

Read through the Book of Proverbs in 31 Days

Every so often, people ask me about a “good” Bible reading plan. One I have used on several occasions is to read through the Book of Proverbs in one month. Get a good understandable version of the Bible, and check you progress over the next month. Proverbs has some great insights on how we can live with wisdom and understanding that can make a big difference in one’s life. As an introduction to Proverbs, see the character of the person below on the left and the verse from Proverbs describing that characteristic. I think you will enjoy this.

They are righteous (13:5–6; 12:17)	<i>The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked bring shame and disgrace. Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner (13:5–6).</i>	
Loyal (16:6)	<i>Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.</i>	
Humble (3:5, 9; 8:17; 28:13; 21:4)	<i>He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy (28:13).</i>	
Teachable (12:1, 15; 3:1; 10:14; 15:12; 17:10; 18:15)	<i>The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out (18:15).</i>	
Self-controlled and not rash (17:27; 14:29, 30; 19:2)	<i>A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered (17:27).</i>	
Forgiving (10:12; 17:9; 14:9; 20:22; 24:29)	<i>Do not say, “I’ll do to him as he has done to me; I’ll pay that man back for what he did” (24:29).</i>	
Thoughtful (13:16; 14:8, 15, 16; 22:5)	 <td data-bbox="824 1266 1414 1528"><i>A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps. A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless (14:15–16).</i></td>	<i>A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps. A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless (14:15–16).</i>
Is honest (12:22)	<i>The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.</i>	
Does not boast (27:2)	<i>Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.</i>	
Does not reveal secrets (17:9; 20:19)	<i>He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends (17:9).</i>	
Does not slander (6:12)	<i>A scoundrel and villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth.</i>	
Is peaceful (12:16)	<i>A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.</i>	

Completed	Day	Reading	Digging Deeper
	1	Proverbs 1	After reading Proverbs 1, circle the reasons and benefits listed for reading Proverbs. Which one is most important to you?
	2	Proverbs 2	"God give wisdom." What areas of your life do you desire God's wisdom in right now? How does knowing God impact how you make decisions?
	3	Proverbs 3	Identify two ways God wants us to use our possessions. Why do you think using our possessions in this way honors God?
	4	Proverbs 4	Read verse 25 again. God does not call us to focus on our past (what's behind us) or even what's next to us (life's distractions). He tells us to look straight ahead. Why is having the right focus important? What are some practical ways you can keep your eyes fixed on God?
	5	Proverbs 5	Read especially verses 8-9. Temptations are part of life. But, how we respond to temptation is the key. Have you ever placed yourself into a tempting situation? Why do you think verse 8 says, "keep a path far" from temptations? Ask God to give you wisdom on how to avoid temptations and take practical steps to guard your heart.
	6	Proverbs 6	Summarize in your own words Proverbs 6
	7	Proverbs 7	Which verse stands out to you in Proverbs 7 and why?
	8	Proverbs 8	Do you think wisdom is highly-valued or under-valued in our society? Do you desire wisdom more than anything else? Why or why not?
	9	Proverbs 9	Re-read verse 10.
	10	Proverbs 10	
	11	Proverbs 11	Reflect on God's character and His attributes. Based on this reading, why do you think God encourages us to be generous?
	12	Proverbs 12	Reflect on conversations you had today. How did you use your words? How has your words impacted others? Did they impact them in an uplifting way? Reflect on the power of words have had over you. Ask God to give you wisdom on how to use your speech.
	13	Proverbs 13	Why is discipline a form of love? How does knowing that God disciplines you help you trust Him as a father?
	14	Proverbs 14	Why do you think people feel uncomfortable talking about money in Church? Do you think churches should talk about money?
	15	Proverbs 15	
	16	Proverbs 16	
	17	Proverbs 17	What are some characteristics of a wise person described in this chapter? Which do you appreciate the most in others? Which one do you want to grow in?
	18	Proverbs 18	Re-read verse 2. Are you quick to "air your own opinion" instead of listen to others? What message does it send to others when you do this? List 3 benefits of listening to others.
	19	Proverbs 19	Describe the "fear of the Lord" in your own words. How does this differ from other types of fear?
	20	Proverbs 20	Verse 19 says that "gossip betrays confidence." How do you define gossip? What should you do if you find yourself with a group that starts gossiping?
	21	Proverbs 21	
	22	Proverbs 22	Re-read verse 6 and 15. Why is it important to discipline children while

			they are still young?
	23	Proverbs 23	Re-read verse 4. How does this differ from today's values?
	24	Proverbs 24	Why do you think God wants us to forgive others? Identify 2-4 reasons. Why do you think this is hard sometimes? How can we forgive someone when we are tempted to "pay that person back for what he did to us?"
	25	Proverbs 25	Proverbs uses many similes (comparisons that use the words "like" or "as") to emphasize different points. There are over 10 similes in chapter 25, i.e. "like cold water" or "like a broken tooth." Which simile stood out to you most in this chapter? How did this comparison help you better understand the proverb's meaning?
	26	Proverbs 26	Re-read verses 18-19. Has anyone said a joke that actually hurt your feelings? What about it made it seem to cross the line?
	27	Proverbs 27	Re-read verse 10. What does loyalty look like? Think about examples of the ways you can show loyalty to a friend.
	28	Proverbs 28	Re-read verse 13. Have you ever tried to cancel a sin? How did it impact your relationship with God? How did it impact your relationship with others? Reflect on why confession of sin is linked to mercy.
	29	Proverbs 29	Re-read verse 25. Look up the definition of the word "snare." How does the fear of others trap us?
	30	Proverbs 30	Re-read verse 5. Look up the word "flawless." How does knowing that "every word of God is flawless" bring you comfort? How does it impact your confidence as a Christ follower?
	31	Proverbs 31	Re-read verses 8-9. God want us to be compassionate and to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Who in your community do you think God wants you to speak up for? Prayerfully consider joining your church's next outreach effort, supporting missions in your neighborhood and/or take advantage of other volunteer opportunities.

Walk through the Bible Class

Pastor Jim gives you a thorough over-view of each book, and identifies the connections that the Book has with the New Testament. He also shares with you how each book and its prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The handout class material will become your personal commentary to that book, along with the extra reading that Pastor Jim provides, will provide insight and understanding for years to come. ***We will be having "Walk through the Bible" classes through the summer.***

Class Schedule – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the Month

April 28th - 1 pm or 7 pm – Continue with the Books of Hosea, Joel and Amos

May 12th - 1 pm or 7 pm – Continue with Hosea, Joel and Amos

May 26th - 1 pm or 7 pm – Begin the Book of Obadiah, Jonah and Micah

June 2nd – (***FRIST TUESDAY***) at 1 pm or 7 pm – Continue with Obadiah, Jonah and Micah

June 23rd – 1 pm or 7 pm – Finish with Obadiah, Jonah and Micah

Last Sunday Evening Teaching Event *(before the summer)*

- Do you know what religion is the fastest growing in the world today? If you answered Islam, you are correct. Islam is the fastest growing religion in our world, but do you know why? On Sunday, May 17th, Pastor Jim will lead a study on Islam and Christianity and give you a comparison study of their teachings. You surely will not want to miss this study.

Islam & Christianity

What do you know about the fastest growing religion in the United States?

On Sunday, May 17th, @ 7 PM, Pastor Jim will lead a study on Islam, comparing its teachings to the teachings of Christianity.

“Basic Principle Of Islam”

There is no cost to attend this Teaching Event and you don't have to register in advance. Just, come and enjoy, learn and grow!

Pastor Jim Has Announced His Retirement Date

At the Board of Director's meeting in March, Pastor Jim announced that he will be retiring in June of 2016. He makes this announcement in order to give the congregation ample time to plan for succession of leadership and to work through a thorough evaluation of the needs of ministry here at St. John. Please keep both St. John Congregation and Pastor Jim in your prayers.
