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## Daily Wisdom for Women

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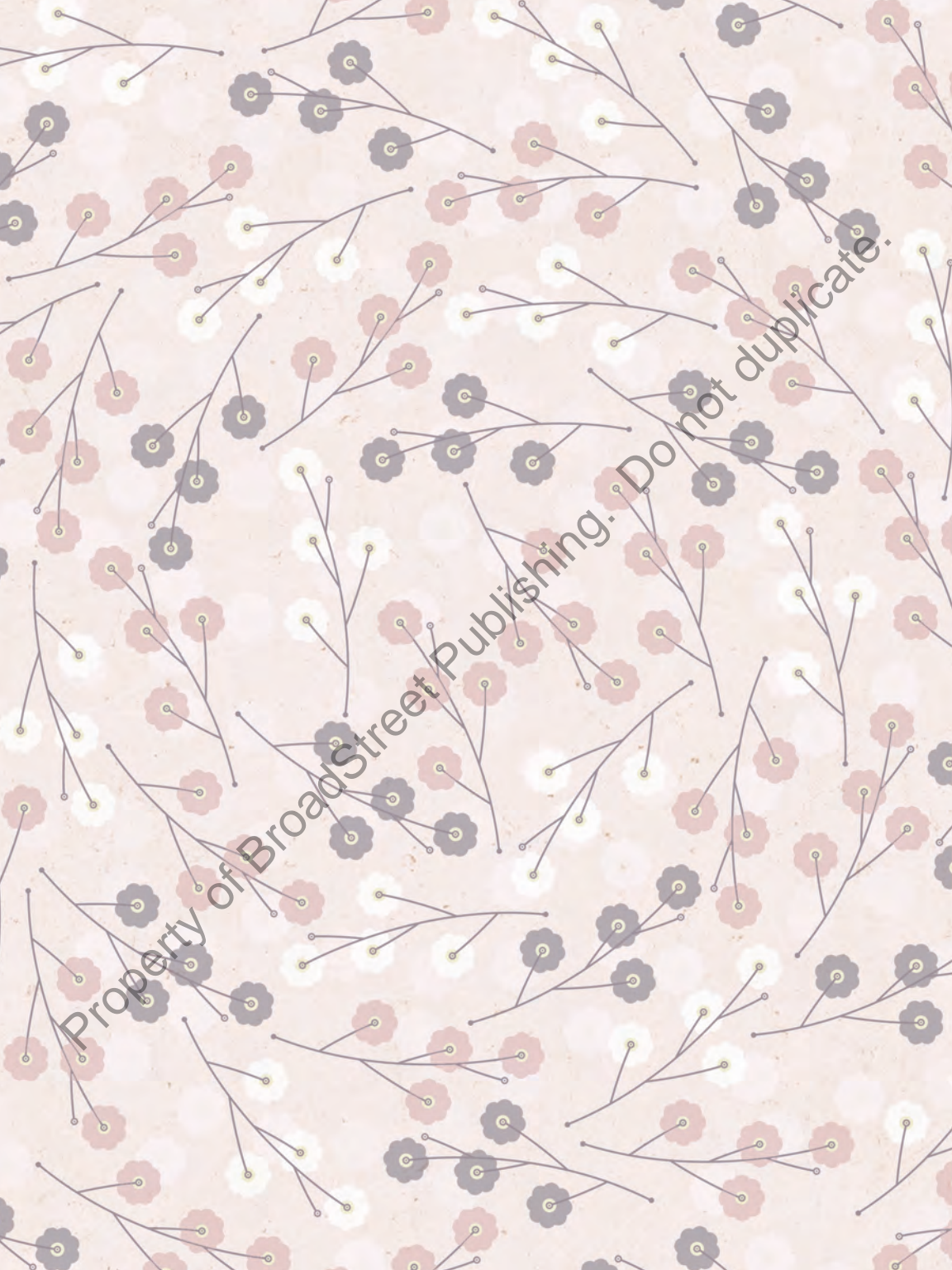
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Wisdom is far more valuable than rubies.  
Nothing you desire can compare with it.

PROVERBS 8:11 NLT

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## Introduction

Jesus is wisdom personified; he is always ready with revelation to expand our understanding. The fountain of his life pours into our hearts every time we search after him. His wisdom is full of loving leadership, calm confidence, and honest conviction. There truly is no better thing to pursue in this life.

The Bible is full of practical advice with physical and spiritual benefits. As you meditate on these proverbs, devotional entries, and prayers, lean into the knowledge revealed in God's living Word. Find treasures of wisdom as you turn your attention to Jesus and listen for his voice in the stillness. You can build a hopeful future on the foundation of his love with wisdom as your guide.



# January

The fear of the LORD  
is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom  
and discipline.

PROVERBS 1:7 CSB

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## Wise King Solomon

These are the proverbs of Solomon,  
David's son, king of Israel.

PROVERBS 1:1 NLT

**A**s we begin our journey through Proverbs, it is wise to consider the position of Solomon, the author of most of the book. Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba. He was the third king of the united kingdoms of Israel and Judah. He ruled for forty years in the late 900s BC and was well-known for his wisdom. This wisdom was a direct gift from God after Solomon prayed for guidance as a new and insecure ruler. Solomon's wisdom was known throughout the world, and he was "richer and wiser than any other king on earth" (1 Kings 10:23).

Since God did not allow David to build the temple because he was a warrior (1 Chronicles 28:3), David prepared the workers and materials for his son to carry out the vision. Although not his only venture, the temple was the grand opus of Solomon's life. Wisdom guided him in his focus and in his building. What a beautiful and accessible gift we have in the God-given wisdom of his proverbs.

*Lord, move through Solomon's proverbs as I read them, so I may gain wisdom to live my best life.*

## Wise Words

They teach wisdom and self-control;  
they will help you understand wise words.

PROVERBS 1:2 NCV

Solomon addresses the need for understanding right from the beginning of Proverbs so we can recognize the impact of wisdom in our lives. There is little point in reading anything without understanding it. God's Word is a seed that is planted in our hearts; as it grows, it nurtures us into mature believers. This work can't happen without fertile ground in our hearts and minds. As we remain openhearted and willing to change, God can move us in understanding. His wisdom teaches us when to reach out and when to restrain ourselves.

A heart open to the Word of God is teachable. A humble and teachable heart leads to wisdom and self-control. The Holy Spirit moves in us, helping us comprehend his Word as we read and learn under the teaching of wise King Solomon.

*Dear Father, ready the soil of my heart and teach me your ways as I learn from Proverbs. Give me understanding to know what your wisdom looks like.*

## Purpose of Proverbs

Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair.

PROVERBS 1:3 NLT

Today's verse is clear that if you want true insight and understanding, the Word of God is where to find it. Proverbs in particular addresses what wisdom looks like in practical life. It is not always easy to follow the path of wisdom. It will challenge you to think and act differently than you might at this moment. Its purpose is to lead you toward integrity, where you have nothing to hide from others or from the Lord.

We often struggle with selfishness as humans. It can be hard to get out of our comfort zones and reject excess. These things can sidetrack us from the life God intends for us. Learning to be wise will help us be both disciplined and successful. As we allow God to teach us hard lessons that go against our natural tendencies, we will learn to do what is right, fair, and just. True success comes from living with integrity.

*Dear Lord, open my eyes to see where I am not living in accordance with your wisdom. Let me not just accept your discipline but appreciate it for the blessing it is.*

## Impact of Proverbs

To give prudence to the simple,  
To the young man knowledge and discretion.

PROVERBS 1:4 NKJV

*P*rudence is when a person shows level-headedness and discernment in managing their affairs. They are able to discipline themselves and weigh the best options when faced with a dilemma. They have skill and good judgment when using personal resources. They show discretion and caution in the face of danger or risk. They do not reject reasoning but use it to see a bigger picture than what they may be able to sense through their initial reactions.

In our verse today, God says that prudence is a gift given to even the simplest and youngest of people. Those who seek find. No matter how we have operated in the past, God makes wisdom available to us. The gift of wisdom offers us tools to help us through every twist and turn that life brings.

*Father, I humble my heart before you today. I long to live by your wisdom and to grow in the depth of your understanding. Increase my capacity to walk in your ways.*

## Lifelong Learning

Wise people can also listen and learn;  
even they can find good advice in these words.

PROVERBS 1:5 NCV

The power of wisdom does not begin and end with us. God uses it to better prepare us to help others. It can be applied to every relationship we have. The purpose of God's wisdom is communal. Its power is amplified in our families and communities. The Bible is full of wisdom that is accessible and understandable to everyone. No matter how much wisdom we already have, we can still glean more wisdom from the pages of Scripture. There is always more to learn and discover in the glorious kingdom of our God and King.

Let's strive to always grow in wisdom and understanding because we are never too wise to learn more about God and his ways. In the Bible, how often do we see examples of God using seemingly simple people, like children or fishermen, to be recipients of his wisdom and change the world? Pride keeps us from true wisdom, but a humble heart willingly receives it. Humility is required to grow in wisdom.

*Dear God, I want to know more of your wisdom even today. Teach me, Lord. Open my ears to hear and my heart to understand.*

## Wise Riddles

Anyone can understand wise words and stories,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

PROVERBS 1:6 NCV

Solomon wrote these words to his children to assure them that no kingship, scholarly education, or good upbringing is needed to understand the Word of the Lord. The Lord does not speak in riddles to confuse us but to separate those who desire to learn from those who aren't willing to put in the effort to understand. No matter our situation, we have access to God's wisdom and the ability to become wise. What a gracious invitation this is today!

Like Solomon, when we receive wisdom, we should be willing to pass it along. He wanted his children to grow in love and understanding of God, so he encouraged them to receive his wisdom and learn from his life. Let's openly share ourselves the same way and pass our wisdom on to others.

*Father, as I learn and grow in wisdom, help me to be purposeful in passing that wisdom along to others. Thank you for explaining your mysteries to me when I choose to humbly listen and learn from your Spirit.*

## Fear of the Lord

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,  
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

PROVERBS 1:7 NKJV

**W**hat does it mean to fear the Lord? Our loving Father doesn't want us hiding from him, guilt-ridden and ashamed, like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He wants us to have a healthy reverence that leads to lives of obedience and worship. He is King of the universe and fully worthy of our respect and honor.

Sin is direct disobedience against the Creator who loves and sustains our souls, and it carries consequences. God is merciful and wants to liberate us from our sin. Through Christ, he does! A willing and repentant heart knows the power of holy fear. It draws near to the Lord and depends on him. Fearing the Lord is an appropriate response to understanding how great he is. When we insist on our ways over God's, it is neither wise nor beneficial. God knows and wants what is best for us, and his wisdom is always best.

*Lord, I want to worship you with my life and every choice I make. You are my King, and the healthy fear I have for you reminds me that your wise ways are better than foolishly hasty decisions.*