $\frac{9 \times 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{112 \div 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{12 + 2}{\quad}$   $\frac{85 - 4}{\quad}$ ( **E** **C** **C** **L** **E** **S** **I** **A** **S** **T** **E** **S** 12:13b). $\frac{27 + 5}{\quad}$   $\frac{64 \div 8}{\quad}$   $\frac{15 - 7}{\quad}$   $\frac{17 + 18}{\quad}$   $\frac{32 \div 1}{\quad}$   $\frac{6 \times 6}{\quad}$   $\frac{62 - 6}{\quad}$   $\frac{9 + 7}{\quad}$   $\frac{36 \times 1}{\quad}$   $\frac{0 + 4}{\quad}$   $\frac{11 + 21}{\quad}$   $\frac{48 - 12}{\quad}$



**Read the references** listed and answer the following question.

1. Who wrote the Book of Proverbs (Proverbs 1:1; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1)? **King Solomon wrote most of the proverbs, but others are credited to Agur, the son of Jakeh, and to King Lemuel. Still others are identified as sayings of the wise copied by the servants of King Hezekiah.**

**Read Proverbs 1:1–7**, and answer the following questions.

2. What is the stated purpose for which the Book of Proverbs was written (verses 4–5)? **The stated purpose is to give “prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young” (verse 4), and to make the wise even wiser (verse 5).**
3. What is the motto or theme of the Book of Proverbs, according to verse 7 (also see Proverbs 9:10)? **The theme is that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.**
4. According to verses 2–3 and 6, what are some of the benefits we can receive from studying wisdom in the Book of Proverbs? **Benefits we can receive from studying the Book of Proverbs include attaining wisdom and discipline; understanding words of insight; acquiring a disciplined and prudent lifestyle; and understanding proverbs and parables—the sayings and riddles of the wise. (You may need to review meanings of the vocabulary in these verses. Students may be unfamiliar with the terms.)**
5. What do you know about some of the wise people identified in the Bible? **Answers will vary based upon students’ background knowledge or what they may recall from class discussions.**
6. Were these wise men and their writings unique to the land of Israel? Read Genesis 41:8; Exodus 7:11; 1 Kings 4:30; Daniel 2:12; and Obadiah 8 before responding. Explain your answer, using specific references to these verses. **The wise men were not unique to Israel. In Genesis 41:8 and Exodus 7:11, Pharaoh sends for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. In Daniel 2:12, the King of Babylonia orders the execution of all the wise men of his land. But the writings are unique in that they reveal the God of the Bible as the true source of all wisdom.**



“MY SON, DO NOT FORGET my teaching,

7. Read the passages below and write down what was/is unique about the wisdom of “the Wise” in Israelite society (and among Christians of all ages).

• 1 Kings 3:11–12; Proverbs 2:6; Ecclesiastes 2:26; and James 1:5: **God gives wisdom to those who please him and who ask him for wisdom.**

• Daniel 2:20–23; 1 Corinthians 1:18–30; and Colossians 2:2–3: **All true wisdom is found in God and in his Word. God’s wisdom is immeasurably greater than that of humankind.**

• James 3:13–17: **Wisdom from God is evident in a person’s good life and humility. God’s wisdom is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful, impartial, and sincere.**

8. Whom do we consider the “wise” of our own day? Can you name particular people society looks up to as “wise,” both within the Christian and the non-Christian communities? \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers will vary.**

but **KEEP MY COMMANDS** in your heart,  
for they will **PROLONG YOUR LIFE** many years  
and **BRING YOU PEACE AND PROSPERITY”**

(PROVERBS 3:1–2).



A proverb is a brief saying that contains practical truth or provides guidance for conduct. It blends verbal skill with human insight and experience. Because its brevity is striking, causing it to linger in the memory, it is an excellent teaching tool for imparting wisdom to the young and inexperienced.

## PART A

**Find a proverb** that exemplifies each of the qualities below. Write out the proverb and its reference.

**Answers will vary. Possible answers follow.**

- A biblical proverb is brief. Following is one possible answer, to give you an idea of what is being asked for here: (Proverbs 12:15: “The way of a fool seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.”) **Proverbs 14:30: “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.” Proverbs 16:28: “A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.” Proverbs 24:8: “Whoever plots evil will be known as a schemer.”**

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- Proverbs are worded to be memorable (not easily forgotten). Some are even humorous to our ears. **Proverbs 6:6: “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!” Proverbs 11:22: “Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.” Proverbs 20:15: “Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.” Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”**

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- Some proverbs use personification, attributing human actions to nonhuman abstractions, like Lady Wisdom or Lady Folly. Find proverbs personifying each of these examples.

Lady Wisdom: **Proverbs 9:1a, 2b, 5, 6b: “Wisdom has built her house; . . . she has also set her table. . . . ‘Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.’”**

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Lady Folly: **Proverbs 9:13, 16: “Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing. . . . ‘Let all who are simple come to my house!’”**

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4. Proverbs use vivid (and again sometimes humorous to our ears) images, metaphors, or similes. **Proverbs 17:1: “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.” Proverbs 24:26: “An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.” Proverbs 24:33–34: “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.” Proverbs 25:11: “Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a ruling rightly given.”**

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5. Some proverbs prescribe a course of action (or a course to avoid). **Proverbs 20:19: “A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.” Proverbs 22:22–23: “Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life.” Proverbs 24:27: “Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.” Proverbs 27:2: “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”**

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6. Some proverbs describe a reality or universal truth. **Proverbs 15:23: “A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word!” Proverbs 20:11: “Even small children are known by their actions, so is their conduct really pure and upright?” Proverbs 22:2: “Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.” Proverbs 27:3: “Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but a fool’s provocation is heavier than both.”**

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## PART B

Proverbs make assertive statements as a device aiding memory. Still, a proverb intends to communicate a general truth or rule of thumb, not always a literal truth, to which there will be no exceptions in real life. Here are some guidelines to help make sense of some of the proverbs.

7. Proverbs are intensely practical. They do not answer theological or historical questions. Record an example of this kind of practical, rule-of-thumb, everyday proverb. **Proverbs 18:13: “To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.” Proverbs 27:23–27: “Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field. You will have plenty of goats’ milk to feed your family and to nourish your female servants.”**
8. Proverbs are always to be understood within the broader context of God’s Word and God’s will. Sometimes, in a descriptive, not prescriptive sense, they state the very opposite of biblical principles. It’s important to remember that a proverb is not necessarily a command or a promise. Record an example of a proverb that is not intended as a command to be obeyed but is instead a general guideline for making wise choices. (Such proverbs may even contradict each other!) **Proverbs 26:4–5: “Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.” Proverbs 17:8: “A bribe is seen as a charm by the one who gives it; they think success will come at every turn.” (It may be necessary to coach the class on these examples, since this is a difficult concept.)**
9. Record an example of a proverb that is not necessarily a literal promise but is instead a general truth. **Proverbs 10:27: “The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.” Proverbs 21:21: “Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.”**

10. Proverbs are loosely organized and should be taken individually. Find and record a series of three or four proverbs that give completely separate and unrelated pieces of advice. \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 28:23–27: “Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue. Whoever robs their father or mother and says, ‘It’s not wrong,’ is partner to one who destroys. The greedy stir up conflict, but those who trust in the LORD will prosper. Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe. Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses.” Any 4–5 verses of Proverbs 29.**

11. Success in the Book of Proverbs never implies our modern idea of material success. Record an example of a proverb that promises a kind of success different from material wealth.

**Proverbs 15:16–17: “Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil. Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.” Proverbs 22:1: “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.”**

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*“Let Love and  
faithfulness never leave you;  
BIND THEM  
around your neck,  
WRITE THEM  
on the tablet of your heart”  
(PROVERBS 3:3).*



Look up the following proverbs, and fill in the blanks to complete the Better-Than statements.

1. Proverbs 12:9: “Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.”
2. Proverbs 15:16: “Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.”
3. Proverbs 15:17: “Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.”
4. Proverbs 16:8: “Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.”
5. Proverbs 16:16: “How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!”
6. Proverbs 16:19: “Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.”
7. Proverbs 16:32: “Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.”
8. Proverbs 17:1: “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.”
9. Proverbs 17:12: “Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool bent on folly.”
10. Proverbs 19:1: “Better the poor whose walk is blameless than a fool whose lips are perverse.”
11. Proverbs 21:9: “Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.”
12. Proverbs 21:19: “Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.”
13. Proverbs 22:1: “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.”
14. Proverbs 25:7: “It is better for him [the king] to say to you, ‘Come up here,’ than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.”

15. Proverbs 27:5: “Better is open **rebuke** than hidden **love**.”
16. Proverbs 27:10: “Do not forsake your friend and the friend of the family, and do not go to your relative’s house when disaster strikes you—better a **neighbor** nearby than a relative **far away**.”
17. Proverbs 28:6: “Better the poor whose walk is **blameless** than the rich whose ways are **perverse**.”

“In all  
your ways  
*submit*  
to him,  
and he will  
make your  
paths straight”

(PROVERBS 3:6).

**What issues does** the Book of Proverbs address? The verses below reflect some of the topics covered. Check them out and record, on the line provided, the subject(s) covered in each group of verses.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Proverbs 9:7, 8, 12; 14:9; 17:5 _____<br/><b>Mocking</b></p>                      | <p>9. Proverbs 11:25; 19:17; 22:9 _____<br/><b>Generosity vs. greed</b></p>   |
| <p>2. Proverbs 11:13; 16:28; 18:8; 26:20 _____<br/><b>Gossip</b></p>                    | <p>10. Proverbs 6:6–11; 10:4–5; 14:23; 21:5–6;<br/>22:16; 23:21; 27:23–27 _____<br/><b>Diligent work vs. laziness</b></p> |
| <p>3. Proverbs 14:6; 15:14; 16:21; 17:24 _____<br/><b>Discernment</b></p>               | <p>11. Proverbs 14:29; 15:18; 16:32 _____<br/><b>Patience</b></p>   |
| <p>4. Proverbs 1:3; 4:27; 10:7; 14:12, 34 _____<br/><b>Choosing right or wrong</b></p>  | <p>12. Proverbs 16:32; 25:28; 29:11 _____<br/><b>Self-control</b></p>   |
| <p>5. Proverbs 11:1; 14:5; 16:13; 23:23 _____<br/><b>Truth vs. dishonesty</b></p>       | <p>13. Proverbs 10:22; 15:27; 22:2; 28:8 _____<br/><b>Money</b></p>   |
| <p>6. Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 15:33; 16:18; 18:12 _____<br/><b>Humility vs. pride</b></p> | <p>14. Proverbs 30:7–8, 11–14; 31:8–9 _____<br/><b>Words and speech</b></p>   |
| <p>7. Proverbs 8:11; 16:16 _____<br/><b>Choosing wisdom over riches</b></p>             | <p>15. Proverbs 17:9, 17; 18:24; 22:24–25; 27:6 _____<br/><b>Friendship</b></p>   |
| <p>8. Proverbs 2:7; 10:9; 11:3; 16:11–13; 28:6 _____<br/><b>Honesty/integrity</b></p>   | <p>16. Proverbs 11:13; 25:13 _____<br/><b>Trustworthiness</b></p>   |

*In all  
your ways*  
submit to  
**HIM,**  
**and he will make your paths straight”**  
(PROVERBS 3:6).





NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## FEAR

As a class, you have just defined two different types of fear. Look at the following passages, and decide whether they are talking about fear as in being scared or about fear as in awe of God. Write a lower case “fear” if the answer is the first type and a capitalized “FEAR” if it is the second type.

- Joshua 2:9 fear
- Psalm 19:9 FEAR
- Psalm 34:9 FEAR
- 1 John 4:18 fear

What does the Book of Proverbs say about “fear” and “FEAR”? (In your answers, use uppercase letters for “FEAR” if appropriate to the context.)

- Proverbs 1:7 FEAR of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.
- Proverbs 3:25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or the ruin that overtakes the wicked.
- Proverbs 9:10 FEAR of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.
- Proverbs 22:4 Humility is the FEAR of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life.

## WISDOM

- What is the danger in failing to follow wisdom? (See Proverbs 1:20–33.) When you need it, it will not be there.
- Summarize the main ideas of Proverbs 2:1–5. If you accept wisdom and use it, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and the the knowledge of God.
- Proverbs 2:9–10 says that you will understand what is right and just because you have wisdom.
- Read Proverbs 2:11–12. What are the benefits of:
  - Discretion: Protection
  - Understanding: Being guarded
  - Wisdom: Being saved from wickedness
- Proverbs 3:21–26 are verses of comfort for those who follow wisdom. How are these verses a comfort to you? Answers will vary but may include that wisdom from God will help keep us from harm.

14. Read the following acts of wisdom. Describe each act in your own words:

- Proverbs 3:27 **Don't stop yourself from doing good when you can do it, especially when someone else deserves it.**
- Proverbs 3:28 **Don't put off being helpful.**
- Proverbs 3:29 **Don't betray someone who trusts you.**
- Proverbs 3:30 **Don't falsely accuse someone who has not harmed you.**
- Proverbs 3:31 **Don't wish to be like those who are violent.**

### WARNINGS AGAINST FOLLY

**Think back to** the definition and examples of folly you have come up with to help you with these next questions.

15. When we are faced with the follies of this world and of our friends, Proverbs 3:5–6 gives us advice on what we should do. Read the verse and fill in the blanks below.

“ **Trust** in the **LORD** with all your **heart** and **lean** not on your own **understanding**; in **all** your ways **submit** to him, and **he** will make your **paths** **straight**.”

16. What does a verse like this mean to you personally? Why? **Answers will vary.**

17. What are some results of following or being lured by folly? Read the following passages, and write the main outcome of folly next to each verse.

- Proverbs 5:11–14 **You will regret it.**
- Proverbs 5:21–23 **You will be led astray and die.**

### CLOSING COMMANDS AND THOUGHTS

18. Read Proverbs 4:7. What does this verse tell us to do about wisdom? **Wisdom is supreme, so get it, no matter what the cost.**

19. After all we've read and discussed, why is wisdom so important? **Answers will vary but may include that wisdom touches all areas of life and determines how we live and treat others.**

20. What does Proverbs 4:23 say about what we should guard? Why do you think this is so important? **We should guard our heart. Our words, thoughts, and actions spring from what is in our heart.**



**Read Proverbs 6:16–19** from the NIV and then compare it in your mind to the wording of *The Message*, below.

### PROVERBS 6:16–19 (NIV)

“There are six things the LORD hates,  
seven that are detestable to him:  
haughty eyes,  
a lying tongue,  
hands that shed innocent blood,  
a heart that devises wicked schemes,  
feet that are quick to rush into evil,  
a false witness who pours out lies  
and a person who stirs up conflict in  
the community.”

### PROVERBS 6:16–19 (THE MESSAGE)

“Here are six things God hates,  
and one more that he loathes with a passion:  
eyes that are arrogant,  
a tongue that lies,  
hands that murder the innocent,  
a heart that hatches evil plots,  
feet that race down a wicked track,  
a mouth that lies under oath,  
a troublemaker in the family.”

**Now that you** have compared the wording of the same passage in different translations, separate the things that are detestable to God and try to define each one a bit more closely. Think about how the words translate into our lives today. God doesn’t change—and neither does our human nature. **Answers may resemble the following.**

1. **Superior attitudes that look down on others; snobbishness** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Lying** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Causing harm to innocent people** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Plotting to do what is wrong** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Eagerness for trouble** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Gossip** \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Stirring up trouble among family members and friends** \_\_\_\_\_

**Working with** a partner, draw the outline of a human body on a large piece of poster board. Then, in the correct location, write in the part of the verse that applies to each body part. Include not only the verse but what it means or should mean to us. Make these posters colorful and creative! (For example, draw an arrow to the eyes, and write “haughty eyes”; then write down in your own words what that means.)



**What does** the Book of Proverbs say about parents and discipline? Answer the following questions for a summary.

### WISDOM FROM PARENTS

1. What benefits are there from listening to “godly” advice from parents and those in authority over you? (Proverbs 3:1–2) **The benefits are long life and prosperity.**
2. What is a godly, caring father’s greatest desire for his child? (Proverbs 4:1–9) **That the child gains wisdom**
3. What benefit is there from achieving this? (Proverbs 4:10–13) **Life will be smoother—the child will not stumble.**
4. Write out the message of Proverbs 6:20–23 in your own words. **Answers will vary but may include: Remember what your parents have taught you. This wisdom will guide you in doing what is right.**
5. Read Ephesians 6:1–4 again. What does it mean to honor your parents? **To respect and obey them**
6. How do you show honor to your parents? Give a specific answer from your own life. **Answers will vary.**
7. Are there times when you know you are disrespectful to your parents? Explain your answer. **Answers will vary.**
8. How do you need to change in terms of your respect for your parents? **Answers will vary.**

### DISCIPLINE

9. Why do our parents discipline us? (Proverbs 3:11–12) Why does God discipline his children? (Hebrews 12:4–11) **Our parents (should) discipline us to show their love for us, to help us to know and do what is right, and to keep us from harm. God disciplines us for similar reasons, but also for our good, so that we may share in his holiness.**

10. What are some of the consequences of not being disciplined?

- Proverbs 5:11–14 **Ruin**
- Proverbs 10:17 **Leading others astray**
- Proverbs 13:18 **Poverty and shame**
- Proverbs 19:18; 23:13 **Death**

11. What good does discipline bring about?

- Proverbs 6:23 **Life**
- Proverbs 13:18 **Honor**
- Proverbs 22:15 **Folly being driven away**
- Proverbs 23:14 **Being saved from death**
- Proverbs 29:15 **Wisdom**
- Proverbs 29:17 **Peace and delight**

## PROVERBS

Fill in the blanks to finish these verses.

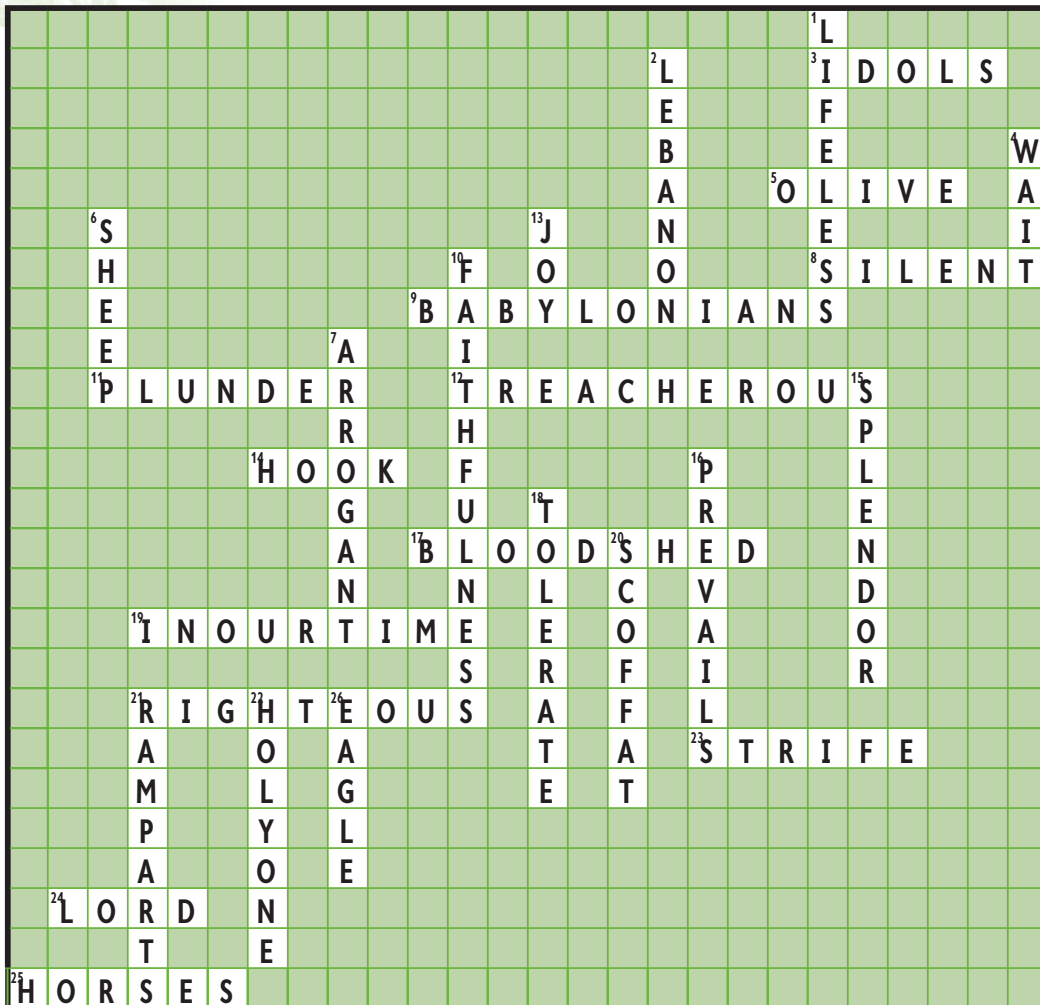
12. Proverbs 1:7: “The **fear** of the **LORD** is the beginning of **knowledge**, but fools despise **wisdom** and instruction.”
13. Proverbs 9:10: “The **fear** of the **LORD** is the beginning of **wisdom**, and **knowledge** of the Holy One is **understanding**.”
14. Proverbs 13:24: “Whoever **s pares** the rod **hates** their children, but the one who **loves** their children is careful to **discipline** them.”
15. Proverbs 23:23: “Buy the **truth** and do not **sell** it— **wisdom**, **instruction** and **insight** as well.”

*Honor*  
the LORD with your WEALTH,  
with the FIRSTFRUITS  
of all your crops”

(PROVERBS 3:9).



The following puzzle will help you explore the Book of Habakkuk. Use your Bible to find answers for the clues.



**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- 3 If you worship these, you don't know and trust God (2:18).
- 5 Because of the coming invasion, this crop would fail (3:17).
- 8 What the Earth should be before God (2:20).
- 9 They are incredibly cruel and ruthless (1:6).
- 11 Others would \_\_\_\_\_ the Babylonians because they did this to other nations (2:8).
- 12 God cannot tolerate this kind of person (1:13).
- 14 The captives hated this piece of metal (1:15).
- 17 Don't build your city on this (2:12).
- 19 When Habakkuk wanted God's help (3:2; three words).
- 21 The Babylonians hemmed in \_\_\_\_\_ people (1:4).
- 23 Like conflict, it was all over the place in Judah (1:3).
- 24 The source of strength for people of faith (3:19).
- 25 Their \_\_\_\_\_ can outrun leopards (1:8).
- 1 Idols are only \_\_\_\_\_ stones (2:19).
- 2 The Babylonians destroyed the animals, lands, and cities of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:17).
- 4 Habakkuk needed to \_\_\_\_\_ patiently for the Lord (3:16).
- 6 The Babylonians emptied these pens (3:17).
- 7 Extremely proud, like the Babylonians (2:5).
- 10 The righteous live by this (2:4).
- 13 Faith in God brings this (3:18).
- 15 God's like a sunrise's \_\_\_\_\_ (3:4).
- 16 Justice never \_\_\_\_\_ for poor people in the courts of Judah (1:4).
- 18 God cannot \_\_\_\_\_ evil (1:13; two words).
- 20 The invaders would do this to rulers (1:10; two words).
- 21 The place where Habakkuk waited for God (2:1).
- 22 A name for God that Isaiah also used (1:12; two words).
- 26 The invaders were like this bird of prey (1:8).



**Unscramble** the following words.

1. cirh \_\_\_\_\_ **rich** \_\_\_\_\_
2. vwies \_\_\_\_\_ **wives** \_\_\_\_\_
3. rbhightirt \_\_\_\_\_ **birthright** \_\_\_\_\_
4. bandl \_\_\_\_\_ **Laban** \_\_\_\_\_
5. inlesbgs \_\_\_\_\_ **blessing** \_\_\_\_\_
6. noss \_\_\_\_\_ **sons** \_\_\_\_\_
7. veedicre \_\_\_\_\_ **deceiver** \_\_\_\_\_
8. nopedicet \_\_\_\_\_ **deception** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place each** unscrambled word in the correct blank below.

1. Jacob was a **deceiver**.
2. He got what he wanted through **deception**.
3. He received the **blessing** and the **birthright** by tricking his father and brother.
4. He had many **sons** and two **wives**, one of whom he loved very much.
5. He was **rich** after working with his uncle **Laban**.

“If my people,  
**who are called by my name,**  
 will humble themselves and pray  
**AND SEEK MY FACE**  
 and turn from their wicked ways,  
**then will I HEAR from heaven,**  
**and I will FORGIVE their sin and will HEAL their land”**

(2 CHRONICLES 7:14).



**The Book of Isaiah** can be divided into two themes: judgment (chapters 1–39) and hope (chapters 40–66). Using your Bible, find examples of each. Jot down words and phrases found in the verses that reflect judgment and hope.

Judgment	Hope
<p><b>Examples will vary. Possibilities:</b></p> <p>1:4—“Woe to the sinful nation . . .”</p> <p>3:5—“People will oppress each other . . .”</p> <p>6:5—“Woe to me! . . . I am ruined!”</p> <p>10:3—“To whom will you run for help?”</p> <p>10:6—“. . . trample them down like mud in the streets.”</p> <p>21:10—“To my people, who are crushed on the threshing floor . . .”</p> <p>24:8—“. . . the joyful harp is silent.”</p> <p>34:2—“The LORD is angry with all nations.”</p>	<p><b>Examples will vary. Possibilities:</b></p> <p>40:1—“Comfort, comfort my people . . .”</p> <p>41:10—“So do not fear, for I am with you. . .”</p> <p>49:8—“In the time of my favor I will answer you.”</p> <p>52:8—“Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.”</p> <p>55:1—“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters . . .”</p> <p>55:12—“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace.”</p> <p>57:16—“I will not accuse them forever . . .”</p> <p>59:1—“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save.”</p>



“I will BUILD you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be REBUILT.”

## Questions FOR Reflection

1. Why do you think the message of judgment is just as important as the message of hope?

**Answers will vary.**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Can you see any parallels between what Isaiah was pointing out to the Israelites of his time and our lives today? Explain. **Answers will vary.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How do you view the world differently, now that you know Isaiah’s messages of judgment and hope? **Answers will vary.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Again you will take up your  
timbrels  
and go out to  
dance with the joyful”  
(JEREMIAH 31:4).



1. Epistle: **A formal, written letter or correspondence**
2. Epistles written by Paul: **Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon**
3. Other epistles: **Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude**
4. Following are several verses found in the epistles. Read through them, and record how you would explain them to someone who was hearing them for the first time.
  - a. Romans 12:1 **(Answers will vary but may include the following.)**  
**The way we use our bodies should show that we are God's children.**
  - b. 2 Corinthians 3:18 **As Christians, we should reflect the character of God and become more and more like him.**
  - c. 2 Corinthians 4:18 **We should focus upon spiritual things, not upon earthly things that are temporary.**
  - d. Ephesians 6:7 **Do everything as though you are doing it for God—do your best.**
  - e. 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17 **God can give us strength to do what is right.**
  - f. James 1:19 **Listen to others, think before you speak, and keep your anger in check.**
  - g. James 5:16 **Be open with each other about your sins so that you can pray for each other.**
  - h. 1 John 3:1 **It is the highest honor and reflection of God's love for us to be called God's children.**

**“LET PERSEVERANCE finish its work  
so that you may be *mature* and COMPLETE,  
not lacking anything”**

(JAMES 1:4).