

Introduction: The Bible gives practical plans for victory in our lives, homes, communities, and in our interpersonal relationships. This study will highlight proven insights for victory from the Bible book of Proverbs. One of the great treasures of the Bible is the category called wisdom literature. Writers in this genre assume the role of someone experienced in life. They share insights with younger, less experienced, but teachable readers. The book of Proverbs belongs to this category. The goal of Proverbs is to provide godly skills for life.

A proverb is a short, poignant nugget of truth, that is usually practical, and often concerned with the consequences of behavior. Proverbs makes use of parallelism, especially the pairing of opposites.

One word of caution, a proverb contains a principle, not a promise. A proverb tells you: this is basically how life works. What isn't said is that life does not always, 100% of the time, work that way. The principle is intended to point us in the right direction, not carry us all the way to the destination.

Because the Book of Proverbs is practical in nature, life lessons are accessible and useful for Christians of all ages. Having said that, who is identified as the primary audience members for Proverbs? (1:4)

- What other types of people are mentioned in Proverbs 1:5-7?
- Who wrote Proverbs? Summarize in one brief sentence why he wrote it? (Proverbs 1:1-7)

- Who is the wisest person you know? What is it about them that made/makes them seem so wise to you?

VICTORY PLAN #1 - TEACH THE TRUTH TO YOUTH

I. **A Game-plan for Youth** — The goal is to capture tender hearts before they become hardened to the things of God. J. C. Ryle said, “Experience tells me that people’s hearts are seldom changed if they are not changed when they are young.” Did you know God has an interest in youth? He gives special instructions for young people. What are some positive Bible expectations for young people from the following passages?

- Lamentations 3:27 —
- Psalm 71:5 —
- Proverbs 20:29 —
- Ecclesiastes 12:1 —
- 1 Timothy 4:12 —

What are some realistic challenges the Bible shares that young people may experience?

- Proverbs 1:4 —
- Proverbs 2:17 —
- Isaiah 40:30 —
- Luke 18:21-25 —
- 2 Timothy 2:22 —

“Young, inexperienced people are often aimless. They live only for the moment and do not plan for the future . . . The wise young person will have ‘discretion’—the ability to form plans so that important goals can be achieved.” - Newheiser

- In what ways do we or does our church encourage young people to make wise choices? How can we improve?

II. **A Growth-plan for Youth** — The foremost voice in the ears of young people should be their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3). How does Solomon express this? (Proverbs 1:8-9)

- How did David’s humble obedience to His father bring him to an important place at a critical time? (1 Samuel 17:17-20, 23)

- God instructs older, more mature, voices in the church to give instruction to the youth. What are some of the topics or categories suggested in Titus 2:4-8 that should be covered?

For Young Ladies

For Young Men

III. **God's Plan for You** — Regardless of your age, God wants us to receive His Word as a child. In fact, we're told in Luke 18:17 that if we do not receive the kingdom of God as a child we "shall in no wise enter therein." Jesus also said the one who humbles themselves as a child is the greatest in His Kingdom (Matthew 18:4). There are some things adults can learn from kids.

- As a father, Solomon instructs his son in the fine art of decision making. It appears, that in Proverbs 2:1-9 Solomon's advice to his son applies to all of God's people. What are the conditions required in these verses for gaining the guidance of God?

Conclusion: Whether you are young or old, married or single, a parent, grandparent (*or none of the above*), God demonstrates by the nature of the book of Proverbs that there is victory in teaching Truth to youth. God is concerned for them, and teaching them should concern us also.

- What advice or counsel were you given in your youth that has been a help to you?
- On a scale of 1-10 (*ten being the most and one being the least*), how receptive are you to unsolicited advice?
- From whom would you best receive counsel? What qualities make them someone to whom you will listen?
- Are you receptive to God's Word?