



How to Study Proverbs

Pray: Start your study with prayer to ask God for help and to illuminate your mind.

Select a passage: Choose a passage of Scripture to study.

Do background research: Learn more about the book of Proverbs.

Read multiple times; Read the selected text several times.

Consider the literary form: Proverbs are often written in couplets, with the second line advancing the thought of the first.

Recognize the parallelism: Hebrew poetry, like the book of Proverbs, uses parallelism of ideas instead of rhyme or meter. There are three types of parallelism: synonymous, antithetic, and contrast.

Consider the meaning: Interpret “wisdom” as meaning “righteousness” or “holiness”. Interpret “fool” or “folly” as synonymous with the wicked.

Consider the purpose: Proverbs are instructions from the Lord, not just secular sayings. They are poetic guidelines for godly living, not guarantees from God.

Consider the practicality: Proverbs are practical by nature, and give good advice for living.

Consider the themes: Proverbs cover many themes, including the fear of God, the wisdom of wisdom, and the centrality of the heart.

Memorize some: you may want to memorize some proverbs that you find helpful.

Read daily: Some people find it helpful to read a chapter of Proverbs each day. Let the key verses guide your interpretation.

Read a chapter a day.