

## Dig Deeper into Proverbs 1-4 for personal study and Life Groups...

### Proverbs 1 “My son”

1) God’s Wisdom... (1:8-9)  
often comes from parents



2) God’s Wisdom... (1:10-19)  
brings protection from harm

Christ the power of God and  
the wisdom of God 1 Cor 1:24



Today’s dig deeper digs a little more deeply into Proverbs chapters 1 to 4 which (along with ch5-9, the rest of the introduction to the Proverbs) contain a lot of parental wisdom, and helps us with how to read the actual Proverbs (ch10-29) when we get to them. If you’d like a bit more of a map of how Proverbs fits together turn over the page!

1) As you approach this study, you might like to think about an area of life where you need real wisdom right now. It could be in the home, with a particular relationship, at work, or in some joy, temptation or difficulty you are facing right now. Why not start by silently lifting this area to God and praying for wisdom before we dig in. Expect him to speak to your heart as we read.

2) You might like to pick one of the “my son” sections eg...

- 2:1-11
- 3:1-10
- 4:1-9

How does this introductory material in book affect your reading of the Proverbs (we will come onto the more pithy one and two liners in chapters 10-19). And how does it affect your prayers? Think particularly about the “benefits” of wisdom.

3) In chapters 1-9 of Proverbs, the phrase “my son” or “my sons” comes up around 18 times. Whether you are a parent or not, what are the implications of this family framework for you?

4) How do these Proverbs lead you to Jesus (bear in mind Col 2:3 and 1 Cor 1:24)?

### Resources...

- <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/may-web-only/rejoice-tremble-michael-reeves-fear-lord.html>  
I mentioned a couple of videos and books from Mike Reeves in last week’s resources. This article is a short book review of one of his books, and it gives a helpful summary of how there are two kinds of fear of God, one sinful and one wise, and therefore explains how the Bible can both say “Fear the Lord” and “Don’t be afraid!”.
- <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/proverbs/> This 8 minute video by the Bible Project gives a lovely overview of the book. This helps with how we divide it up (it’s very similar to mine overleaf). It also brings in some helpful reminders about how the proverbs aren’t absolute promises, but general principles (they call them probabilities) and they remind us that we need to read them alongside the exceptions found in the (sometimes more pessimistic) other wisdom literature of Ecclesiastes and Job.
- **Just a heads up!** The next sermon and dig deeper focus on the adulterous woman of chapter 5. At CCH we try not to skip parts of Scripture because they are difficult or uncomfortable. Nevertheless, please don’t be put off, it’s part of God’s loving and protective word to us, and as with all parts of Scripture leads us to Jesus, who always brings grace, forgiveness, help and life to the full!



**Charlie's Map of Proverbs... feel free to suggest improvements...**

<b>Proverbs 1-9</b>  <b>How wisdom?</b>  Addressed to the "inexperienced prince"	Passage	Summary	threats
	1:1-9	Prologue- Fear of the Lord	
	1:10-19	"My son" 1	♂ ♂
	1:20-33	Lady Wisdom 1	
	2:1-22	"My son" 2	♂ ♀
	3:1-10	"My son" 3	
	3:11-12	"My son" 4	
	3:13-20	Lady Wisdom 2	
	3:21-35	"My son" 5	
	4:1-9	"My sons" 6	
	4:10-19	"My son" 7	
	4:20-27	"My son" 8	
	5:1-12	"My son" 9	♀
	6:1-19	"My son" 10	
	6:20-35	"My son" 11	♀
	7:1-27	"My son" 12	♀
	8:1-9:12	Wisdom calls	
	9:13-18	Folly calls	♀
<b>Proverbs 10-29</b> <b>What wisdom?</b> Expertise in ruling wisely	10:1-22:16	Proverbs of Solomon 1	
	22:17-24:22	Words of the Wise 1 (x30)	
	24:23-34	Words of the Wise 2	
	25:1-29:27	Proverbs of Solomon 2	
<b>Proverbs 30-31</b> <b>Why wisdom?</b> Addressed to the "wise king"	30:1-33	Oracle of Agur	
	31:1-9	Oracle of Lemuel	
	31:10-31	Epilogue- The woman who fears the Lord	

Proverbs, though full of what feels like a massive mix of random things, does have a structure... The outer parts (ch1-9 and 30-31) helps us read the central contents (10-29).

**Chapters 1-9** form the introduction to wisdom. These chapters tell Solomon's son why he needs wisdom and how he can get it. It makes us thirst for wisdom which comes from a deep recognition that God is God and he has the right to call the shots. The major threat for him seems to be the "foreign" wife (wisdom which was sadly Solomon's downfall).

**Chapters 10-29** are the actual proverbs themselves- pithy phrases and sayings from Solomon and other sages. These concentrated sayings (probably from a range of original sources) take some thinking through. Some of the language seems to originate from the royal court, which has led some scholars to see this as a training manual for kings. This again would point to the Messiah and the wisdom he brings to his people. Jesus alone wonderfully lives this wisdom.

**Chapters 30-31** form the conclusion of the book and also point us forward ("oracle"). They illustrate the principles that have been seen in the book, particularly in the idealised godly woman of Prov 31. Jesus alone was the perfectly wise King and Israel would have to look ahead to him for both the forgiveness for our folly, and the wisdom to follow in his footsteps, as we by his Spirit delight in the fear of God (Isaiah 11:3). Praise God for Jesus, our true wisdom!