

# Family Basket Basics

If the concept of Family Basket (or more commonly “morning basket”) is new to you, I hope this resource will give you the confidence to get started without feeling overwhelmed and confused. It is my prayer that it will give you a foundation to launch from in creating a Family Basket time that is uniquely YOURS.

The “morning basket” idea has grown immensely in popularity... but it has also left some of us a little overwhelmed with options and confused about where to begin. This basket plan gives you a format to follow- a menu of sorts- so that you can curate a time for your family where you learn, pray, and grow together. You’ll find suggestions and options, which should all freely be adapted to your children’s ages and aptitudes, along with your personal convictions and preferences.

## What even IS a morning basket?

A morning basket or circle time or homeschool collective (it has many names) is typically a label for a set time each day where the kids gather with their mom/teacher to cover specific topics as a group. Traditionally this is done first thing in the morning before scattering for the day. Typical topics include: devotional, Bible reading, apologetics, readaloud, music or composer study, art, artist study, singing, poetry recitation, memory work... Honestly the options are endless. Some families do the bulk of their schooling together as a morning basket while others just hit the “riches” and do the remainder separately. The variations are as plentiful as homeschool families themselves.

## When, Where, How Often, How Long?

When it comes to when you “should” do it- you’ll see there are no hard rules. I call this a Family Basket because we’ve found that morning time is not the best time for us. We choose to utilize this tool during our lunch break, while we eat, in order to maximize our time and to use it while our little ones nap mid-day. At lunch time, it also helps to bring us all back together for a bit to make sure we are all refocused and aligned on where we are headed for the afternoon. However, you may like to do it first thing in order to gather everyone in one place before launching into your day or maybe even in the evenings once Dad is home from work.

Most families practice their basket time daily, but that may not fit your schedule. Take some time to reflect on how long and how often works for you. You might decide to only do it 2-3 days per week. However, I will say that after some practice, it can become a favorite part of your day. This plan is intended for 4 days per week but is easily adjusted.

In our home, Family Basket takes 45 minutes. Some families power through a basket time in 15-20 minutes, while others add many additional subjects and topics and have it last 2-3 hours. Using the outline I've shared in this packet, you need to allot at least half an hour. One consideration is the number and ages of children that you have. If you have frequent interruptions or a filled school room, each of these steps can take longer than you might anticipate. Be sure to allot for "life," and you'll find the entire process a great deal more peaceful.

### What do I need?

- ✓ Printer (for printing this packet) *You can print one copy to share as a family or print one copy for each student and assemble in a binder so that you may all follow along together.*
- ✓ Personal Book Selections (read aloud or audiobook, your preference)
  - Bible (choose your own translation, included scripture is ESV)
  - Fiction
  - Biography
  - Shakespeare
- ✓ Artist Study
- ✓ Composer Study

**NOTE:** You can choose to alternate a composer and artist study each day OR alternate them by the week, month, or term. Day 1 we do artist, day 2 we do composer, then back and forth. If we miss a day, we just pick up where we left off.

### A Note About Artist Study + Composer Study

For composer study, we use the unit studies called SQUILT from [squiltmusic.com](http://squiltmusic.com) and for artist study we love the Picture Portfolios from Simply Charlotte Mason. If you are working hard to keep the cost to as little as possible, here are some alternatives:

- Look on [HomeschoolGiveaways.com](http://HomeschoolGiveaways.com) under the heading Homeschool Freebies, then Fine Art Freebies to find a SLEW of excellent, free resources.
- **SPECIAL DISCOUNT CODE:** I love the awesome art resources from A Helping Hand Homeschool ([helpinghandhomeschool.com](http://helpinghandhomeschool.com)). HERE IS A CODE FOR 30% OFF ALL DIGITAL RESOURCES IN HER SHOP: **MorningBasket** (exp 11/1/18)

- o Google a famous artist and print a few images from Google. Read the artist's bio from Wikipedia and discuss the images as well as the biography. It really is that easy. You'll just want to focus on one artist for several weeks, so make sure to print (or pull up on an iPad) 4-5 pieces by that artist.
- o You can do the same for the composer utilizing YouTube for the music.
- o Check out a book from the library like: 10 Artists Every Child Should Know or 10 Paintings Every Child Should Know
- o If you have Amazon Prime Music, we absolutely love the audio dramatizations about famous composers from Classical Kids.

If you decided to do your own "diy" artist/composer study, just make sure to have it all organized ahead of time so that you can keep the kids on track and moving along during your basket time.

### A Note About Read Aloud Selections

There are many excellent books available to read aloud to your family. I actually do not enjoy to read aloud. Furthermore, we listen to our book as we all eat lunch, so my reading aloud with a full mouth is not ideal! Rest assured that utilizing audiobooks is just as good as reading aloud yourself. To keep audiobooks financially manageable, I keep a sharp eye on the Facebook pages Read Aloud Revival by Sarah MacKenzie and Simple Homeschool by Jamie C. Martin. Both of these ladies have excellent blogs that have incredible book recommendations as well. I also like the book by Jamie C. Martin called Give Your Child the World as a great resource for book selection. On my own blog, LifeAbundantlyBlog.com you can download a FREE book list called "107 Books to Read by Age 7" as a great list for your younger students. Lastly, JennyPhillips.com has The Good and The Beautiful book list for around \$5 with trustworthy resources. If you happen to have a child with a vision or reading disability in your home, LearningAlly.org is also an incredible resource for audiobooks.

### Here is what is included along with suggested utilization:

- **A "looping" schedule for your read-aloud time.** When we loop Bible, Fiction, Biography, then Shakespeare, it means we do them sequentially, and when we miss a day, we simply pick up where we left off. This is opposed to doing Bible on Monday, Fiction on Tuesday, etc whereas Tuesday may always end up being a crazy day, and we never get around to our fiction book. Make sense? *By just picking up where we left off, we don't end up inadvertently doing a ton of reading or work in one area while ignoring another.* For Bible, we begin at the beginning (Genesis) using the narration option from the Bible app (again, we use ESV). You may opt to follow a different Bible reading plan. There are many available.

- **Psalm 119 as a yearlong study.** Choose a set amount of Psalm 119 to read each day and vary how it's read. Some days, read it aloud to your children. Other days, have them alternate reading lines or full verses, depending upon your preference. Varying this keeps them on their toes.
- **All 31 Proverbs.** Reading a Proverbs each day is an easy way to work through this book of the Bible numerous times through the school year.
- **Catechism for Young Children.** We utilize the short, simplified catechism in our home as catechism is a new practice to us. If your children are older or more experienced, you may wish to search for the Westminster Shorter Catechism to print to use instead. While we are not Catholic, we do love the beauty and discipline in this apologetics education for our children. While nothing can replace the work of the Holy Spirit in their faith, we are all to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:5)
- **20 Popular Poems.** I have selected 20 common, popular, and beautiful poems that are all worthy of recitation and memorization. However, there are endless volumes of poems that are worthy of reading. You may choose to study several poems from one particular poet over a term or for an entire year. You may choose to have your children recite one short poem every day (and likely memorize it quickly) or you may have them work on an extensive poem all year long. Lastly, you may have all your children work on the same poem or they may all choose a different one. Again, you have immense freedom. So long as you are exposing your children to beautiful poetry that points them to truth, you can't choose wrong. For young children, I also recommend *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louise Stephenson. (Note: Recitation is the practice of reading aloud beautifully. We also hope that a happy side effect of repeated repetition would be memorization.)
- **Composer and artist study of your choice.** I want to also mention that you could potentially add additional items to this loop. For example, we do artist study on day 1, composer the next, and just back and forth- always picking up where we left off. However, you could have a 4 day or 5 day loop that includes art skills (like watercolor, sketching, etc), various handicrafts, or something like PE. You can expand this loop if wanted or narrow it according to your needs and preferences.

For your convenience, you'll also find poet, composer, and artist recommendations as well as a checklist of the books of the Bible for tracking your progress.

# Basket Time Checklist

- ✓ Prayer or Devotional
- ✓ Read Aloud or Audiobook Loop
  - Bible
  - Fiction
  - Biography
  - Shakespeare
- ✓ Psalm 119 (portion)
- ✓ Proverb
- ✓ Catechism
- ✓ Poem Recitation
- ✓ Fine Arts Loop
  - Artist Study
  - Composer Study
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

### Composer

#### Recommendations

- Henry Purcell
- Mozart
- Robert Shumann
- George Frideric Handel
- Johann Sebastian Bach
- Franz Liszt
- Ludwig van Beethoven
- Frederic Chopin
- Antonio Vivaldi
- Felix Mendelssohn
- Claude Debussy
- Franz Josef Haydn
- Tchaikovsky
- Mark O'Connor
- Johannes Brahms
- Antonin Dvorak
- Arcangelo Corelli

#### Artist Recommendations

- Giotto di Bondone
- Rembrandt
- Michelangelo
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Mary Cassatt
- Peter Paul Rubens
- Winslow Homer
- John Constable
- Jan Vermeer
- John William Waterhouse
- Gustave Courbet
- JMW Turner
- Jan Van Eyck
- Sandro Botticelli

### Poet Recommendations

- Walt Whitman
- Emily Dickinson
- Robert Frost
- Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Maya Angelou
- William Shakespeare
- Ralph Waldo Emerson
- William Wordsworth
- Henry Wordsworth Longfellow
- John Keats
- Oscar Wilde
- Lord Tennyson

### The Old Testament

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk

- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

### The New Testament

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John
- Acts (of the Apostles)
- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians
- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon
- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude
- Revelation

# Psalm 119 English Standard Version (ESV)

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

## Aleph

- 119 <sup>[a]</sup> Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD!  
2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,  
who seek him with their whole heart,  
3 who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways!  
4 You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.  
5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast  
in keeping your statutes!  
6 Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.  
7 I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous rules.<sup>[b]</sup>  
8 I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me!

## Beth

- 9 How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.  
10 With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not wander from your commandments!  
11 I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.

- 12 Blessed are you, O LORD;  
teach me your statutes!  
13 With my lips I declare  
all the rules<sup>[c]</sup> of your mouth.  
14 In the way of your testimonies I delight  
as much as in all riches.  
15 I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.  
16 I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

## Gimel

- 17 Deal bountifully with your servant,  
that I may live and keep your word.  
18 Open my eyes, that I may behold  
wondrous things out of your law.  
19 I am a sojourner on the earth;  
hide not your commandments from me!  
20 My soul is consumed with longing  
for your rules<sup>[d]</sup> at all times.  
21 You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,  
who wander from your commandments.  
22 Take away from me scorn and contempt,  
for I have kept your testimonies.  
23 Even though princes sit plotting against me,  
your servant will meditate on your statutes.  
24 Your testimonies are my delight;  
they are my counselors.

## Daleth

- 25 My soul clings to the dust;  
give me life according to your word!
- 26 When I told of my ways, you answered me;  
teach me your statutes!
- 27 Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.
- 28 My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word!
- 29 Put false ways far from me  
and graciously teach me your law!
- 30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your rules before me.
- 31 I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;  
let me not be put to shame!
- 32 I will run in the way of your commandments  
when you enlarge my heart!<sup>[e]</sup>

## He

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes;  
and I will keep it to the end.<sup>[f]</sup>
- 34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.
- 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.
- 36 Incline my heart to your testimonies,  
and not to selfish gain!
- 37 Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;  
and give me life in your ways.

- 38 Confirm to your servant your promise,  
that you may be feared.
- 39 Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
for your rules are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life!

## Waw

- 41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,  
your salvation according to your promise;
- 42 then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me,  
for I trust in your word.
- 43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,  
for my hope is in your rules.
- 44 I will keep your law continually,  
forever and ever,
- 45 and I shall walk in a wide place,  
for I have sought your precepts.
- 46 I will also speak of your testimonies before kings  
and shall not be put to shame,
- 47 for I find my delight in your commandments,  
which I love.
- 48 I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I  
love,  
and I will meditate on your statutes.



## Zayin

- 49 Remember your word to your servant,  
in which you have made me hope.  
50 This is my comfort in my affliction,  
that your promise gives me life.  
51 The insolent utterly deride me,  
but I do not turn away from your law.  
52 When I think of your rules from of old,  
I take comfort, O LORD.  
53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,  
who forsake your law.  
54 Your statutes have been my songs  
in the house of my sojourning.  
55 I remember your name in the night, O LORD,  
and keep your law.  
56 This blessing has fallen to me,  
that I have kept your precepts.

## Heth

- 57 The LORD is my portion;  
I promise to keep your words.  
58 I entreat your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.  
59 When I think on my ways,  
I turn my feet to your testimonies;  
60 I hasten and do not delay  
to keep your commandments.  
61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget your law.

- 62 At midnight I rise to praise you,  
because of your righteous rules.  
63 I am a companion of all who fear you,  
of those who keep your precepts.  
64 The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes!

## Teth

- 65 You have dealt well with your servant,  
O LORD, according to your word.  
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,  
for I believe in your commandments.  
67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
but now I keep your word.  
68 You are good and do good;  
teach me your statutes.  
69 The insolent smear me with lies,  
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;  
70 their heart is unfeeling like fat,  
but I delight in your law.  
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,  
that I might learn your statutes.  
72 The law of your mouth is better to me  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

## Yodh

- 73 Your hands have made and fashioned me;  
give me understanding that I may learn your  
commandments.
- 74 Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,  
because I have hoped in your word.
- 75 I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous,  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.
- 76 Let your steadfast love comfort me  
according to your promise to your servant.
- 77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;  
for your law is my delight.
- 78 Let the insolent be put to shame,  
because they have wronged me with falsehood;  
as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.
- 79 Let those who fear you turn to me,  
that they may know your testimonies.
- 80 May my heart be blameless in your statutes,  
that I may not be put to shame!

## Kaph

- 81 My soul longs for your salvation;  
I hope in your word.
- 82 My eyes long for your promise;  
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"
- 83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,  
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.
- 84 How long must your servant endure?<sup>[g]</sup>  
When will you judge those who persecute me?

- 85 The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;  
they do not live according to your law.
- 86 All your commandments are sure;  
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!
- 87 They have almost made an end of me on earth,  
but I have not forsaken your precepts.
- 88 In your steadfast love give me life,  
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

## Lamedh

- 89 Forever, O LORD, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
- 90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
- 91 By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.
- 92 If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.
- 93 I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.
- 94 I am yours; save me,  
for I have sought your precepts.
- 95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,  
but I consider your testimonies.
- 96 I have seen a limit to all perfection,  
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

## Mem

- 97 Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.
- 98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.
- 100 I understand more than the aged,<sup>[h]</sup>  
for I keep your precepts.
- 101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.
- 102 I do not turn aside from your rules,  
for you have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

## Nun

- 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.
- 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to keep your righteous rules.
- 107 I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O LORD, according to your word!
- 108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,  
and teach me your rules.
- 109 I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget your law.

- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I do not stray from your precepts.
- 111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever,  
for they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes  
forever, to the end.<sup>[i]</sup>

## Samekh

- 113 I hate the double-minded,  
but I love your law.
- 114 You are my hiding place and my shield;  
I hope in your word.
- 115 Depart from me, you evildoers,  
that I may keep the commandments of my God.
- 116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,  
and let me not be put to shame in my hope!
- 117 Hold me up, that I may be safe  
and have regard for your statutes continually!
- 118 You spurn all who go astray from your statutes,  
for their cunning is in vain.
- 119 All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross,  
therefore I love your testimonies.
- 120 My flesh trembles for fear of you,  
and I am afraid of your judgments.

## Ayin

- 121 I have done what is just and right;  
do not leave me to my oppressors.
- 122 Give your servant a pledge of good;  
let not the insolent oppress me.
- 123 My eyes long for your salvation  
and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.
- 124 Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,  
and teach me your statutes.
- 125 I am your servant; give me understanding,  
that I may know your testimonies!
- 126 It is time for the LORD to act,  
for your law has been broken.
- 127 Therefore I love your commandments  
above gold, above fine gold.
- 128 Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right;  
I hate every false way.

## Pe

- 129 Your testimonies are wonderful;  
therefore my soul keeps them.
- 130 The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it imparts understanding to the simple.
- 131 I open my mouth and pant,  
because I long for your commandments.
- 132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as is your way with those who love your name.
- 133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise,  
and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

- 134 Redeem me from man's oppression,  
that I may keep your precepts.
- 135 Make your face shine upon your servant,  
and teach me your statutes.
- 136 My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your law.

## Tsadhe

- 137 Righteous are you, O LORD,  
and right are your rules.
- 138 You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness  
and in all faithfulness.
- 139 My zeal consumes me,  
because my foes forget your words.
- 140 Your promise is well tried,  
and your servant loves it.
- 141 I am small and despised,  
yet I do not forget your precepts.
- 142 Your righteousness is righteous forever,  
and your law is true.
- 143 Trouble and anguish have found me out,  
but your commandments are my delight.
- 144 Your testimonies are righteous forever;  
give me understanding that I may live.

## Qoph

- 145 With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD!  
I will keep your statutes.
- 146 I call to you; save me,  
that I may observe your testimonies.
- 147 I rise before dawn and cry for help;  
I hope in your words.
- 148 My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promise.
- 149 Hear my voice according to your steadfast love;  
O LORD, according to your justice give me life.
- 150 They draw near who persecute me with evil purpose;  
they are far from your law.
- 151 But you are near, O LORD,  
and all your commandments are true.
- 152 Long have I known from your testimonies  
that you have founded them forever.

## Resh

- 153 Look on my affliction and deliver me,  
for I do not forget your law.
- 154 Plead my cause and redeem me;  
give me life according to your promise!
- 155 Salvation is far from the wicked,  
for they do not seek your statutes.
- 156 Great is your mercy, O LORD;  
give me life according to your rules.
- 157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,  
but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

- 158 I look at the faithless with disgust,  
because they do not keep your commands.
- 159 Consider how I love your precepts!  
Give me life according to your steadfast love.
- 160 The sum of your word is truth,  
and every one of your righteous rules endures  
forever.

## Sin and Shin

- 161 Princes persecute me without cause,  
but my heart stands in awe of your words.
- 162 I rejoice at your word  
like one who finds great spoil.
- 163 I hate and abhor falsehood,  
but I love your law.
- 164 Seven times a day I praise you  
for your righteous rules.
- 165 Great peace have those who love your law;  
nothing can make them stumble.
- 166 I hope for your salvation, O LORD,  
and I do your commandments.
- 167 My soul keeps your testimonies;  
I love them exceedingly.
- 168 I keep your precepts and testimonies,  
for all my ways are before you.

## Taw

- 169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD;  
give me understanding according to your word!

- 170 Let my plea come before you;  
    deliver me according to your word.
- 171 My lips will pour forth praise,  
    for you teach me your statutes.
- 172 My tongue will sing of your word,  
    for all your commandments are right.
- 173 Let your hand be ready to help me,  
    for I have chosen your precepts.
- 174 I long for your salvation, O LORD,  
    and your law is my delight.
- 175 Let my soul live and praise you,  
    and let your rules help me.
- 176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,  
    for I do not forget your commandments.

## Proverbs 1 English Standard Version (ESV)

### The Beginning of Knowledge

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:  
2 To know wisdom and instruction,  
to understand words of insight,  
3 to receive instruction in wise dealing,  
in righteousness, justice, and equity;  
4 to give prudence to the simple,  
knowledge and discretion to the youth—  
5 Let the wise hear and increase in learning,  
and the one who understands obtain guidance,  
6 to understand a proverb and a saying,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.  
7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

### The Enticement of Sinners

- 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching,  
9 for they are a graceful garland for your head  
and pendants for your neck.  
10 My son, if sinners entice you,  
do not consent.  
11 If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;  
let us ambush the innocent without reason;  
12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive,  
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;  
13 we shall find all precious goods,

- we shall fill our houses with plunder;  
14 throw in your lot among us;  
we will all have one purse"—  
15 my son, do not walk in the way with them;  
hold back your foot from their paths,  
16 for their feet run to evil,  
and they make haste to shed blood.  
17 For in vain is a net spread  
in the sight of any bird,  
18 but these men lie in wait for their own blood;  
they set an ambush for their own lives.  
19 Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust  
gain;  
it takes away the life of its possessors.

### The Call of Wisdom

- 20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street,  
in the markets she raises her voice;  
21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;  
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:  
22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?  
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing  
and fools hate knowledge?  
23 If you turn at my reproof,<sup>[a]</sup>  
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;  
I will make my words known to you.  
24 Because I have called and you refused to listen,  
have stretched out my hand and no one has  
heeded,

25 because you have ignored all my counsel  
and would have none of my reproof,  
26 I also will laugh at your calamity;  
I will mock when terror strikes you,  
27 when terror strikes you like a storm  
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,  
when distress and anguish come upon you.  
28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;  
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.  
29 Because they hated knowledge  
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,  
30 would have none of my counsel  
and despised all my reproof,  
31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,  
and have their fill of their own devices.  
32 For the simple are killed by their turning away,  
and the complacency of fools destroys them;  
33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure  
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

## Proverbs 2 English Standard Version (ESV)

### The Value of Wisdom

2 My son, if you receive my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you,  
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding;  
3 yes, if you call out for insight  
and raise your voice for understanding,

4 if you seek it like silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasures,  
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD  
and find the knowledge of God.  
6 For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,  
8 guarding the paths of justice  
and watching over the way of his saints.  
9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice  
and equity, every good path;  
10 for wisdom will come into your heart,  
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;  
11 discretion will watch over you,  
understanding will guard you,  
12 delivering you from the way of evil,  
from men of perverted speech,  
13 who forsake the paths of uprightness  
to walk in the ways of darkness,  
14 who rejoice in doing evil  
and delight in the perverseness of evil,  
15 men whose paths are crooked,  
and who are devious in their ways.  
16 So you will be delivered from the forbidden<sup>[a]</sup> woman,  
from the adulteress<sup>[b]</sup> with her smooth words,  
17 who forsakes the companion of her youth  
and forgets the covenant of her God;  
18 for her house sinks down to death,  
and her paths to the departed;<sup>[c]</sup>



- 19 none who go to her come back,  
nor do they regain the paths of life.  
20 So you will walk in the way of the good  
and keep to the paths of the righteous.  
21 For the upright will inhabit the land,  
and those with integrity will remain in it,  
22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land,  
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

### Proverbs 3 English Standard Version (ESV)

Trust in the LORD with All Your Heart

- 3 My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments,  
2 for length of days and years of life  
and peace they will add to you.  
3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them around your neck;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
4 So you will find favor and good success<sup>[a]</sup>  
in the sight of God and man.  
5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
6 In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.  
7 Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.  
8 It will be healing to your flesh<sup>[b]</sup>  
and refreshment<sup>[c]</sup> to your bones.

- 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;  
10 then your barns will be filled with plenty,  
and your vats will be bursting with wine.  
11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline  
or be weary of his reproof,  
12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,  
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Blessed Is the One Who Finds Wisdom

- 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,  
and the one who gets understanding,  
14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver  
and her profit better than gold.  
15 She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
16 Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honor.  
17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called blessed.  
19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth;  
by understanding he established the heavens;  
20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open,  
and the clouds drop down the dew.  
21 My son, do not lose sight of these—  
keep sound wisdom and discretion,  
22 and they will be life for your soul

and adornment for your neck.  
 23 Then you will walk on your way securely,  
 and your foot will not stumble.  
 24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid;  
 when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.  
 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror  
 or of the ruin<sup>[d]</sup> of the wicked, when it comes,  
 26 for the LORD will be your confidence  
 and will keep your foot from being caught.  
 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,<sup>[e]</sup>  
 when it is in your power to do it.  
 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again,  
 tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you.  
 29 Do not plan evil against your neighbor,  
 who dwells trustingly beside you.  
 30 Do not contend with a man for no reason,  
 when he has done you no harm.  
 31 Do not envy a man of violence  
 and do not choose any of his ways,  
 32 for the devious person is an abomination to the LORD,  
 but the upright are in his confidence.  
 33 The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked,  
 but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.  
 34 Toward the scorners he is scornful,  
 but to the humble he gives favor.<sup>[f]</sup>  
 35 The wise will inherit honor,  
 but fools get<sup>[g]</sup> disgrace.

## Proverbs 4 English Standard Version (ESV)

### A Father's Wise Instruction

4 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,  
 and be attentive, that you may gain<sup>[a]</sup> insight,  
 2 for I give you good precepts;  
 do not forsake my teaching.  
 3 When I was a son with my father,  
 tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,  
 4 he taught me and said to me,  
 "Let your heart hold fast my words;  
 keep my commandments, and live.  
 5 Get wisdom; get insight;  
 do not forget, and do not turn away from the words  
 of my mouth.  
 6 Do not forsake her, and she will keep you;  
 love her, and she will guard you.  
 7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,  
 and whatever you get, get insight.  
 8 Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;  
 she will honor you if you embrace her.  
 9 She will place on your head a graceful garland;  
 she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."  
 10 Hear, my son, and accept my words,  
 that the years of your life may be many.  
 11 I have taught you the way of wisdom;  
 I have led you in the paths of uprightness.  
 12 When you walk, your step will not be hampered,  
 and if you run, you will not stumble.

13 Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;  
guard her, for she is your life.

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked,  
and do not walk in the way of the evil.

15 Avoid it; do not go on it;  
turn away from it and pass on.

16 For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;  
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made  
someone stumble.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness  
and drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,  
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;  
they do not know over what they stumble.

20 My son, be attentive to my words;  
incline your ear to my sayings.

21 Let them not escape from your sight;  
keep them within your heart.

22 For they are life to those who find them,  
and healing to all their<sup>[b]</sup> flesh.

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance,  
for from it flow the springs of life.

24 Put away from you crooked speech,  
and put devious talk far from you.

25 Let your eyes look directly forward,  
and your gaze be straight before you.

26 Ponder<sup>[c]</sup> the path of your feet;  
then all your ways will be sure.

27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left;  
turn your foot away from evil.

## Proverbs 5 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Warning Against Adultery

5 My son, be attentive to my wisdom;  
incline your ear to my understanding,  
2 that you may keep discretion,  
and your lips may guard knowledge.

3 For the lips of a forbidden<sup>[a]</sup> woman drip honey,  
and her speech<sup>[b]</sup> is smoother than oil,  
4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,  
sharp as a two-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death;  
her steps follow the path to<sup>[c]</sup> Sheol;  
6 she does not ponder the path of life;  
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

7 And now, O sons, listen to me,  
and do not depart from the words of my mouth.

8 Keep your way far from her,  
and do not go near the door of her house,  
9 lest you give your honor to others  
and your years to the merciless,  
10 lest strangers take their fill of your strength,  
and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,  
11 and at the end of your life you groan,  
when your flesh and body are consumed,

12 and you say, "How I hated discipline,  
 and my heart despised reproof!  
 13 I did not listen to the voice of my teachers  
 or incline my ear to my instructors.  
 14 I am at the brink of utter ruin  
 in the assembled congregation."  
 15 Drink water from your own cistern,  
 flowing water from your own well.  
 16 Should your springs be scattered abroad,  
 streams of water in the streets?  
 17 Let them be for yourself alone,  
 and not for strangers with you.  
 18 Let your fountain be blessed,  
 and rejoice in the wife of your youth,  
 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe.  
 Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;  
 be intoxicated<sup>[d]</sup> always in her love.  
 20 Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden  
 woman  
 and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?<sup>[e]</sup>  
 21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD,  
 and he ponders<sup>[f]</sup> all his paths.  
 22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,  
 and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.  
 23 He dies for lack of discipline,  
 and because of his great folly he is led astray.

## Proverbs 6 English Standard Version (ESV)

### Practical Warnings

6 My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,  
 have given your pledge for a stranger,  
 2 if you are snared in the words of your mouth,  
 caught in the words of your mouth,  
 3 then do this, my son, and save yourself,  
 for you have come into the hand of your neighbor:  
 go, hasten,<sup>[a]</sup> and plead urgently with your  
 neighbor.  
 4 Give your eyes no sleep  
 and your eyelids no slumber;  
 5 save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,<sup>[b]</sup>  
 like a bird from the hand of the fowler.  
 6 Go to the ant, O sluggard;  
 consider her ways, and be wise.  
 7 Without having any chief,  
 officer, or ruler,  
 8 she prepares her bread in summer  
 and gathers her food in harvest.  
 9 How long will you lie there, O sluggard?  
 When will you arise from your sleep?  
 10 A little sleep, a little slumber,  
 a little folding of the hands to rest,  
 11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber,  
 and want like an armed man.  
 12 A worthless person, a wicked man,  
 goes about with crooked speech,

13 winks with his eyes, signals<sup>[c]</sup> with his feet,  
points with his finger,  
14 with perverted heart devises evil,  
continually sowing discord;  
15 therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly;  
in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.  
16 There are six things that the LORD hates,  
seven that are an abomination to him:  
17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
and hands that shed innocent blood,  
18 a heart that devises wicked plans,  
feet that make haste to run to evil,  
19 a false witness who breathes out lies,  
and one who sows discord among brothers.

#### Warnings Against Adultery

20 My son, keep your father's commandment,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching.  
21 Bind them on your heart always;  
tie them around your neck.  
22 When you walk, they<sup>[d]</sup> will lead you;  
when you lie down, they will watch over you;  
and when you awake, they will talk with you.  
23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,  
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,  
24 to preserve you from the evil woman,<sup>[e]</sup>  
from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.<sup>[f]</sup>  
25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart,  
and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;

26 for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread,<sup>[g]</sup>  
but a married woman<sup>[h]</sup> hunts down a precious life.  
27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest  
and his clothes not be burned?  
28 Or can one walk on hot coals  
and his feet not be scorched?  
29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife;  
none who touches her will go unpunished.  
30 People do not despise a thief if he steals  
to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry,  
31 but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold;  
he will give all the goods of his house.  
32 He who commits adultery lacks sense;  
he who does it destroys himself.  
33 He will get wounds and dishonor,  
and his disgrace will not be wiped away.  
34 For jealousy makes a man furious,  
and he will not spare when he takes revenge.  
35 He will accept no compensation;  
he will refuse though you multiply gifts.

#### Proverbs 7 English Standard Version (ESV)

##### Warning Against the Adulteress

7 My son, keep my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you;  
2 keep my commandments and live;  
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;  
3 bind them on your fingers;

write them on the tablet of your heart.  
4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"  
and call insight your intimate friend,  
5 to keep you from the forbidden<sup>[a]</sup> woman,  
from the adulteress<sup>[b]</sup> with her smooth words.  
6 For at the window of my house  
I have looked out through my lattice,  
7 and I have seen among the simple,  
I have perceived among the youths,  
a young man lacking sense,  
8 passing along the street near her corner,  
taking the road to her house  
9 in the twilight, in the evening,  
at the time of night and darkness.  
10 And behold, the woman meets him,  
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.<sup>[c]</sup>  
11 She is loud and wayward;  
her feet do not stay at home;  
12 now in the street, now in the market,  
and at every corner she lies in wait.  
13 She seizes him and kisses him,  
and with bold face she says to him,  
14 "I had to offer sacrifices,<sup>[d]</sup>  
and today I have paid my vows;  
15 so now I have come out to meet you,  
to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.  
16 I have spread my couch with coverings,  
colored linens from Egyptian linen;  
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,  
aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;  
let us delight ourselves with love.  
19 For my husband is not at home;  
he has gone on a long journey;  
20 he took a bag of money with him;  
at full moon he will come home."  
21 With much seductive speech she persuades him;  
with her smooth talk she compels him.  
22 All at once he follows her,  
as an ox goes to the slaughter,  
or as a stag is caught fast<sup>[e]</sup>  
23 till an arrow pierces its liver;  
as a bird rushes into a snare;  
he does not know that it will cost him his life.  
24 And now, O sons, listen to me,  
and be attentive to the words of my mouth.  
25 Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;  
do not stray into her paths,  
26 for many a victim has she laid low,  
and all her slain are a mighty throng.  
27 Her house is the way to Sheol,  
going down to the chambers of death.

## Proverbs 8 English Standard Version (ESV)

### The Blessings of Wisdom

8 Does not wisdom call?  
Does not understanding raise her voice?  
2 On the heights beside the way,

at the crossroads she takes her stand;  
3 beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:  
4 "To you, O men, I call,  
and my cry is to the children of man.  
5 O simple ones, learn prudence;  
O fools, learn sense.  
6 Hear, for I will speak noble things,  
and from my lips will come what is right,  
7 for my mouth will utter truth;  
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.  
8 All the words of my mouth are righteous;  
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.  
9 They are all straight to him who understands,  
and right to those who find knowledge.  
10 Take my instruction instead of silver,  
and knowledge rather than choice gold,  
11 for wisdom is better than jewels,  
and all that you may desire cannot compare with  
her.  
12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,  
and I find knowledge and discretion.  
13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.  
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil  
and perverted speech I hate.  
14 I have counsel and sound wisdom;  
I have insight; I have strength.  
15 By me kings reign,  
and rulers decree what is just;  
16 by me princes rule,

and nobles, all who govern justly.<sup>[a]</sup>  
17 I love those who love me,  
and those who seek me diligently find me.  
18 Riches and honor are with me,  
enduring wealth and righteousness.  
19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,  
and my yield than choice silver.  
20 I walk in the way of righteousness,  
in the paths of justice,  
21 granting an inheritance to those who love me,  
and filling their treasuries.  
22 "The LORD possessed<sup>[b]</sup> me at the beginning of his  
work,<sup>[c]</sup>  
the first of his acts of old.  
23 Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
24 When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
25 Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth,  
26 before he had made the earth with its fields,  
or the first of the dust of the world.  
27 When he established the heavens, I was there;  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
28 when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established<sup>[d]</sup> the fountains of the deep,  
29 when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
30 then I was beside him, like a master workman,

and I was daily his<sup>[e]</sup> delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
31 rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the children of man.  
32 “And now, O sons, listen to me:  
blessed are those who keep my ways.  
33 Hear instruction and be wise,  
and do not neglect it.  
34 Blessed is the one who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.  
35 For whoever finds me finds life  
and obtains favor from the LORD,  
36 but he who fails to find me injures himself;  
all who hate me love death.”

## Proverbs 9 English Standard Version (ESV)

### The Way of Wisdom

9 Wisdom has built her house;  
she has hewn her seven pillars.  
2 She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine;  
she has also set her table.  
3 She has sent out her young women to call  
from the highest places in the town,  
4 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”  
To him who lacks sense she says,  
5 “Come, eat of my bread

and drink of the wine I have mixed.  
6 Leave your simple ways,<sup>[a]</sup> and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”  
7 Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse,  
and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.  
8 Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;  
reprove a wise man, and he will love you.  
9 Give instruction<sup>[b]</sup> to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in  
learning.  
10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.  
11 For by me your days will be multiplied,  
and years will be added to your life.  
12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself;  
if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

### The Way of Folly

13 The woman Folly is loud;  
she is seductive<sup>[c]</sup> and knows nothing.  
14 She sits at the door of her house;  
she takes a seat on the highest places of the town,  
15 calling to those who pass by,  
who are going straight on their way,  
16 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”  
And to him who lacks sense she says,  
17 “Stolen water is sweet,  
and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”



18 But he does not know that the dead<sup>[a]</sup> are there,  
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

## Proverbs 10 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Proverbs of Solomon

10 The proverbs of Solomon.

A wise son makes a glad father,

but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

2 Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,  
but righteousness delivers from death.

3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry,  
but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

4 A slack hand causes poverty,  
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

5 He who gathers in summer is a prudent son,  
but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings  
shame.

6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous,  
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.<sup>[a]</sup>

7 The memory of the righteous is a blessing,  
but the name of the wicked will rot.

8 The wise of heart will receive commandments,  
but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,  
but he who makes his ways crooked will be found  
out.

10 Whoever winks the eye causes trouble,  
and a babbling fool will come to ruin.

11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,  
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

12 Hatred stirs up strife,  
but love covers all offenses.

13 On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found,  
but a rod is for the back of him who lacks sense.

14 The wise lay up knowledge,  
but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

15 A rich man's wealth is his strong city;  
the poverty of the poor is their ruin.

16 The wage of the righteous leads to life,  
the gain of the wicked to sin.

17 Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life,  
but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.

18 The one who conceals hatred has lying lips,  
and whoever utters slander is a fool.

19 When words are many, transgression is not lacking,  
but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver;  
the heart of the wicked is of little worth.

21 The lips of the righteous feed many,  
but fools die for lack of sense.

22 The blessing of the LORD makes rich,  
and he adds no sorrow with it.<sup>[b]</sup>

23 Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool,  
but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding.

24 What the wicked dreads will come upon him,  
but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

25 When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more,  
but the righteous is established forever.

- 26 Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,  
so is the sluggard to those who send him.
- 27 The fear of the LORD prolongs life,  
but the years of the wicked will be short.
- 28 The hope of the righteous brings joy,  
but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
- 29 The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the blameless,  
but destruction to evildoers.
- 30 The righteous will never be removed,  
but the wicked will not dwell in the land.
- 31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,  
but the perverse tongue will be cut off.
- 32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,  
but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

### Proverbs 11 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD,  
but a just weight is his delight.
- 2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace,  
but with the humble is wisdom.
- 3 The integrity of the upright guides them,  
but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys  
them.
- 4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath,  
but righteousness delivers from death.
- 5 The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight,  
but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.
- 6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them,  
but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.

- 7 When the wicked dies, his hope will perish,  
and the expectation of wealth<sup>[a]</sup> perishes too.
- 8 The righteous is delivered from trouble,  
and the wicked walks into it instead.
- 9 With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor,  
but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.
- 10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices,  
and when the wicked perish there are shouts of  
gladness.
- 11 By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,  
but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.
- 12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense,  
but a man of understanding remains silent.
- 13 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets,  
but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing  
covered.
- 14 Where there is no guidance, a people falls,  
but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
- 15 Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer  
harm,  
but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure.
- 16 A gracious woman gets honor,  
and violent men get riches.
- 17 A man who is kind benefits himself,  
but a cruel man hurts himself.
- 18 The wicked earns deceptive wages,  
but one who sows righteousness gets a sure  
reward.
- 19 Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live,  
but he who pursues evil will die.

20 Those of crooked heart are an abomination to  
the LORD,  
but those of blameless ways are his delight.  
21 Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished,  
but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.  
22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout  
is a beautiful woman without discretion.  
23 The desire of the righteous ends only in good,  
the expectation of the wicked in wrath.  
24 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;  
another withholds what he should give, and only  
suffers want.  
25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,  
and one who waters will himself be watered.  
26 The people curse him who holds back grain,  
but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.  
27 Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor,<sup>[b]</sup>  
but evil comes to him who searches for it.  
28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall,  
but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.  
29 Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the  
wind,  
and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.  
30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
and whoever captures souls is wise.  
31 If the righteous is repaid on earth,  
how much more the wicked and the sinner!

## Proverbs 12 English Standard Version (ESV)

12 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,  
but he who hates reproof is stupid.  
2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD,  
but a man of evil devices he condemns.  
3 No one is established by wickedness,  
but the root of the righteous will never be moved.  
4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband,  
but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his  
bones.  
5 The thoughts of the righteous are just;  
the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.  
6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,  
but the mouth of the upright delivers them.  
7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more,  
but the house of the righteous will stand.  
8 A man is commended according to his good sense,  
but one of twisted mind is despised.  
9 Better to be lowly and have a servant  
than to play the great man and lack bread.  
10 Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast,  
but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.  
11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,  
but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.  
12 Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers,  
but the root of the righteous bears fruit.  
13 An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but the righteous escapes from trouble.  
14 From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good,  
and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,  
but a wise man listens to advice.

16 The vexation of a fool is known at once,  
but the prudent ignores an insult.

17 Whoever speaks<sup>[b]</sup> the truth gives honest evidence,  
but a false witness utters deceit.

18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts,  
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

19 Truthful lips endure forever,  
but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil,  
but those who plan peace have joy.

21 No ill befalls the righteous,  
but the wicked are filled with trouble.

22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,  
but those who act faithfully are his delight.

23 A prudent man conceals knowledge,  
but the heart of fools proclaims folly.

24 The hand of the diligent will rule,  
while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down,  
but a good word makes him glad.

26 One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor,<sup>[d]</sup>  
but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

27 Whoever is slothful will not roast his game,  
but the diligent man will get precious wealth.<sup>[d]</sup>

28 In the path of righteousness is life,  
and in its pathway there is no death.

## Proverbs 13 English Standard Version (ESV)

13 A wise son hears his father's instruction,  
but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

2 From the fruit of his mouth a man eats what is good,  
but the desire of the treacherous is for violence.

3 Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life;  
he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,  
while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

5 The righteous hates falsehood,  
but the wicked brings shame<sup>[a]</sup> and disgrace.

6 Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless,  
but sin overthrows the wicked.

7 One pretends to be rich,<sup>[b]</sup> yet has nothing;  
another pretends to be poor,<sup>[c]</sup> yet has great wealth.

8 The ransom of a man's life is his wealth,  
but a poor man hears no threat.

9 The light of the righteous rejoices,  
but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

10 By insolence comes nothing but strife,  
but with those who take advice is wisdom.

11 Wealth gained hastily<sup>[d]</sup> will dwindle,  
but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

13 Whoever despises the word<sup>[e]</sup> brings destruction on himself,  
but he who reveres the commandment<sup>[f]</sup> will be rewarded.

- 14 The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,  
that one may turn away from the snares of death.
- 15 Good sense wins favor,  
but the way of the treacherous is their ruin.<sup>[g]</sup>
- 16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge,  
but a fool flaunts his folly.
- 17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble,  
but a faithful envoy brings healing.
- 18 Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction,  
but whoever heeds reproof is honored.
- 19 A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul,  
but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools.
- 20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,  
but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
- 21 Disaster<sup>[h]</sup> pursues sinners,  
but the righteous are rewarded with good.
- 22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children,  
but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.
- 23 The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food,  
but it is swept away through injustice.
- 24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son,  
but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.<sup>[i]</sup>
- 25 The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite,  
but the belly of the wicked suffers want.

## Proverbs 14 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 14 The wisest of women builds her house,  
but folly with her own hands tears it down.
- 2 Whoever walks in uprightness fears the LORD,  
but he who is devious in his ways despises him.
- 3 By the mouth of a fool comes a rod for his back,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but the lips of the wise will preserve them.
- 4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean,  
but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.
- 5 A faithful witness does not lie,  
but a false witness breathes out lies.
- 6 A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain,  
but knowledge is easy for a man of understanding.
- 7 Leave the presence of a fool,  
for there you do not meet words of knowledge.
- 8 The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way,  
but the folly of fools is deceiving.
- 9 Fools mock at the guilt offering,  
but the upright enjoy acceptance.<sup>[b]</sup>
- 10 The heart knows its own bitterness,  
and no stranger shares its joy.
- 11 The house of the wicked will be destroyed,  
but the tent of the upright will flourish.
- 12 There is a way that seems right to a man,  
but its end is the way to death.<sup>[c]</sup>
- 13 Even in laughter the heart may ache,  
and the end of joy may be grief.
- 14 The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways,  
and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his

ways.

- 15 The simple believes everything,  
but the prudent gives thought to his steps.
- 16 One who is wise is cautious<sup>[d]</sup> and turns away from evil,  
but a fool is reckless and careless.
- 17 A man of quick temper acts foolishly,  
and a man of evil devices is hated.
- 18 The simple inherit folly,  
but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
- 19 The evil bow down before the good,  
the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
- 20 The poor is disliked even by his neighbor,  
but the rich has many friends.
- 21 Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner,  
but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.
- 22 Do they not go astray who devise evil?  
Those who devise good meet<sup>[e]</sup> steadfast love and  
faithfulness.
- 23 In all toil there is profit,  
but mere talk tends only to poverty.
- 24 The crown of the wise is their wealth,  
but the folly of fools brings folly.
- 25 A truthful witness saves lives,  
but one who breathes out lies is deceitful.
- 26 In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence,  
and his children will have a refuge.
- 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,  
that one may turn away from the snares of death.
- 28 In a multitude of people is the glory of a king,  
but without people a prince is ruined.

- 29 Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding,  
but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.
- 30 A tranquil<sup>[f]</sup> heart gives life to the flesh,  
but envy<sup>[g]</sup> makes the bones rot.
- 31 Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker,  
but he who is generous to the needy honors him.
- 32 The wicked is overthrown through his evildoing,  
but the righteous finds refuge in his death.
- 33 Wisdom rests in the heart of a man of understanding,  
but it makes itself known even in the midst of fools.<sup>[h]</sup>
- 34 Righteousness exalts a nation,  
but sin is a reproach to any people.
- 35 A servant who deals wisely has the king's favor,  
but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.

### Proverbs 15 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 15 A soft answer turns away wrath,  
but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- 2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge,  
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
keeping watch on the evil and the good.
- 4 A gentle<sup>[a]</sup> tongue is a tree of life,  
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.
- 5 A fool despises his father's instruction,  
but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.
- 6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure,  
but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.
- 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge;

not so the hearts of fools.<sup>[b]</sup>

- 8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.
- 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
but he loves him who pursues righteousness.
- 10 There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way;  
whoever hates reproof will die.
- 11 Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD;  
how much more the hearts of the children of man!
- 12 A scoffer does not like to be reproved;  
he will not go to the wise.
- 13 A glad heart makes a cheerful face,  
but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.
- 14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge,  
but the mouths of fools feed on folly.
- 15 All the days of the afflicted are evil,  
but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.
- 16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD  
than great treasure and trouble with it.
- 17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is  
than a fattened ox and hatred with it.
- 18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife,  
but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
- 19 The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns,  
but the path of the upright is a level highway.
- 20 A wise son makes a glad father,  
but a foolish man despises his mother.
- 21 Folly is a joy to him who lacks sense,  
but a man of understanding walks straight ahead.
- 22 Without counsel plans fail,

but with many advisers they succeed.

- 23 To make an apt answer is a joy to a man,  
and a word in season, how good it is!
- 24 The path of life leads upward for the prudent,  
that he may turn away from Sheol beneath.
- 25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud  
but maintains the widow's boundaries.
- 26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to  
the LORD,  
but gracious words are pure.
- 27 Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own  
household,  
but he who hates bribes will live.
- 28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer,  
but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.
- 29 The LORD is far from the wicked,  
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.
- 30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,  
and good news refreshes<sup>[c]</sup> the bones.
- 31 The ear that listens to life-giving reproof  
will dwell among the wise.
- 32 Whoever ignores instruction despises himself,  
but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.
- 33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom,  
and humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 16 English Standard Version (ESV)

16 The plans of the heart belong to man,  
but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,  
but the LORD weighs the spirit.<sup>[a]</sup>

3 Commit your work to the LORD,  
and your plans will be established.

4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose,  
even the wicked for the day of trouble.

5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD;  
be assured, he will not go unpunished.

6 By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,  
and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.

7 When a man's ways please the LORD,  
he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

8 Better is a little with righteousness  
than great revenues with injustice.

9 The heart of man plans his way,  
but the LORD establishes his steps.

10 An oracle is on the lips of a king;  
his mouth does not sin in judgment.

11 A just balance and scales are the LORD's;  
all the weights in the bag are his work.

12 It is an abomination to kings to do evil,  
for the throne is established by righteousness.

13 Righteous lips are the delight of a king,  
and he loves him who speaks what is right.

14 A king's wrath is a messenger of death,  
and a wise man will appease it.

15 In the light of a king's face there is life,  
and his favor is like the clouds that bring the  
spring rain.

16 How much better to get wisdom than gold!  
To get understanding is to be chosen rather  
than silver.

17 The highway of the upright turns aside from evil;  
whoever guards his way preserves his life.

18 Pride goes before destruction,  
and a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor  
than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 Whoever gives thought to the word<sup>[b]</sup> will discover good,  
and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

21 The wise of heart is called discerning,  
and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

22 Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it,  
but the instruction of fools is folly.

23 The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious  
and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

24 Gracious words are like a honeycomb,  
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

25 There is a way that seems right to a man,  
but its end is the way to death.<sup>[c]</sup>

26 A worker's appetite works for him;  
his mouth urges him on.

27 A worthless man plots evil,  
and his speech<sup>[d]</sup> is like a scorching fire.



- 28 A dishonest man spreads strife,  
and a whisperer separates close friends.
- 29 A man of violence entices his neighbor  
and leads him in a way that is not good.
- 30 Whoever winks his eyes plans<sup>[e]</sup> dishonest things;  
he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.
- 31 Gray hair is a crown of glory;  
it is gained in a righteous life.
- 32 Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty,  
and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.
- 33 The lot is cast into the lap,  
but its every decision is from the LORD.

### Proverbs 17 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 17 Better is a dry morsel with quiet  
than a house full of feasting<sup>[a]</sup> with strife.
- 2 A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully  
and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.
- 3 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold,  
and the LORD tests hearts.
- 4 An evildoer listens to wicked lips,  
and a liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue.
- 5 Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker;  
he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
- 6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged,  
and the glory of children is their fathers.
- 7 Fine speech is not becoming to a fool;

- still less is false speech to a prince.
- 8 A bribe is like a magic<sup>[b]</sup> stone in the eyes of the one who gives it;  
wherever he turns he prospers.
- 9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love,  
but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.
- 10 A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding  
than a hundred blows into a fool.
- 11 An evil man seeks only rebellion,  
and a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
- 12 Let a man meet a she-bear robbed of her cubs  
rather than a fool in his folly.
- 13 If anyone returns evil for good,  
evil will not depart from his house.
- 14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water,  
so quit before the quarrel breaks out.
- 15 He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous  
are both alike an abomination to the LORD.
- 16 Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom  
when he has no sense?
- 17 A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for adversity.
- 18 One who lacks sense gives a pledge  
and puts up security in the presence of his neighbor.
- 19 Whoever loves transgression loves strife;  
he who makes his door high seeks destruction.
- 20 A man of crooked heart does not discover good,  
and one with a dishonest tongue falls into calamity.

- 21 He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow,  
and the father of a fool has no joy.
- 22 A joyful heart is good medicine,  
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
- 23 The wicked accepts a bribe in secret<sup>[c]</sup>  
to pervert the ways of justice.
- 24 The discerning sets his face toward wisdom,  
but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.
- 25 A foolish son is a grief to his father  
and bitterness to her who bore him.
- 26 To impose a fine on a righteous man is not good,  
nor to strike the noble for their uprightness.
- 27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge,  
and he who has a cool spirit is a man of  
understanding.
- 28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise;  
when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

**Proverbs 18** English Standard Version (ESV)

- 18 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;  
he breaks out against all sound judgment.
- 2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,  
but only in expressing his opinion.
- 3 When wickedness comes, contempt comes also,  
and with dishonor comes disgrace.
- 4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;  
the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.
- 5 It is not good to be partial to<sup>[a]</sup> the wicked  
or to deprive the righteous of justice.

- 6 A fool's lips walk into a fight,  
and his mouth invites a beating.
- 7 A fool's mouth is his ruin,  
and his lips are a snare to his soul.
- 8 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels;  
they go down into the inner parts of the body.
- 9 Whoever is slack in his work  
is a brother to him who destroys.
- 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;  
the righteous man runs into it and is safe.
- 11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city,  
and like a high wall in his imagination.
- 12 Before destruction a man's heart is haughty,  
but humility comes before honor.
- 13 If one gives an answer before he hears,  
it is his folly and shame.
- 14 A man's spirit will endure sickness,  
but a crushed spirit who can bear?
- 15 An intelligent heart acquires knowledge,  
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
- 16 A man's gift makes room for him  
and brings him before the great.
- 17 The one who states his case first seems right,  
until the other comes and examines him.
- 18 The lot puts an end to quarrels  
and decides between powerful contenders.
- 19 A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city,  
and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.
- 20 From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied;  
he is satisfied by the yield of his lips.

- 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruits.
- 22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing  
and obtains favor from the LORD.
- 23 The poor use entreaties,  
but the rich answer roughly.
- 24 A man of many companions may come to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a  
brother.

### Proverbs 19 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 19 Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity  
than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.
- 2 Desire<sup>[a]</sup> without knowledge is not good,  
and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his  
way.
- 3 When a man's folly brings his way to ruin,  
his heart rages against the LORD.
- 4 Wealth brings many new friends,  
but a poor man is deserted by his friend.
- 5 A false witness will not go unpunished,  
and he who breathes out lies will not escape.
- 6 Many seek the favor of a generous man,<sup>[b]</sup>  
and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.
- 7 All a poor man's brothers hate him;  
how much more do his friends go far from him!  
He pursues them with words, but does not have them.<sup>[c]</sup>
- 8 Whoever gets sense loves his own soul;  
he who keeps understanding will discover good.

- 9 A false witness will not go unpunished,  
and he who breathes out lies will perish.
- 10 It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury,  
much less for a slave to rule over princes.
- 11 Good sense makes one slow to anger,  
and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
- 12 A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion,  
but his favor is like dew on the grass.
- 13 A foolish son is ruin to his father,  
and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of  
rain.
- 14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers,  
but a prudent wife is from the LORD.
- 15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep,  
and an idle person will suffer hunger.
- 16 Whoever keeps the commandment keeps his life;  
he who despises his ways will die.
- 17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD,  
and he will repay him for his deed.
- 18 Discipline your son, for there is hope;  
do not set your heart on putting him to death.
- 19 A man of great wrath will pay the penalty,  
for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it  
again.
- 20 Listen to advice and accept instruction,  
that you may gain wisdom in the future.
- 21 Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.
- 22 What is desired in a man is steadfast love,  
and a poor man is better than a liar.

- 23 The fear of the LORD leads to life,  
and whoever has it rests satisfied;  
he will not be visited by harm.
- 24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish  
and will not even bring it back to his mouth.
- 25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence;  
reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain  
knowledge.
- 26 He who does violence to his father and chases away his  
mother  
is a son who brings shame and reproach.
- 27 Cease to hear instruction, my son,  
and you will stray from the words of knowledge.
- 28 A worthless witness mocks at justice,  
and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.
- 29 Condemnation is ready for scoffers,  
and beating for the backs of fools.

## Proverbs 20 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 20 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,  
and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.<sup>[a]</sup>
- 2 The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion;  
whoever provokes him to anger forfeits his life.
- 3 It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife,  
but every fool will be quarreling.
- 4 The sluggard does not plow in the autumn;  
he will seek at harvest and have nothing.
- 5 The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water,  
but a man of understanding will draw it out.

- 6 Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love,  
but a faithful man who can find?
- 7 The righteous who walks in his integrity—  
blessed are his children after him!
- 8 A king who sits on the throne of judgment  
winnows all evil with his eyes.
- 9 Who can say, "I have made my heart pure;  
I am clean from my sin"?
- 10 Unequal<sup>[b]</sup> weights and unequal measures  
are both alike an abomination to the LORD.
- 11 Even a child makes himself known by his acts,  
by whether his conduct is pure and upright.<sup>[c]</sup>
- 12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye,  
the LORD has made them both.
- 13 Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty;  
open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.
- 14 "Bad, bad," says the buyer,  
but when he goes away, then he boasts.
- 15 There is gold and abundance of costly stones,  
but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.
- 16 Take a man's garment when he has put up security for a  
stranger,  
and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for  
foreigners.<sup>[d]</sup>
- 17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man,  
but afterward his mouth will be full of gravel.
- 18 Plans are established by counsel;  
by wise guidance wage war.
- 19 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets;  
therefore do not associate with a simple babler.<sup>[e]</sup>

20 If one curses his father or his mother,  
his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.  
21 An inheritance gained hastily in the beginning  
will not be blessed in the end.  
22 Do not say, "I will repay evil";  
wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.  
23 Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD,  
and false scales are not good.  
24 A man's steps are from the LORD;  
how then can man understand his way?  
25 It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy,"  
and to reflect only after making vows.  
26 A wise king winnows the wicked  
and drives the wheel over them.  
27 The spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of man is the lamp of the LORD,  
searching all his innermost parts.  
28 Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king,  
and by steadfast love his throne is upheld.  
29 The glory of young men is their strength,  
but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.  
30 Blows that wound cleanse away evil;  
strokes make clean the innermost parts.

### Proverbs 21 English Standard Version (ESV)

21 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of  
the LORD;  
he turns it wherever he will.  
2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,  
but the LORD weighs the heart.

3 To do righteousness and justice  
is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.  
4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart,  
the lamp<sup>[a]</sup> of the wicked, are sin.  
5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,  
but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.  
6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue  
is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.<sup>[b]</sup>  
7 The violence of the wicked will sweep them away,  
because they refuse to do what is just.  
8 The way of the guilty is crooked,  
but the conduct of the pure is upright.  
9 It is better to live in a corner of the housetop  
than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.  
10 The soul of the wicked desires evil;  
his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.  
11 When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise;  
when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge.  
12 The Righteous One observes the house of the wicked;  
he throws the wicked down to ruin.  
13 Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor  
will himself call out and not be answered.  
14 A gift in secret averts anger,  
and a concealed bribe,<sup>[c]</sup> strong wrath.  
15 When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous  
but terror to evildoers.  
16 One who wanders from the way of good sense  
will rest in the assembly of the dead.  
17 Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man;  
he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous,  
and the traitor for the upright.  
19 It is better to live in a desert land  
than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.  
20 Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling,  
but a foolish man devours it.  
21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness  
will find life, righteousness, and honor.  
22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty  
and brings down the stronghold in which they trust.  
23 Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue  
keeps himself out of trouble.  
24 "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant, haughty man  
who acts with arrogant pride.  
25 The desire of the sluggard kills him,  
for his hands refuse to labor.  
26 All day long he craves and craves,  
but the righteous gives and does not hold back.  
27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination;  
how much more when he brings it with evil intent.  
28 A false witness will perish,  
but the word of a man who hears will endure.  
29 A wicked man puts on a bold face,  
but the upright gives thought to<sup>[d]</sup> his ways.  
30 No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel  
can avail against the LORD.  
31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle,  
but the victory belongs to the LORD.

## Proverbs 22 English Standard Version (ESV)

22 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.  
2 The rich and the poor meet together;  
the LORD is the Maker of them all.  
3 The prudent sees danger and hides himself,  
but the simple go on and suffer for it.  
4 The reward for humility and fear of the LORD  
is riches and honor and life.<sup>[a]</sup>  
5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked;  
whoever guards his soul will keep far from them.  
6 Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.  
7 The rich rules over the poor,  
and the borrower is the slave of the lender.  
8 Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of his fury will fail.  
9 Whoever has a bountiful<sup>[b]</sup> eye will be blessed,  
for he shares his bread with the poor.  
10 Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out,  
and quarreling and abuse will cease.  
11 He who loves purity of heart,  
and whose speech is gracious, will have the king  
as his friend.  
12 The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge,  
but he overthrows the words of the traitor.  
13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!  
I shall be killed in the streets!"  
14 The mouth of forbidden<sup>[c]</sup> women is a deep pit;  
he with whom the LORD is angry will fall into it.

- 15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,  
but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.  
16 Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth,  
or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

### Words of the Wise

- 17 Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise,  
and apply your heart to my knowledge,  
18 for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you,  
if all of them are ready on your lips.  
19 That your trust may be in the LORD,  
I have made them known to you today, even to you.  
20 Have I not written for you thirty sayings  
of counsel and knowledge,  
21 to make you know what is right and true,  
that you may give a true answer to those who sent  
you?  
22 Do not rob the poor, because he is poor,  
or crush the afflicted at the gate,  
23 for the LORD will plead their cause  
and rob of life those who rob them.  
24 Make no friendship with a man given to anger,  
nor go with a wrathful man,  
25 lest you learn his ways  
and entangle yourself in a snare.  
26 Be not one of those who give pledges,  
who put up security for debts.  
27 If you have nothing with which to pay,  
why should your bed be taken from under you?

- 28 Do not move the ancient landmark  
that your fathers have set.  
29 Do you see a man skillful in his work?  
He will stand before kings;  
he will not stand before obscure men

### Proverbs 23 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 23 When you sit down to eat with a ruler,  
observe carefully what<sup>[a]</sup> is before you,  
2 and put a knife to your throat  
if you are given to appetite.  
3 Do not desire his delicacies,  
for they are deceptive food.  
4 Do not toil to acquire wealth;  
be discerning enough to desist.  
5 When your eyes light on it, it is gone,  
for suddenly it sprouts wings,  
flying like an eagle toward heaven.  
6 Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy;<sup>[b]</sup>  
do not desire his delicacies,  
7 for he is like one who is inwardly calculating.<sup>[c]</sup>  
“Eat and drink!” he says to you,  
but his heart is not with you.  
8 You will vomit up the morsels that you have eaten,  
and waste your pleasant words.  
9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,  
for he will despise the good sense of your words.  
10 Do not move an ancient landmark  
or enter the fields of the fatherless,

11 for their Redeemer is strong;  
he will plead their cause against you.  
12 Apply your heart to instruction  
and your ear to words of knowledge.  
13 Do not withhold discipline from a child;  
if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.  
14 If you strike him with the rod,  
you will save his soul from Sheol.  
15 My son, if your heart is wise,  
my heart too will be glad.  
16 My inmost being<sup>[d]</sup> will exult  
when your lips speak what is right.  
17 Let not your heart envy sinners,  
but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.  
18 Surely there is a future,  
and your hope will not be cut off.  
19 Hear, my son, and be wise,  
and direct your heart in the way.  
20 Be not among drunkards<sup>[e]</sup>  
or among gluttonous eaters of meat,  
21 for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty,  
and slumber will clothe them with rags.  
22 Listen to your father who gave you life,  
and do not despise your mother when she is old.  
23 Buy truth, and do not sell it;  
buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.  
24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;  
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.  
25 Let your father and mother be glad;  
let her who bore you rejoice.

26 My son, give me your heart,  
and let your eyes observe<sup>[f]</sup> my ways.  
27 For a prostitute is a deep pit;  
an adulteress<sup>[g]</sup> is a narrow well.  
28 She lies in wait like a robber  
and increases the traitors among mankind.  
29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow?  
Who has strife? Who has complaining?  
Who has wounds without cause?  
Who has redness of eyes?  
30 Those who tarry long over wine;  
those who go to try mixed wine.  
31 Do not look at wine when it is red,  
when it sparkles in the cup  
and goes down smoothly.  
32 In the end it bites like a serpent  
and stings like an adder.  
33 Your eyes will see strange things,  
and your heart utter perverse things.  
34 You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea,  
like one who lies on the top of a mast.<sup>[h]</sup>  
35 "They struck me," you will say,<sup>[i]</sup> "but I was not hurt;  
they beat me, but I did not feel it.  
When shall I awake?  
I must have another drink."



## Proverbs 24 English Standard Version (ESV)

24 Be not envious of evil men,  
nor desire to be with them,  
2 for their hearts devise violence,  
and their lips talk of trouble.  
3 By wisdom a house is built,  
and by understanding it is established;  
4 by knowledge the rooms are filled  
with all precious and pleasant riches.  
5 A wise man is full of strength,  
and a man of knowledge enhances his might,  
6 for by wise guidance you can wage your war,  
and in abundance of counselors there is victory.  
7 Wisdom is too high for a fool;  
in the gate he does not open his mouth.  
8 Whoever plans to do evil  
will be called a schemer.  
9 The devising<sup>la</sup> of folly is sin,  
and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind.  
10 If you faint in the day of adversity,  
your strength is small.  
11 Rescue those who are being taken away to death;  
hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.  
12 If you say, "Behold, we did not know this,"  
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?  
Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it,  
and will he not repay man according to his work?  
13 My son, eat honey, for it is good,  
and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to  
your taste.

14 Know that wisdom is such to your soul;  
if you find it, there will be a future,  
and your hope will not be cut off.  
15 Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the  
righteous;  
do no violence to his home;  
16 for the righteous falls seven times and rises again,  
but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.  
17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,  
and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,  
18 lest the LORD see it and be displeased,  
and turn away his anger from him.  
19 Fret not yourself because of evildoers,  
and be not envious of the wicked,  
20 for the evil man has no future;  
the lamp of the wicked will be put out.  
21 My son, fear the LORD and the king,  
and do not join with those who do otherwise,  
22 for disaster will arise suddenly from them,  
and who knows the ruin that will come from them  
both?

### More Sayings of the Wise

23 These also are sayings of the wise.

Partiality in judging is not good.

24 Whoever says to the wicked, "You are in the right,"  
will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations,  
25 but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight,  
and a good blessing will come upon them.

26 Whoever gives an honest answer  
 kisses the lips.

27 Prepare your work outside;  
 get everything ready for yourself in the field,  
 and after that build your house.

28 Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause,  
 and do not deceive with your lips.

29 Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me;  
 I will pay the man back for what he has done."

30 I passed by the field of a sluggard,  
 by the vineyard of a man lacking sense,  
 31 and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns;  
 the ground was covered with nettles,  
 and its stone wall was broken down.

32 Then I saw and considered it;  
 I looked and received instruction.

33 A little sleep, a little slumber,  
 a little folding of the hands to rest,  
 34 and poverty will come upon you like a robber,  
 and want like an armed man.

## Proverbs 25 English Standard Version (ESV)

More Proverbs of Solomon

25 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied.

2 It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
 but the glory of kings is to search things out.

3 As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,  
 so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

4 Take away the dross from the silver,  
 and the smith has material for a vessel;

5 take away the wicked from the presence of the king,  
 and his throne will be established in righteousness.

6 Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
 or stand in the place of the great,  
 7 for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen  
 8 do not hastily bring into court,<sup>[a]</sup>  
 for<sup>[b]</sup> what will you do in the end,  
 when your neighbor puts you to shame?

9 Argue your case with your neighbor himself,  
 and do not reveal another's secret,  
 10 lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,  
 and your ill repute have no end.

11 A word fitly spoken  
 is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

12 Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold  
 is a wise reprov<sup>er</sup> to a listening ear.

13 Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest  
 is a faithful messenger to those who send him;  
 he refreshes the soul of his masters.

14 Like clouds and wind without rain  
 is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

15 With patience a ruler may be persuaded,  
 and a soft tongue will break a bone.

16 If you have found honey, eat only enough for you,

- lest you have your fill of it and vomit it.
- 17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,  
lest he have his fill of you and hate you.
- 18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor  
is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.
- 19 Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble  
is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.
- 20 Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart  
is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day,  
and like vinegar on soda.
- 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat,  
and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,
- 22 for you will heap burning coals on his head,  
and the LORD will reward you.
- 23 The north wind brings forth rain,  
and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.
- 24 It is better to live in a corner of the housetop  
than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.
- 25 Like cold water to a thirsty soul,  
so is good news from a far country.
- 26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain  
is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
- 27 It is not good to eat much honey,  
nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.<sup>[a]</sup>
- 28 A man without self-control  
is like a city broken into and left without walls.

## Proverbs 26 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 26 Like snow in summer or rain in harvest,  
so honor is not fitting for a fool.
- 2 Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying,  
a curse that is causeless does not alight.
- 3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,  
and a rod for the back of fools.
- 4 Answer not a fool according to his folly,  
lest you be like him yourself.
- 5 Answer a fool according to his folly,  
lest he be wise in his own eyes.
- 6 Whoever sends a message by the hand of a fool  
cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.
- 7 Like a lame man's legs, which hang useless,  
is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- 8 Like one who binds the stone in the sling  
is one who gives honor to a fool.
- 9 Like a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard  
is a proverb in the mouth of fools.
- 10 Like an archer who wounds everyone  
is one who hires a passing fool or drunkard.<sup>[a]</sup>
- 11 Like a dog that returns to his vomit  
is a fool who repeats his folly.
- 12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?  
There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- 13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road!  
There is a lion in the streets!"
- 14 As a door turns on its hinges,  
so does a sluggard on his bed.
- 15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;

it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.  
16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes  
than seven men who can answer sensibly.  
17 Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own  
is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.  
18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death  
19 is the man who deceives his neighbor  
and says, "I am only joking!"  
20 For lack of wood the fire goes out,  
and where there is no whisperer, quarreling  
ceases.  
21 As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire,  
so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.  
22 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels;  
they go down into the inner parts of the body.  
23 Like the glaze<sup>[b]</sup> covering an earthen vessel  
are fervent lips with an evil heart.  
24 Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips  
and harbors deceit in his heart;  
25 when he speaks graciously, believe him not,  
for there are seven abominations in his heart;  
26 though his hatred be covered with deception,  
his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.  
27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it,  
and a stone will come back on him who starts it  
rolling.  
28 A lying tongue hates its victims,  
and a flattering mouth works ruin.

## Proverbs 27 English Standard Version (ESV)

27 Do not boast about tomorrow,  
for you do not know what a day may bring.  
2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;  
a stranger, and not your own lips.  
3 A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty,  
but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.  
4 Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming,  
but who can stand before jealousy?  
5 Better is open rebuke  
than hidden love.  
6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend;  
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.  
7 One who is full loathes honey,  
but to one who is hungry everything bitter is sweet.  
8 Like a bird that strays from its nest  
is a man who strays from his home.  
9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad,  
and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest  
counsel.<sup>[a]</sup>  
10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend,  
and do not go to your brother's house in the day of  
your calamity.  
Better is a neighbor who is near  
than a brother who is far away.  
11 Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad,  
that I may answer him who reproaches me.  
12 The prudent sees danger and hides himself,  
but the simple go on and suffer for it.  
13 Take a man's garment when he has put up security for a

stranger,  
and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for an adulteress.<sup>[b]</sup>

- 14 Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice,  
rising early in the morning,  
will be counted as cursing.
- 15 A continual dripping on a rainy day  
and a quarrelsome wife are alike;  
16 to restrain her is to restrain the wind  
or to grasp<sup>[c]</sup> oil in one's right hand.
- 17 Iron sharpens iron,  
and one man sharpens another.<sup>[d]</sup>
- 18 Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit,  
and he who guards his master will be honored.
- 19 As in water face reflects face,  
so the heart of man reflects the man.
- 20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied,  
and never satisfied are the eyes of man.
- 21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold,  
and a man is tested by his praise.
- 22 Crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle  
along with crushed grain,  
yet his folly will not depart from him.
- 23 Know well the condition of your flocks,  
and give attention to your herds,  
24 for riches do not last forever;  
and does a crown endure to all generations?
- 25 When the grass is gone and the new growth appears  
and the vegetation of the mountains is gathered,  
26 the lambs will provide your clothing,

and the goats the price of a field.

- 27 There will be enough goats' milk for your food,  
for the food of your household  
and maintenance for your girls.

## Proverbs 28 English Standard Version (ESV)

- 28 The wicked flee when no one pursues,  
but the righteous are bold as a lion.
- 2 When a land transgresses, it has many rulers,  
but with a man of understanding and knowledge,  
its stability will long continue.
- 3 A poor man who oppresses the poor  
is a beating rain that leaves no food.
- 4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,  
but those who keep the law strive against them.
- 5 Evil men do not understand justice,  
but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.
- 6 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity  
than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.
- 7 The one who keeps the law is a son with understanding,  
but a companion of gluttons shames his father.
- 8 Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit<sup>[a]</sup>  
gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.
- 9 If one turns away his ear from hearing the law,  
even his prayer is an abomination.
- 10 Whoever misleads the upright into an evil way  
will fall into his own pit,  
but the blameless will have a goodly inheritance.
- 11 A rich man is wise in his own eyes,

but a poor man who has understanding will find him out.

12 When the righteous triumph, there is great glory,  
but when the wicked rise, people hide themselves.

13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,  
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

14 Blessed is the one who fears the LORD<sup>[b]</sup> always,  
but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

15 Like a roaring lion or a charging bear  
is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

16 A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor,  
but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days.

17 If one is burdened with the blood of another,  
he will be a fugitive until death;<sup>[c]</sup>  
let no one help him.

18 Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered,  
but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall.

19 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,  
but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

20 A faithful man will abound with blessings,  
but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

21 To show partiality is not good,  
but for a piece of bread a man will do wrong.

22 A stingy man<sup>[d]</sup> hastens after wealth  
and does not know that poverty will come upon him.

23 Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor  
than he who flatters with his tongue.

24 Whoever robs his father or his mother  
and says, "That is no transgression,"  
is a companion to a man who destroys.

25 A greedy man stirs up strife,  
but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched.

26 Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool,  
but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.

27 Whoever gives to the poor will not want,  
but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.

28 When the wicked rise, people hide themselves,  
but when they perish, the righteous increase.

### Proverbs 29 English Standard Version (ESV)

29 He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck,  
will suddenly be broken beyond healing.

2 When the righteous increase, the people rejoice,  
but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

3 He who loves wisdom makes his father glad,  
but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.

4 By justice a king builds up the land,  
but he who exacts gifts<sup>[a]</sup> tears it down.

5 A man who flatters his neighbor  
spreads a net for his feet.

6 An evil man is ensnared in his transgression,  
but a righteous man sings and rejoices.

7 A righteous man knows the rights of the poor;  
a wicked man does not understand such  
knowledge.  
8 Scoffers set a city aflame,  
but the wise turn away wrath.  
9 If a wise man has an argument with a fool,  
the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no  
quiet.  
10 Bloodthirsty men hate one who is blameless  
and seek the life of the upright.<sup>[b]</sup>  
11 A fool gives full vent to his spirit,  
but a wise man quietly holds it back.  
12 If a ruler listens to falsehood,  
all his officials will be wicked.  
13 The poor man and the oppressor meet together;  
the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.  
14 If a king faithfully judges the poor,  
his throne will be established forever.  
15 The rod and reproof give wisdom,  
but a child left to himself brings shame to his  
mother.  
16 When the wicked increase, transgression increases,  
but the righteous will look upon their downfall.  
17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest;  
he will give delight to your heart.  
18 Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off  
restraint,<sup>[c]</sup>  
but blessed is he who keeps the law.  
19 By mere words a servant is not disciplined,  
for though he understands, he will not respond.

20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?  
There is more hope for a fool than for him.  
21 Whoever pampers his servant from childhood  
will in the end find him his heir.<sup>[c]</sup>  
22 A man of wrath stirs up strife,  
and one given to anger causes much transgression.  
23 One's pride will bring him low,  
but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.  
24 The partner of a thief hates his own life;  
he hears the curse, but discloses nothing.  
25 The fear of man lays a snare,  
but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.  
26 Many seek the face of a ruler,  
but it is from the LORD that a man gets justice.  
27 An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous,  
but one whose way is straight is an abomination to  
the wicked.

## Proverbs 30 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Words of Agur

30 The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle.<sup>[a]</sup>

The man declares, I am weary, O God;

I am weary, O God, and worn out.<sup>[b]</sup>

2 Surely I am too stupid to be a man.

I have not the understanding of a man.

3 I have not learned wisdom,

nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

4 Who has ascended to heaven and come down?  
Who has gathered the wind in his fists?  
Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment?  
Who has established all the ends of the earth?  
What is his name, and what is his son's name?  
Surely you know!

5 Every word of God proves true;  
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

6 Do not add to his words,  
lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

7 Two things I ask of you;  
deny them not to me before I die:

8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying;  
give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that is needful for me,

9 lest I be full and deny you  
and say, "Who is the LORD?"  
or lest I be poor and steal  
and profane the name of my God.

10 Do not slander a servant to his master,  
lest he curse you, and you be held guilty.

11 There are those<sup>[c]</sup> who curse their fathers  
and do not bless their mothers.

12 There are those who are clean in their own eyes  
but are not washed of their filth.

13 There are those—how lofty are their eyes,  
how high their eyelids lift!

14 There are those whose teeth are swords,  
whose fangs are knives,

to devour the poor from off the earth,  
the needy from among mankind.

15 The leech has two daughters:  
Give and Give.<sup>[d]</sup>

Three things are never satisfied;  
four never say, "Enough":

16 Sheol, the barren womb,  
the land never satisfied with water,  
and the fire that never says, "Enough."

17 The eye that mocks a father  
and scorns to obey a mother  
will be picked out by the ravens of the valley  
and eaten by the vultures.

18 Three things are too wonderful for me;  
four I do not understand:

19 the way of an eagle in the sky,  
the way of a serpent on a rock,  
the way of a ship on the high seas,  
and the way of a man with a virgin.

20 This is the way of an adulteress:  
she eats and wipes her mouth  
and says, "I have done no wrong."

21 Under three things the earth trembles;  
under four it cannot bear up:

22 a slave when he becomes king,  
and a fool when he is filled with food;

23 an unloved woman when she gets a husband,  
and a maidservant when she displaces her mistress.

24 Four things on earth are small,  
but they are exceedingly wise:



25 the ants are a people not strong,  
     yet they provide their food in the summer;  
 26 the rock badgers are a people not mighty,  
     yet they make their homes in the cliffs;  
 27 the locusts have no king,  
     yet all of them march in rank;  
 28 the lizard you can take in your hands,  
     yet it is in kings' palaces.  
 29 Three things are stately in their tread;  
     four are stately in their stride:  
 30 the lion, which is mightiest among beasts  
     and does not turn back before any;  
 31 the strutting rooster,<sup>[e]</sup> the he-goat,  
     and a king whose army is with him.<sup>[f]</sup>  
 32 If you have been foolish, exalting yourself,  
     or if you have been devising evil,  
     put your hand on your mouth.  
 33 For pressing milk produces curds,  
     pressing the nose produces blood,  
     and pressing anger produces strife.

## Proverbs 31 English Standard Version (ESV)

### The Words of King Lemuel

31 The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him:

2 What are you doing, my son?<sup>[a]</sup> What are you doing, son  
 of my womb?  
     What are you doing, son of my vows?

3 Do not give your strength to women,  
     your ways to those who destroy kings.  
 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel,  
     it is not for kings to drink wine,  
     or for rulers to take strong drink,  
 5 lest they drink and forget what has been decreed  
     and pervert the rights of all the afflicted.  
 6 Give strong drink to the one who is perishing,  
     and wine to those in bitter distress;<sup>[b]</sup>  
 7 let them drink and forget their poverty  
     and remember their misery no more.  
 8 Open your mouth for the mute,  
     for the rights of all who are destitute.<sup>[c]</sup>  
 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously,  
     defend the rights of the poor and needy.

### The Woman Who Fears the LORD

10 <sup>[d]</sup> An excellent wife who can find?  
     She is far more precious than jewels.  
 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
     and he will have no lack of gain.  
 12 She does him good, and not harm,  
     all the days of her life.  
 13 She seeks wool and flax,  
     and works with willing hands.  
 14 She is like the ships of the merchant;  
     she brings her food from afar.  
 15 She rises while it is yet night  
     and provides food for her household

and portions for her maidens.  
16 She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.  
17 She dresses herself<sup>[e]</sup> with strength  
and makes her arms strong.  
18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.  
19 She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.  
20 She opens her hand to the poor  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
21 She is not afraid of snow for her household,  
for all her household are clothed in scarlet.<sup>[f]</sup>  
22 She makes bed coverings for herself;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
23 Her husband is known in the gates  
when he sits among the elders of the land.  
24 She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she delivers sashes to the merchant.  
25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
27 She looks well to the ways of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:  
29 "Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all."  
30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

but a woman who fears the LORD is to be  
praised.  
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the gates.

# Catechism for Young Children

Q. 1. Who made you?

A. God.

Q. 2. What else did God make?

A. God made all things.

Q. 3. Why did God make you and all things?

A. For his own glory.

Q. 4. How can you glorify God?

A. By loving him and doing what he commands.

Q. 5. Why ought you to glorify God?

A. Because he made me and takes care of me.

Q. 6. Are there more gods than one?

A. There is only one God.

Q. 7. In how many persons does this one God exist?

A. In three persons.

Q. 8. What are they?

A. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Q. 9. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, and has not a body like men.

Q. 10. Where is God?

A. God is everywhere.

Q. 11. Can you see God?

A. No; I cannot see God, but he always sees me.

Q. 12. Does God know all things?

A. Yes; nothing can be hid from God.

Q. 13. Can God do all things?

A. Yes; God can do all his holy will.

Q. 14. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?

A. In the Bible alone.

Q. 15. Who wrote the Bible?

A. Holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit.

Q. 16. Who were our first parents?

A. Adam and Eve.

Q. 17. Of what were our first parents made?

A. God made the body of Adam out of the ground, and formed Eve from the body of Adam.

Q. 18. What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?

A. He gave them souls that could never die.

Q. 19. Have you a soul as well as a body?

A. Yes; I have a soul that can never die.

Q. 20. How do you know that you have a soul?

A. Because the Bible tells me so.

Q. 21. In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?

A. He made them holy and happy.

Q. 22. What is a covenant?

A. An agreement between two or more persons.

Q. 23. What covenant did God make with Adam?

A. The covenant of works.

Q. 24. What was Adam bound to do by the covenant of works?

A. To obey God perfectly.

Q. 25. What did God promise in the covenant of works?

A. To reward Adam with life if he obeyed him.

Q. 26. What did God threaten in the covenant of works?

A. To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed.

Q. 27. Did Adam keep the covenant of works?

A. No; he sinned against God.

Q. 28. What is Sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of the law of God.

Q. 29. What is meant by want of conformity?

A. Not being or doing what God requires.

Q. 30. What is meant by transgression?

A. Doing what God forbids.

Q. 31. What was the sin of our first parents?

A. Eating the forbidden fruit.

Q. 32. Who tempted them to this sin?

A. The devil tempted Eve, and she gave the fruit to Adam.

Q. 33. What befell our first parents when they had sinned?

A. Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable.

Q. 34. Did Adam act for himself alone in the covenant of works?

A. No; he represented all his posterity.

Q. 35. What effect had the sin of Adam on all mankind?

A. All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery.

Q. 36. What is that sinful nature which we inherit from Adam called?

A. Original sin.

Q. 37. What does every sin deserve?

A. The wrath and curse of God.

Q. 38. Can any one go to heaven with this sinful nature?

A. No; our hearts must be changed before we can be fit for heaven.

Q. 39. What is a change of heart called?

A. Regeneration.

Q. 40. Who can change a sinner's heart?

A. The Holy Spirit alone.

Q. 41. Can any one be saved through the covenant of works?

A. None can be saved through the covenant of works.

Q. 42. Why can none be saved through the covenant of works?

A. Because all have broken it, and are condemned by it.

Q. 43. With whom did God the Father make the covenant of grace?

A. With Christ, his eternal Son.

Q. 44. Whom did Christ represent in the covenant of grace?

A. His elect people.

Q. 45. What did Christ undertake in the covenant of grace?

A. To keep the whole law for his people, and to suffer the punishment due to their sins.

Q. 46. Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever commit the least sin?

A. No; he was holy, harmless, and undefiled.

Q. 47. How could the Son of God suffer?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man that he might obey and suffer in our nature.

Q. 48. What is meant by the Atonement?

A. Christ's satisfying divine justice, by his sufferings and death, in the place of sinners.

Q. 49. What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of grace?

A. To justify and sanctify those for whom Christ should die.

Q. 50. What is justification?

A. It is God's forgiving sinners, and treating them as if they had never sinned.

Q. 51. What is sanctification?

A. It is God's making sinners holy in heart and conduct.

Q. 52. For whom did Christ obey and suffer?

A. For those whom the Father had given him.

Q. 53. What kind of life did Christ live on earth?

A. A life of poverty and suffering.

Q. 54. What kind of death did Christ die?

A. The painful and shameful death of the cross.

Q. 55. Who will be saved?

A. Only those who repent of sin, believe in Christ, and lead holy lives.

Q. 56. What is it to repent?

A. To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God.

Q. 57. What is it to believe or have faith in Christ?

A. To trust in Christ alone for salvation.

Q. 58. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?

A. No; I can do nothing good without the help of God's Holy Spirit.

Q. 59. How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?

A. God has told us that we must pray to him for the Holy Spirit.

Q. 60. How long ago is it since Christ died?

A. More than nineteen hundred years.

Q. 61. How were pious persons saved before the coming of Christ?

A. By believing in a Savior to come.

Q. 62. How did they show their faith?

A. By offering sacrifices on God's altar.

Q. 63. What did these sacrifices represent?

A. Christ, the Lamb of God, who was to die for sinners.

Q. 64. What offices has Christ?

A. Christ has three offices.

Q. 65. What are they?

A. The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.

Q. 66. How is Christ a prophet?

A. Because he teaches us the will of God.

Q. 67. How is Christ a priest?

A. Because he died for our sins and pleads with God for us.

Q. 68. How is Christ a king?

A. Because he rules over us and defends us.

Q. 69. Why do you need Christ as a prophet?

A. Because I am ignorant.

Q. 70. Why do you need Christ as a priest?

A. Because I am guilty.

Q. 71. Why do you need Christ as a king?

A. Because I am weak and helpless.

Q. 72. How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?

A. Ten commandments.

Q. 73. What are the ten commandments sometimes called?

A. The Decalogue.

Q. 74. What do the first four commandments teach?

A. Our duty to God.

Q. 75. What do the last six commandments teach?

A. Our duty to our fellow men.

Q. 76. What is the sum of the ten commandments?

A. To love God with all my heart, and my neighbor as myself.

Q. 77. Who is your neighbor?

A. All my fellow men are my neighbors.

Q. 78. Is God pleased with those who love and obey him?

A. Yes; he says, "I love them that love me."

Q. 79. Is God displeased with those who do not love and obey him?

A. Yes; "God is angry with the wicked every day."

Q. 80. What is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Q. 81. What does the first commandment teach us?

A. To worship God alone.

Q. 82. What is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any things that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Q. 83. What does the second commandment teach us?

A. To worship God in a proper manner, and to avoid idolatry.

Q. 84. What is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that takes his name in vain.

Q. 85. What does the third commandment teach me?

A. To reverence God's name, word, and works.

Q. 86. What is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day, and hallowed it.

Q. 87. What does the fourth commandment teach us?

A. To keep the Sabbath holy.

Q. 88. What day of the week is the Christian Sabbath?

A. The first day of the week, called the Lord's day.

Q. 89. Why is it called the Lord's day?

A. Because on that day Christ rose from the dead.

Q. 90. How should the Sabbath be spent?

A. In prayer and praise, in hearing and reading God's Word, and in doing good to our fellow men.

Q. 91. What is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Q. 92. What does the fifth commandment teach me?

A. To love and obey our parents and teachers.

Q. 93. What is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill.

Q. 94. What does the sixth commandment teach us?

A. To avoid angry passions.

Q. 95. What is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Q. 96. What does the seventh commandment teach us?

A. To be pure in heart, language, and conduct.

Q. 97. What is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is, Thou shalt not steal.



Q. 98. What does the eighth commandment teach us?

A. To be honest and industrious.

Q. 99. What is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Q. 100. What does the ninth commandment teach us?

A. To tell the truth.

Q. 101. What is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.

Q. 102. What does the tenth commandment teach us?

A. To be content with our lot.

Q. 103. Can any man keep these ten commandments perfectly?

A. No mere man, since the fall of Adam, ever did or can keep the ten commandments perfectly.

Q. 104. Of what use are the ten commandments to us?

A. They teach us our duty, and show our need of a Savior.

Q. 105. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is asking God for things which he has promised to give.

Q. 106. In whose name should we pray?

A. Only in the name of Christ.

Q. 107. What has Christ given us to teach us how to pray?

A. The Lord's Prayer.

Q. 108. Repeat the Lord's Prayer.

A. Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Q. 109. How many petitions are there in The Lord's Prayer?

A. Six.

Q. 110. What is the first petition?

A. "Hallowed be thy name."

Q. 111. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. That God's name may be honored by us and all men.

Q. 112. What is the second petition?

A. "Thy kingdom come."

Q. 113. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. That the gospel may be preached in all the world, and believed and obeyed by us and all men.

Q. 114. What is the third petition?

A. "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Q. 115. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. That men on earth may serve God as the angels do in heaven.

Q. 116. What is the fourth petition?

A. "Give us this day our daily bread."

Q. 117. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. That God would give us all things needful for our bodies and souls.

Q. 118. What is the fifth petition?

A. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Q. 119. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. That God would pardon our sins for Christ's sake, and enable us to forgive those who have injured us.

Q. 120. What is the sixth petition?

A. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Q. 121. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. That God would keep us from sin.

Q. 122. How many sacraments are there?

A. Two.

Q. 123. What are they?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q. 124. Who appointed these sacraments?

A. The Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. 125. Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?

A. To distinguish his disciples from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.

Q. 126. What sign is used in baptism?

A. The washing with water.

Q. 127. What does this signify?

A. That we are cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ.

Q. 128. In whose name are we baptized?

A. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Q. 129. Who are to be baptized?

A. Believers.

*(\*Modified to reflect the 1689 Baptist Confession as The Way believes in Believer's Baptism)*

Q. 130. Why should believers be baptized?

A. To obey Christ and be identified with Him.

*(\*Modified to reflect the 1689 Baptist Confession as The Way believes in Believer's Baptism)*

Q. 131. Does Christ care for little children?

A. Yes; for he says, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

Q. 132. To what does your baptism bind you?

A. To be a true follower of Christ.

Q. 133. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The eating of bread and drinking of wine in remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ.

Q. 134. What does the bread represent?

A. The body of Christ, broken for our sins.

Q. 135. What does the wine represent?

A. The blood of Christ, shed for our salvation.

Q. 136. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?

A. Only those who repent of their sins, believe in Christ for salvation, and love their fellow men.

Q. 137. Did Christ remain in the tomb after his crucifixion?

A. No; he rose from the tomb on the third day after his death.

Q. 138. Where is Christ now?

A. In heaven, interceding for sinners.

Q. 139. Will he come again?

A. Yes; at the last day Christ will come to judge the world.

Q. 140. What becomes of men at death?

A. The body returns to dust, and the soul goes into the world of spirits.

Q. 141. Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again?

A. Yes; "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised."

Q. 142. What will become of the wicked in the day of judgment?

A. They shall be cast into hell.

Q. 143. What is hell?

A. A place of dreadful and endless torment.

Q. 144. What will become of the righteous?

A. They shall be taken to heaven.

Q. 145. What is heaven?

A. A glorious and happy place, where the righteous shall be forever with the Lord.

## The Arrow and the Song by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I shot an arrow into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For who has sight so keen and strong  
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak  
I found the arrow, still unbroke;  
And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.

## Little Things by Ebenezer Cobham Brewer

Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand,  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the pleasant land.  
Thus the little minutes,  
Humble though they be,  
Make the mighty ages  
Of eternity.

## He Prayeth Best by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Farewell, farewell! but this I tell  
To thee, thou Wedding-Guest!  
He prayeth well who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast.

He prayeth best who loveth best  
All things, both great and small:  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all.

## Thirty Days Hath September

Thirty days hath September,  
April, November, and June;  
All the rest have thirty-one,  
Excepting February alone,  
And that has twenty-eight days clear  
And twenty-nine in each leap year

# Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star!  
How I wonder what you are,  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.

When the glorious sun is set,  
When the grass with dew is wet,  
Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle all the night.

In the dark-blue sky you keep,  
And often through my curtains peep,  
For you never shut your eye,  
Till the sun is in the sky.

As your bright and tiny spark  
Guides the traveller in the dark,  
Though I know not what you are,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star!

## My Shadow by Robert Louise Stephenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow-  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india -rubber ball,  
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see;  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me.

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.



## The Children's Hour by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Between the dark and the daylight,  
When the night is beginning to lower,  
Comes a pause in the day's occupations,  
That is known as the Children's Hour.

I hear in the chamber above me  
The patter of little feet,  
The sound of a door that is opened,  
And voices soft and sweet.

From my study I see in the lamplight,  
Descending the broad hall stair,  
Grave Alice, and laughing Allegra,  
And Edith with golden hair.

A whisper, and then a silence:  
Yet I know by their merry eyes  
They are plotting and planning together  
To take me by surprise.

A sudden rush from the stairway,  
A sudden raid from the hall!  
By three doors left unguarded  
They enter my castle wall!

They climb up into my turret  
O'er the arms and back of my chair;  
If I try to escape, they surround me;  
They seem to be everywhere.

They almost devour me with kisses,  
Their arms about me entwine,  
Till I think of the Bishop of Bingen  
In his Mouse-Tower on the Rhine!

Do you think, O blue-eyed banditti,  
Because you have scaled the wall,  
Such an old mustache as I am  
Is not a match for you all!

I have you fast in my fortress,  
And will not let you depart,  
But put you down into the dungeon  
In the round-tower of my heart.

And there will I keep you forever,  
Yes, forever and a day,  
Till the walls shall crumble to ruin,  
And moulder in dust away!

## Be Like the Bird by Victor Hugo

Be like the bird, who  
Halting in his flight  
On limb too slight  
Feels it give way beneath him,  
Yet sings,  
Knowing he hath wings.

## Certainty by Emily Dickinson

I never saw a moor;  
I never saw the sea;  
Yet know I how the heather looks,  
And what a wave must be.

I never spoke with God,  
Nor visited in Heaven;  
Yet certain am I of the spot  
As if the chart were given.

## The Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key

○ say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming;  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;  
○ say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream;  
'Tis the star-spangled banner; ○ long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave,  
From the terror of flight and the gloom of the grave;  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave!

○! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation!

Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land,  
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation.

Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just.

And this be our motto— "In God is our trust; "

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

### Snowball by Shel Silverstein

I made myself a snowball

As perfect as could be.

I thought I'd keep it as a pet

And let it sleep with me.

I made it some pajamas

And a pillow for its head.

Then last night it ran away,

But first it wet the bed.

## Wind On The Hill By A. A. Milne

No one can tell me,  
Nobody knows,  
Where the wind comes from,  
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere  
As fast as it can,  
I couldn't keep up with it,  
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding  
The string of my kite,  
It would blow with the wind  
For a day and a night.

And then when I found it,  
Wherever it blew,  
I should know that the wind  
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them  
Where the wind goes..  
But where the wind comes from  
Nobody knows.

## Hope is the Thing with Feathers by Emily Dickinson

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,  
And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.  
I've heard it in the chillest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.

## The Rainbow by Christina Rossetti

Boats sail on the rivers,  
And ships sail on the seas;  
But clouds that sail across the sky  
Are prettier than these.  
There are bridges on the rivers,  
As pretty as you please;  
But the bow that bridges heaven,  
And overtops the trees,  
And builds a road from earth to sky,  
Is prettier far than these.

## Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.

His house is in the village though;

He will not see me stopping here

To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer

To stop without a farmhouse near

Between the woods and frozen lake

The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake

To ask if there is some mistake.

The only other sound's the sweep

Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,

But I have promises to keep,

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.



## The Land Of Nod by Robert Louis Stevenson

From breakfast on through all the day  
At home among my friends I stay,  
But every night I go abroad  
Afar into the land of Nod.  
All by myself I have to go,  
With none to tell me what to do-  
All alone beside the streams  
And up the mountain-sides of dreams.  
The strangest things are these for me,  
Both things to eat and things to see,  
And many frightening sights abroad  
Till morning in the land of Nod.  
Try as I like to find the way,  
I never can get back by day,  
Nor can remember plain and clear  
The curious music that I hear.

## New Every Morning by Susan Coolidge

Every day is a fresh beginning,  
Listen my soul to the glad refrain.  
And, spite of old sorrows  
And older sinner,  
Troubles forecasted  
And possible pain,  
Take heart with the day and begin again.

## Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

## A Little Kingdom I Possess by Louisa May Alcott

A little kingdom I possess,  
Where thoughts and feelings dwell,  
And very hard I find the task  
Of governing it well;  
For passion tempts and troubles me,  
A wayward will misleads,  
And selfishness its shadow casts,  
On all my will and deeds.  
How can I learn to rule myself,  
To be the child I should,  
Honest and brave, nor ever tire  
Of trying to be good?  
How can I keep a sunny soul  
To shine along life's way?  
How can I tune my little heart,  
To sweetly sing all day?  
Dear Father, help me with the love  
That castest out my fear!  
Teach me to lean on Thee and feel  
That thou art very near.  
That no temptation is unseen,  
No childish grief too small,  
Since Thou, with patience infinite,  
Dost soothe and comfort all.  
4. I do not ask for any crown  
But that which all may win;  
Nor try to conquer any world  
Except the one within.  
Be Thou my Guide until I find,

Led by a tender hand,  
Thy happy kingdom in myself  
And dare to take command.

## The Oak by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Live thy life,  
Young and old,  
Like yon oak,  
Bright in spring,  
Living gold;

Summer-rich  
The; and then  
Autumn-changed,  
Soberer-hued  
God again.

All his leaves  
Fallen at length,  
Look, he stands,  
Trunk and bough,  
Naked Strength.