

Women of Grace

Lesson 13 | Proverbs 4:1-27

The father and mother, not the professional teacher or the pastor or government official, has the most profound responsibility and opportunity to lead a young (person) in the right way. Only a parent can implore the young man or woman to do what is right with the depth of love and concern displayed here. This text more than any other brings out the urgency of parental love. In addition, this passage illustrates how wisdom is an inheritance that may be passed from generation to generation. It can preserve a whole family line through the passing of years. It is, however, an inheritance that each generation must choose to receive. If the chain is broken and the way of wisdom is rejected, the results will be disastrous for the family.

— Duane A. Garrett, *The New American Commentary: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon (Vol. 14)*, p. 86

Memorization Verse
James 1:16

**Do not be deceived,
my beloved brethren.**

Outline
Proverbs 4

I. Acquire and Prize Wisdom: Remember Your Heritage (4:1–9)
II. Choose Wisely: Stay on the Right Path (4:10–19)
III. Guard Your Heart: Everything You Do Flows from It (4:20–27)

DAY 1 | The Godly Family Heritage, Part One

Read Proverbs 4:1-27, focusing on verses 1-9

1. From last week's lesson or lecture, what truth in Proverbs 3 about God's love seen through His blessings and His discipline particularly encouraged or convicted you, and why?

2. In Proverbs 4:1–2, what is Solomon eager for his sons to do?

3. In verses 3–5, Solomon links three generations as he instructs his sons with the same exhortation that his own father once taught him. What seems to be the most emphasized instruction?
 - a. From verses 3–9, why do you think the father begins his instruction by recalling his obedience to his own father? Why might this insight have been valuable to his sons?

 - b. How do these verses about three generations of faithfulness encourage you as you seek to start a godly heritage, or build on what already exists, in your own family?

4. Though the home is the primary place of moral education, how might others, including extended family, Sunday School teachers, older people at church, babysitters, etc., model and teach biblical truth to young people?

DAY 2 | The Godly Family Heritage, Part 2

Read Proverbs 4:1-11

1. From the Proverbs studied thus far, who has the primary responsibility to impart wisdom and why? See Proverbs 1:8–9, 2:1–5, 3:1–2, 4:1–5, 11, and 20, and 8:32.

2. According to verse 11, what two ways has the father imparted wisdom to his sons?
 - a. What are some practical ways a parent might instruct his or her children in the admonition of the Lord?

 - b. What are some practical ways you can model to your own children or those you influence what it means to walk in “upright paths?”

 - c. Does your instruction rely more heavily on wisdom from above or worldly wisdom? How can you tell the difference? Use Scripture to support your answer.

3. Thinking beyond your own family, identify at least one practical way that you can help support the families the Lord has placed around you as they also seek to raise godly children.

DAY 3 | Legacies of Instruction

Read Selected Scriptures.

NOTE: This day will look at elements of a godly heritage through three examples in Scripture that reinforce Solomon’s principles in Proverbs.

1. From Deuteronomy 4:1–9, what is taught about the following areas:
 - a. The connection between God’s Law and wisdom

- b. The role of remembrance

 - c. The transfer of knowledge
2. In the book of Joshua, God gave Joshua and the people of Israel specific instructions about how to remember His works and pass that knowledge on to their children. According to Joshua 4:1–7, what were the men of Israel to do when they crossed the Jordan River, and why were they to do it?
- a. How do you purposely and intentionally point younger generations to what the Lord has done? What one practical thing can you do to initiate conversations with them about the greatness of the Lord?
3. In the New Testament, Timothy’s family is an encouraging example of a godly legacy. From 2 Timothy 1:1–7, what do we learn about Timothy’s heritage?
- a. Considering your own life, who was the first person to share the gospel with you, and who has God placed in your life now as a discipler or teacher? Encourage your group by sharing who God has used to point you to Himself and influenced you to greater godliness.

DAY 4 | Get Wisdom

Read Proverbs 4:1-9

1. In Proverbs 4:1–9, we’ve considered the father’s responsibility to the son, now identify what different responsibility the son has, and what actions he is to take on the journey to get wisdom.
 - a. In a godly home, why is it helpful to consider both the responsibility of the parent and also the responsibility of the child? What common errors of thinking and behavior can this help prevent?

2. According to verse 7, what is the beginning of wisdom?
 - a. How do you think this relates to Proverbs 1:7? Which one takes priority, and why?

 - b. How does the exhortation in 4:7 fit into the greater purpose of chapters 1–9 in the book of Proverbs, which is preparing the reader to receive the specific wisdom given in chapters 10–31?

 - c. Have you purposed within your heart to “get wisdom,” whatever the cost? If so, in what ways is your life showing your commitment? If not, what seems to be holding you back?

DAY 5 | Two Contrasting Paths

Read Proverbs 4:10-27

1. From verses 13–15, what commands does the father give his son? In your own words, summarize the main point in one sentence.
 - a. How do you help your children and those closest to you to recognize and avoid the path of the wicked? Be specific.

2. After directing the son to stay off the wicked path in verses 14–19, summarize the main command the father gives the son in verse 26–27.

3. In verses 20–25, what specific ways does the father give the son to obey the command to stay on the right path?

4. The father addresses the son’s ears, eyes, heart, mouth and feet. What does the holistic nature of his admonition imply about receiving wisdom and living skillfully?
 - a. What verse encourages you as you seek to live a faithful life characterized by righteousness?