

# **THEMES OF PROVERBS FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

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When we read through Proverbs, obvious main themes emerge. Therefore, make these main themes issues you regularly visit for your own life and growth:

### 1. The Lord!

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;

Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 3:26 For the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

Proverbs 3:32 For the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence.

Proverbs 3:33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.

Proverbs 5:21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.

Proverbs 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Proverbs 10:3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

Proverbs 10:29 The way of the LORD is a refuge for the righteous, but it is the ruin of those who do evil.

Proverbs 11:1 The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

Proverbs 11:20 The LORD detests men of perverse heart but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

Proverbs 12:2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but the LORD condemns a crafty man.

Proverbs 12:22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Proverbs 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

Proverbs 15:11 Death and Destruction lie open before the LORD-- how much more the hearts of men!

Proverbs 15:25 The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

Proverbs 15:26 The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked, but those of the pure are pleasing to him.

Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 16:1 To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue.

Proverbs 16:2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD works out everything for his own ends-- even the wicked for a day of disaster.

Proverbs 16:5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

Proverbs 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 17:3 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

Proverbs 19:3 A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD.

Proverbs 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 20:12 Ears that hear and eyes that see-- the LORD has made them both.

Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

Proverbs 20:23 The LORD detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.

Proverbs 20:24 A man's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand his own way?

Proverbs 20:27 The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

Proverbs 21:2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.

Proverbs 21:3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

Proverbs 21:31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.

Proverbs 22:2 Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

Proverbs 22:12 The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful.

Proverbs 22:19 So that your trust may be in the LORD, I teach you today, even you.

Proverbs 28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.

Proverbs 28:25 A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

Proverbs 29:13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives sight to the eyes of both.

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Proverbs 29:26 Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that man gets justice.

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

## **2. The fear of the Lord**

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 1:29 Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD,...they will eat the fruit of their ways, and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

Proverbs 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.

Proverbs 14:2 He whose walk is upright fears the LORD, but he whose ways are devious despises him.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

Proverbs 14:26-27 He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

Proverbs 15:16 Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 16:6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.

Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Proverbs 22:4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

Proverbs 23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.

Proverbs 24:21 Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious,

Proverbs 28:14 Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

### **3. Wisdom, knowledge, understanding and sound judgment**

Proverbs 1:2 For attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;

Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares;

Proverbs 2:1-2 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

Proverbs 2:12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,

Proverbs 3:13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding,

Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them.

Proverbs 4:6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Proverbs 4:11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.

Proverbs 5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight,

Proverbs 8:11 For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Proverbs 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.

Proverbs 9:12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."

Proverbs 10:13 Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment.

Proverbs 10:23 A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 12:8 A man is praised according to his wisdom, but men with warped minds are despised.

Proverbs 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 14:6 The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning.

Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.

Proverbs 14:33 Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!

Proverbs 17:16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

Proverbs 17:24 A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

Proverbs 19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers.

Proverbs 19:11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 21:11 When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom; when a wise man is instructed, he gets knowledge.

Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.

Proverbs 23:4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.

Proverbs 23:9 Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Proverbs 24:14 Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

Proverbs 29:3 A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Proverbs 31:26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

#### **4. Teachability. Receiving correction, admonishment, rebuke, counsel**

Proverbs 1:23 If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.

Proverbs 1:25 Since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke,

Proverbs 1:30 Since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,

Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,

Proverbs 9:8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

Proverbs 10:17 He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 13:18 He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

Proverbs 15:10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die.

Proverbs 15:12 A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise.

Proverbs 15:31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

Proverbs 15:32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

Proverbs 17:10 A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.

Proverbs 19:25 Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.

Proverbs 25:12 Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

Proverbs 27:5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Proverbs 30:6 Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

## **5. Humility and pride contrasted**

Proverbs 3:34 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

Proverbs 6:3 then do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor!

Proverbs 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 15:25 The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

Proverbs 16:5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

Proverbs 17:6 Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Proverbs 18:12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!

Proverbs 21:24 The proud and arrogant man-- "Mocker" is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.

Proverbs 22:4 Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

## **6. The wise and the discerning contrasted with the mocker and the fool**

Proverbs 1:5 Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance--

Proverbs 1:6 For understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

Proverbs 3:35 The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.

Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!

Proverbs 8:33 Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.

Proverbs 9:7 "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.

Proverbs 9:8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

Proverbs 9:9 Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

Proverbs 9:12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.

Proverbs 10:5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

Proverbs 10:14 Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.

Proverbs 10:19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Proverbs 11:29 He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

Proverbs 14:3 A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.

Proverbs 14:6 The mocker seeks wisdom and finds none, but knowledge comes easily to the discerning.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

Proverbs 15:12 A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise.

Proverbs 15:20 A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

Proverbs 15:24 The path of life leads upward for the wise to keep him from going down to the grave.

Proverbs 15:31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

Proverbs 16:23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

Proverbs 17:2 A wise servant will rule over a disgraceful son, and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

Proverbs 19:25 Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.

Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

Proverbs 21:11 When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom; when a wise man is instructed, he gets knowledge.

Proverbs 21:20 In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.

Proverbs 21:24 The proud and arrogant man-- "Mocker" is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.

Proverbs 22:10 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

Proverbs 22:17 Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach,

Proverbs 23:15 My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad;

Proverbs 23:19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.

Proverbs 23:24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

Proverbs 24:9 The schemes of folly are sin, and men detest a mocker.

Proverbs 24:5 A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength;

Proverbs 24:23 These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good:

Proverbs 25:12 Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

Proverbs 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.

Proverbs 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Proverbs 27:11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.

Proverbs 28:11 A rich man may be wise in his own eyes, but a poor man who has discernment sees through him.

Proverbs 29:8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

## **7. Miscellaneous aspects of character**

Moral purity

Money

Honesty, integrity vs. dishonesty

Servanthood vs. selfishness

Diligence vs. laziness and sluggard ness

Sowing and reaping

Speech, gossip, quarreling

Honor of parents

Excesses: Gluttony, alcohol, materialism, power

Etc.

## **This is what we are to admire. This is what we are to pursue**

1. Living each day in light of God's presence
2. The cultivation of an appropriate fear of the Lord
3. Wisdom and sound judgment
4. Teachability and hunger for instruction
5. Humility as opposed to pride
6. Being wise and discerning as opposed to being a mocker and fool
7. Application of God's wisdom in practical aspects of our daily lives and character