

# Women of Grace

## Lesson 12 | Proverbs 3:1-35

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*Bruce Waltke helpfully identifies 4 ways in which readers may resolve the tension between Proverbs' promises for blessings on the righteous with the reality that the righteous often suffer. First, these promises are partially validated by experience. Health and wealth usually do come to the sober and diligent above the drunkard and sluggard. Second, the nature of Proverbs calls for its audience to know and not overlook the counter-proverbs that qualify these promises and give the full picture. Third, the genre effect of being a primer on morality for youth causes Proverbs to focus on a future when the righteous rise, not on a present when they fall. Lastly, Proverbs presents the ultimate hope for the righteous as a blessed future that outlasts death. For justice to be done, the innocent and righteous must be vindicated and delivered from death in a future that lies beyond their clinical deaths.*

— Adapted from Bruce Waltke, *The Book of Proverbs*, chs. 1-15, pp. 107-109

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*Memorization Verse*  
**James 1:15**

Then when lust has conceived,  
it gives birth to sin;  
and when sin is accomplished,  
it brings forth death.

*Outline*  
**Proverbs 3**

I. Do Not Forget (3:1–4)  
II. Trust, Fear and Honor the Lord and Embrace Discipline (3:5–10)  
III. Value Wisdom (3:11–26)  
IV. Live Out Your Faith (3:27–35)

### DAY 1 | Preserving the Father's Commands

Read Proverbs 3:1-4

1. In Proverbs 3:1–2, what commands are given, and what rewards are promised for following those commands?

- a. In your own life, how have you experienced this truth when you obeyed God's instruction?
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2. In verse 3, what command is given and how does the imagery Solomon uses emphasize its importance?
    - a. What is one practical way you can show kindness and truth (or faithfulness; ESV) this week to a coworker, friend, or neighbor?
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3. According to verse 4, what is the reward for keeping the command in verse 3? How can this motivate you towards greater obedience?

## DAY 2 | Trusting in the Lord

Read Proverbs 3:5-8

1. In verse 5, what command is given? In your own words, what does it mean to "trust in the Lord?"
  - a. What is the connection between trusting in the Lord and not leaning on your own understanding?

2. In verse 6, what command is given? In your own words again, what does it mean to “acknowledge” the Lord in all your ways?
  
3. According to verses 5–6, what blessing comes from trusting and obeying God? Do you think that means a believer will never experience challenges or trials? Use Scripture to explain your answer.
  
4. Proverbs teaches that every area of a believer’s life should be shaped by one’s relationship with the Lord and commitment to His commands. In what areas of your life are you tempted to compartmentalize your faith? What do you need to do to change in order to follow God more closely?
  
5. In verse 7, how does the fear of the Lord connect to being wise in your own eyes and turning away from evil?
  - a. How do you recognize when you have a prideful attitude regarding your own supposed wisdom? How can you change?
  
6. From verse 8, what are the results of fearing the Lord?

7. From your study of verses 1–8, share with your group one concept that stands out to you and causes you to praise God.

## DAY 3 | Accepting Discipline from God

Read Proverbs 3:9-12

1. Though the topic of wealth will be covered more thoroughly in future lessons, what do verses 9–10 teach about the blessings and responsibilities of material abundance as a reflection of one’s trust in the Lord?
  - a. What does it practically look like to reject God’s discipline?
  - b. How can you cultivate a heart that accepts and submits to God’s discipline?
2. According to verses 11–12, how are believers to regard the discipline of the Lord?
  - a. What does it practically look like to reject God’s discipline?
  - b. How can you cultivate a heart that accepts and submits to God’s discipline?
3. How do Deuteronomy 8:1–6 and Hebrews 12:4–11 deepen your understanding of God’s discipline and its purpose?

- a. What forms do you think God's discipline may take?
  
  - b. How does discipline relate to wisdom?
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4. How would you explain the difference between God's discipline/punishment unto the believer's correction versus God's punishment unto judgment? Use Scripture to support your answer.
  
  5. If you are a believer, how does the knowledge that you are no longer under God's wrath but under His loving hand of discipline encourage you as you seek to follow Christ?

## DAY 4 | Treasuring Wisdom

Read Proverbs 3:13-18

1. According to verse 13, what is the state of the one who finds wisdom?
  - a. Use a dictionary to define "blessed." From the context of chapter 3 and your knowledge of the Book of Proverbs, does the usage in this verse mean that the wise will always experience earthly prosperity?

2. How is wisdom described in verses 14–17?
  - a. What do you think Solomon was emphasizing through this description of wisdom? (See also Proverbs 8:10–11.)
  
3. Verse 18 is the culmination of these verses with the description of wisdom as a tree of life. To what does this allude, and what does it mean? Use Scripture to support your answer.
  
4. How can you use these verses to encourage those around you to strive after wisdom?

## DAY 5 | Living Securely

Read Proverbs 3:19-35

1. According to verses 19–20, how did the Lord use wisdom, and how does this truth affect the way you view wisdom?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. After the exhortation to guard wisdom in verse 21, what benefits of doing that are listed in verses 22–26?

