



Devotional

April 12 - June 27

Let us choose Wesley's rule as our prayer:

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can
to all the people you can, as long as you ever can. Amen*

WEEK TEN (JUNE 14–20)

Day 166: June 14, 2020

Full Plan: Proverbs 16:1–33

Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 15:15–32

Pride, arrogance, haughtiness, and a boastful spirit are denounced throughout Proverbs. It's the opposite of a wise life, an abomination to God (16:15) and a precursor to destruction (16:18). Do a self-check today. How are you thinking too highly of yourself?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 167: June 15, 2020

Full Plan: Proverbs 17:1–18:24

Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 17:1–11

Proverbs 17-18 has so many choice nuggets of wisdom: Forgiveness (17:9), Cheerfulness (17:22), Friendship (18:24). None to pay particular attention to is about empathy: “A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing personal opinion.” (18:2) How can you better cultivate empathy in your relationships with others, particularly with those with whom you disagree?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 168: June 16, 2020

Full Plan: Proverbs 19:1–20:30

Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 22:1–16

Proverbs 19-20 remind us of two key aspects of the good life: integrity and loyalty. Integrity is what you do when no one else is watching. (19:1, 20:7). Loyalty is what you do when everyone else depends on you (19:22, 20:6). How will you strengthen both qualities today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 169: June 17, 2020

Full Plan: Proverbs 21:1–22:29

Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 22:17–29

Proverbs 22:1-4 offers the antidote to greed. “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches ... the reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.” Being honorable and humble, that is greater than riches and rewards.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 170: June 18, 2020

Full Plan: Proverbs 23:1–35

Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 30:1–14

Proverbs 23 is a warning against two prominent temptations: 1) the allure of riches, (1-5) and 2) the allure of gluttony and drunkenness (29-35). Staying content, clean and sober is a key to the wise life. How strong are those temptations in your life, and what will you do about it?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 171: June 19, 2020

Full Plan: Proverbs 24:1–34

Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 30:15–33

Proverbs 24 reminds us of the power of speech. We should be unafraid to speak hard truths to people who need to hear it (23-26) and refrain from speaking falsehoods about people, even if we feel they deserve it (28-29). How will you harness your speech for good, rather than for ill?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 172: June 20, 2020

Full Plan: Proverbs 25:1–26:28

Abbreviated Plan: Proverbs 31:1–9

Proverbs 26 denounces laziness (vs. 13-16) and stirring up strife (vs. 17-28), suggesting the two are related. It's a reminder that empathy, peacemaking, speaking truth lovingly and handling conflict in a healthy way are hard work. Anything less is laziness.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

June 14–20, 2020: Weekly Devotional by Mamie Wise

Proverbs 17:28 “Even fools who keep silent are considered wise; when they close their lips, they are deemed intelligent.”

When I was very young, one of my favorite activities was cooking with my grandmother in her kitchen. Just to the right of her kitchen sink was a small wrought-iron plaque with a quote attributed to Abraham Lincoln: “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and to remove all doubt.”

As it turns out, this wisdom comes from Proverbs 17:28. My grandmother passed away when I was 12, but I think back about how she spoke so powerfully against injustice and in defiance of barriers. She spoke against men who didn’t want to treat her as an equal and encouraged those in the community who were often overlooked.

As an adult, her kitchen quote has stuck with me. For such an outspoken lady, what must she have been thinking about but did not say? If she had not been guided by this Proverbial wisdom, how might I have looked back at what she said differently – would I have remembered words said in frustration, or anger, or sheer lack of understanding rather than the words I do remember?

God understands our words, how what we speak has an influence on others in the moment and for generations to come. They can build or challenge our relationships, with others and with God.

Prayer: God, guide me in times when it is wisest to speak and when it is wisest to keep silent.