

- c. loyalty
 - d. steadfast love
 - e. How do these words help you gain a fuller picture of what kindness (hesed) means?
2. In Exodus 34:6–7, how did God reveal himself to Moses? How does this expand your understanding of the use of kindness/mercy in the book of Proverbs?
3. What descriptions of God’s kindness/steadfast love are found in the following verses? (Note that some of these verses refer to His covenant relationship with Israel.)
- a. Psalm 40:11; 136:1–26
 - b. Isaiah 54:10
 - c. Romans 8:38–39
4. How does understanding God’s lovingkindness impact your own faith and stimulate your worship of Him?

DAY 2 | Inward Steadfast Love

Read Proverbs 3:1–4, and selected Scriptures

1. In Proverbs 3:3–4, what instruction is given about steadfast love and faithfulness (“kindness” and “truth” in the NASB)?
 - a. Why do you think Solomon paired faithfulness with steadfast love? Use Scripture to support your answer.

2. In verses 1–4, what benefits are promised to those who obey the commands? What would that look like practically today?

3. Consider the instructions in Deuteronomy 6:4–9, and Colossians 3:12–17, then write down three practical ways that you can “write steadfast love and faithfulness on your heart.”

4. Remembering Solomon’s goal in instructing his son to live wisely and skillfully, how do you think steadfast love relates to wisdom? Why should this be a condition of one’s heart? Use Scripture to support your answer.

DAY 3 | Steadfast Love Shown to Others

Read Proverbs 11:16–23, 14:19–23

1. Proverbs 11:16–23 can be read as a unit that contrasts kindness versus selfishness, especially in community living. In verses 16 and 22, what is the description of the two women whose portrayal open and close this section?

- a. Understanding that the gracious woman in verse 16 is parallel to the kind man in verse 17, what is gained through graciousness? What is the contrast presented in these two verses?
2. How do verses 18–22 provide clarity about the character of the kind and gracious person?
 3. As verse 23 closes this unit, what promise is given? How can this motivate you to more righteous living?
 4. In Proverbs 14:22, what is the blessing to those who devise good?
 - a. Since Proverbs 14:19–23 can also be read as a unit, how does that broader context help you better understand the meaning in verse 22?

DAY 4 | Further Teaching on Steadfast Love

Read Proverbs 16:6, 21:21, 31:26

1. According to Proverbs 16:6, what is the atonement for sin? Based on your understanding of salvation, how did this happen in history?
 - a. How does atonement relate to the fear of the Lord and keeping away from evil?

- b. How does this truth motivate you to hate sin?

- 2. From Proverbs 21:21, what are the rewards for pursuing righteousness and kindness (“loyalty” in the NASB)?
 - a. Do you pursue righteousness and kindness in your life? If you do, share with the group one practical way you do this. If you don’t, what is holding you back?

 - b. The word “loyalty” in this verse can also be translated as “steadfast love.” How does this help you understand the love that God has for believers?

- 3. In Proverbs 31:26, what is the significance of the woman’s speech being described as both wise and kind?
 - a. What is required for someone to be able to speak with wisdom and kindness? Find one or two Scripture references to support your answer.

- b. Is your speech characterized as wise and kind? What do you need to do to change or grow in this area?

DAY 5 | Overview of the Study

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–31; Proverbs 2:1–3:26

1. Considering the practical lessons in wise and skillful living that we studied in the book of Proverbs, what has affected you most, and why?

2. How have you seen God work in your life over the course of this study, and in what area of wise living do you want to grow? How will you accomplish that?

3. How has your understanding of God's wisdom grown or changed over the course of this study?

4. How has studying God's wisdom, and the wisdom He calls believers to walk in, affected your own worship of Him?

5. Write out what steps you will take to continue to grow in wisdom over the summer, along with a specific plan to study God's Word over the next three months.

6. As this study ends, read Proverbs 2–3 and 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 and write a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for the wisdom of God that saves and sanctifies foolish sinners.

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