

BEING RESPONSIBLE

This month we will be learning about being responsible. When we are responsible, it means that we make good decisions that obey God and his Word. When we use our time and resources wisely, confess our mistakes, and make good decisions, we are honoring God and living in a way that pleases him.



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The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom that teaches us about making good choices.
Read Proverbs, Part 1 and discuss the discussion questions at the end.



DAY 16 PROVERBS, PART 1

introduction to Proverbs, parts 1-4

Proverbs are wise sayings. You might have heard, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” This recent proverb doesn’t mean if you eat an apple every day you won’t ever need to see a doctor. It means, “If you choose healthy foods, you will probably be healthy.” But it’s more fun to say the rhyme about the apple.

In the same way, the proverbs in the Bible are not statements of fact. They are sayings that are easy to remember. They are usually true. Think about these wise sayings when you make choices. They will often help you make better choices. But they do not promise you exactly what will happen.



These are the proverbs of Solomon. He was the son of David and the king of Israel.

Proverbs teach you wisdom and instruct you.

They help you understand wise sayings.

They provide you with instruction and help you live wisely.

They lead to what is right and honest and fair.

They give understanding to childish people.

They give knowledge and good sense to those who are young.

Let wise people listen and add to what they have learned.

Let those who understand what is right get guidance.

What I’m teaching also helps you understand proverbs and stories.

It helps you understand the sayings and riddles of those who are wise.

If you really want to gain knowledge, you must begin by having respect for the LORD.
But foolish people hate wisdom and instruction.



Out in the open wisdom calls out.
She raises her voice in a public place.

“The wrong path that childish people take will kill them.
Foolish people will be destroyed by being satisfied with the way they live.
But those who listen to me will live in safety.
They will be at ease and have no fear of being harmed.”

My son, accept my words.
Store up my commands inside you.
Let your ears listen to wisdom.
Apply your heart to understanding.
Call out for the ability to be wise.
Cry out for understanding.
Look for it as you would look for silver.
Search for it as you would search for hidden treasure.
Then you will understand how to have respect for the LORD.
You will find out how to know God.
The LORD gives wisdom.
Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.
He stores up success for honest people.
He is like a shield to those who live without blame.
He guards the path of those who are honest.
He watches over the way of his faithful ones.
You will understand what is right and honest and fair.
You will understand the right way to live.

120 DAY 16 • PROVERBS, PART 1

Your heart will become wise.

Your mind will delight in knowledge.

Good sense will keep you safe.

Understanding will guard you.

Wisdom will save you from the ways of evil men.

It will save you from men who twist their words.

Men like that have left the straight paths

to walk in dark ways.

They take delight in doing what is wrong.

They take joy in twisting everything around.

Their paths are crooked.

Their ways are not straight.

My son, do not forget my teaching.

Keep my commands in your heart.

They will help you live for many years.

They will bring you peace and success.

Don't let love and truth ever leave you.

Tie them around your neck.

Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Then you will find favor and a good name

in the eyes of God and people.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart.

Do not depend on your own understanding.

In all your ways obey him.

Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.

Don't be wise in your own eyes.

Have respect for the LORD and avoid evil.

That will bring health to your body.

It will make your bones strong.

Honor the LORD with your wealth.

Give him the first share of all your crops.

Then your storerooms will be so full they can't hold
everything.

Your huge jars will spill over with fresh wine.

My son, do not hate the LORD's training.
Do not object when he corrects you.
The LORD trains those he loves.
He is like a father who trains the son he is pleased with.

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom.
Blessed is the one who gains understanding.
Wisdom pays better than silver does.
She earns more than gold does.
She is worth more than rubies.
Nothing you want can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand.
In her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are pleasant ways.
All her paths lead to peace.
She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her.
Those who hold her close will be blessed.

By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations.
Through understanding he set the heavens in place.
By his knowledge the seas were separated,
and the clouds dropped their dew.

My sons, listen to a father's teaching.
Pay attention and gain understanding.
I give you good advice.
So don't turn away from what I teach you.
I, too, was once a young boy in my father's house.
And my mother loved me deeply.
Then my father taught me.
He said to me, "Take hold of my words with all your heart.
Keep my commands, and you will live.
Get wisdom, and get understanding.
Don't forget my words or turn away from them.
Stay close to wisdom, and she will keep you safe.
Love her, and she will watch over you.
To start being wise you must first get wisdom.
No matter what it costs, get understanding.

122 DAY 16 • PROVERBS, PART 1

Value wisdom highly, and she will lift you up.
Hold her close, and she will honor you.
She will set a beautiful crown on your head.
She will give you a glorious crown.”

You people who don’t want to work, think about the ant!
Consider its ways and be wise!
It has no commander.
It has no leader or ruler.
But it stores up its food in summer.
It gathers its food at harvest time.

You lazy people, how long will you lie there?
When will you get up from your sleep?
You might sleep a little or take a little nap.
You might even fold your hands and rest.
Then you would be poor, as if someone had robbed you.
You would have little, as if someone had stolen from you.

An evil troublemaker
goes around saying twisted things with his mouth.
He winks with his eyes.
He makes signals with his feet.
He motions with his fingers.
His plans are evil, and he has lies in his heart.
He is always stirring up fights.
Trouble will catch up with him in an instant.
He will suddenly be destroyed, and nothing can save him.

There are six things the LORD hates.
In fact, he hates seven things.
The LORD hates proud eyes,
a lying tongue,
and hands that kill those who aren’t guilty.
He also hates hearts that make evil plans
and feet that are quick to do evil.
He hates any witness who pours out lies
and anyone who stirs up conflict in the community.

DAY 16 • PROVERBS, PART 1 123

If you want to become wise, you must begin by respecting
the LORD.

To know the Holy One is to gain understanding.
Through wisdom, you will live a long time.

Years will be added to your life.

If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you.

If you make fun of others, you alone will suffer.

remember what you read

1. What is something you noticed for the first time?

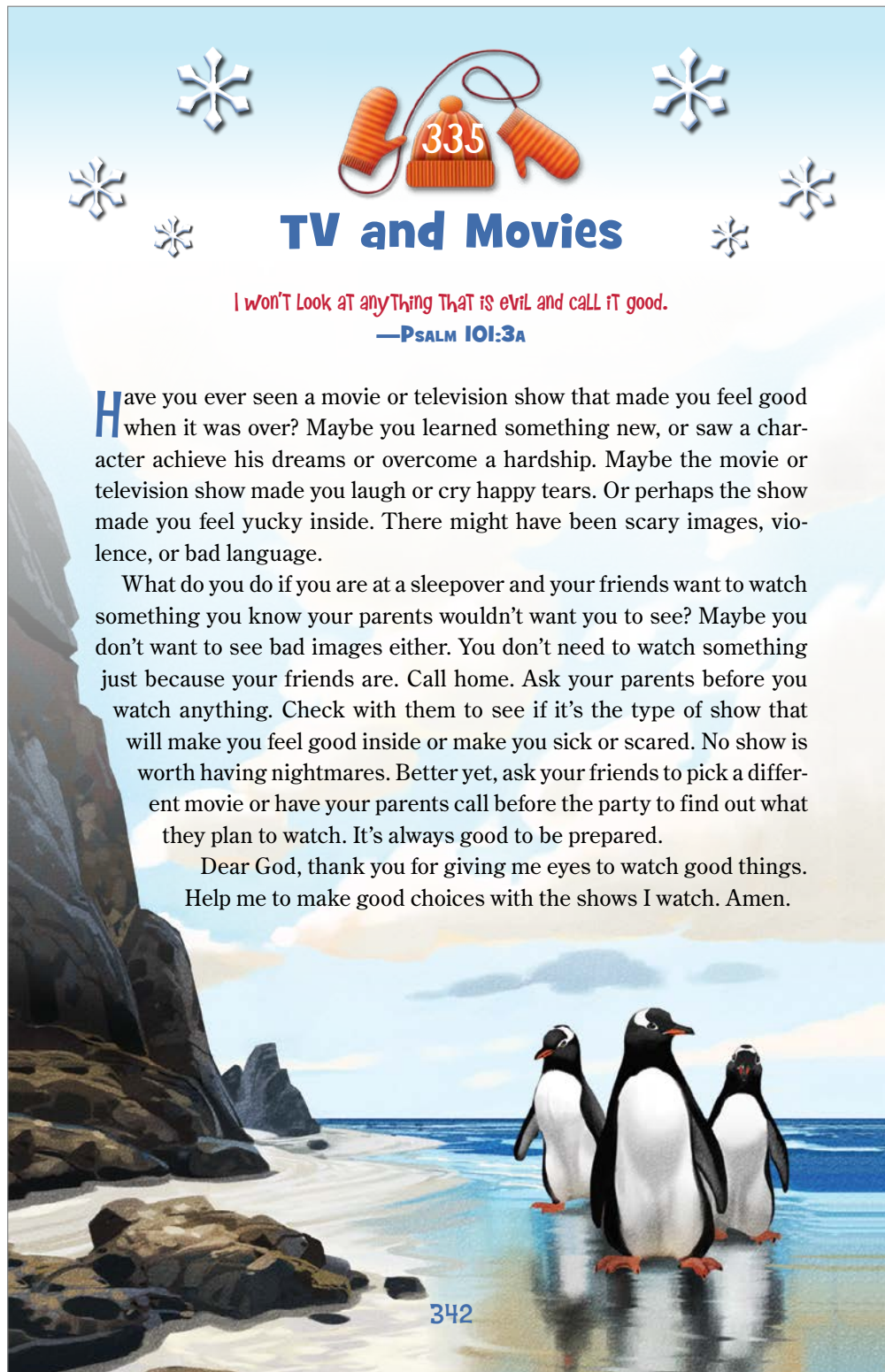
2. What questions did you have?

3. Was there anything that bothered you?

4. What did you learn about loving God?

5. What did you learn about loving others?

This devotional reminds us that we should guard our hearts against things that might tempt us to disobey God.



This devotional helps us understand what it means to be a person of good character, especially when it is difficult for us to do the right thing.

May 30

You Are What You Do

I thought you were my friend.” Owen fidgeted in the seat waiting to talk to the principal.

Words to Treasure

You can tell each tree by its fruit.

Matthew 7:16

“I am.” Jack drummed his fingers on his leg.

“Then why did you hide your fireworks in my locker? Now, *I’m* in trouble.” Owen couldn’t believe this was happening. His parents were coming, and he was innocent in all of this.

Jack stretched. “Now, *I’m* in trouble because you told them the fireworks were mine.”

Owen was speechless for a moment. “They *are* yours! I should never have given you my locker combination. You used me and my locker.”

“Well,” Jack yawned, “you told on me. What kind of friend does that make you?”

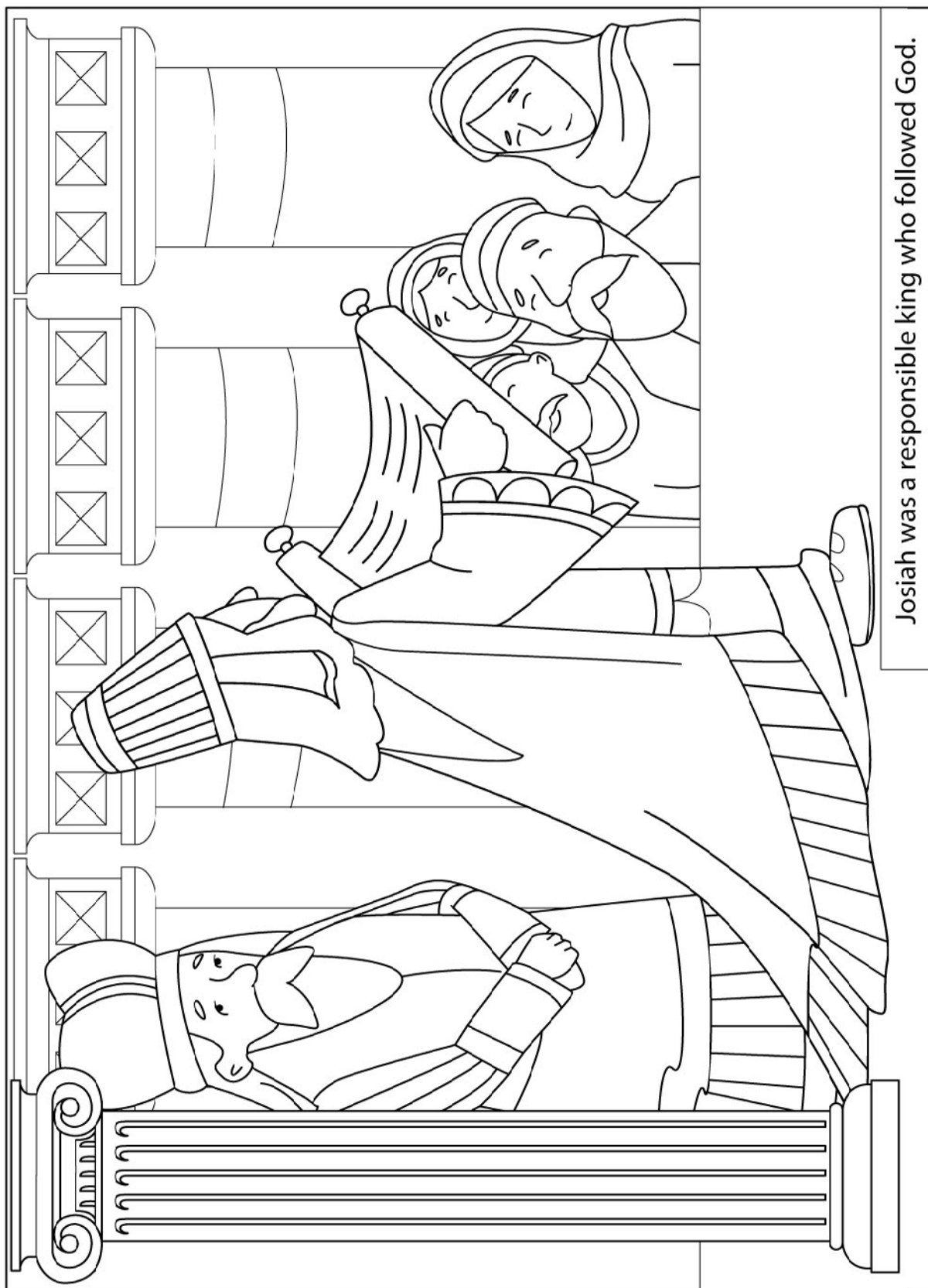
“I don’t think we’re friends anymore.” Owen moved over to a chair on the other side of the office.

Jesus warned us that you can tell the character of a person, not by what they say but by what they do. Actions speak louder than words. Is Jack a good friend? Not really. His actions tell a whole different story. When making friends, look for the people who do right things, because they are what they say they are.

Jesus asked an important question: Do you get figs from vines or grapes from thorn bushes? Nope. You can tell what kind of tree it is by the fruit it grows. A good person does right things and a bad person does bad things—what they do is their fruit. (See Matthew 7:16–19.)

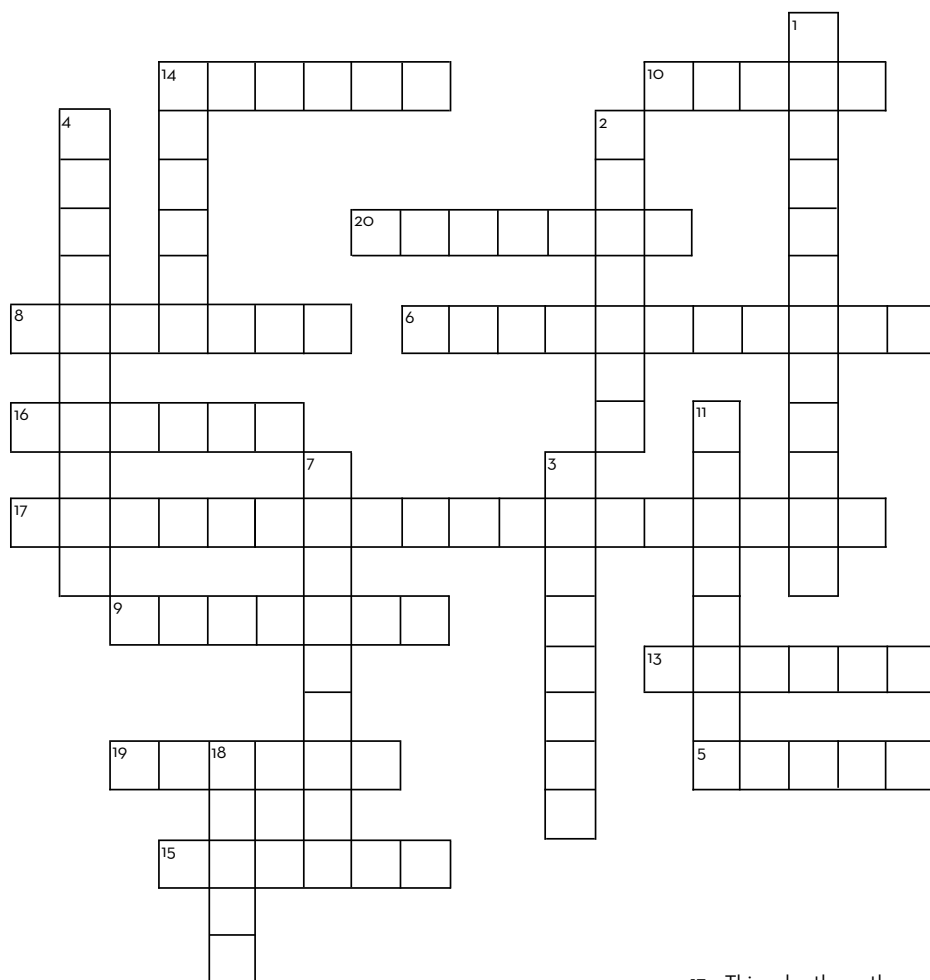


King Josiah lived responsibly because he obeyed God's laws.



Josiah was a responsible king who followed God.

This crossword is a fun way to learn about Israel's kings and their actions.



**THE GOOD, THE
NOT-SO-GOOD,
AND THE
DOWN RIGHT
BAD: KINGS,
LEADERS, AND
RULERS IN THE
OLD TESTAMENT**

Can you figure out the crossword puzzle?

ACROSS

5. He tricked the king into signing a document that stated all Jews should be put to death. Thankfully the Queen caught on to his evil plan (Esther 3).
6. The king of Assyria, he was defeated when God sent an angel to wipe out his entire army (Isaiah 37).
8. This man led a rebellion against his father, but he was killed in the battle (2 Samuel 14).
9. He solved a tricky dispute when two women both claimed to be the mother of a baby (1 Kings 2).
10. God gave this guy the strength and courage to fight a giant when he was a boy. Then, when he grew up to be a strong king, God was still there with him (1 Samuel 16).
13. Even though God kept shrinking his army, this man never doubted the Lord. He won the battle (Judges 6).
14. This man rebuilt the Upper Gate of the temple of the Lord (2 Chronicles 27).
15. This ruler foiled the plans of an evil man who wanted to kill all Jewish people (Esther 1).
16. He threw one of his advisor's into a den of lions (Daniel 6).

17. This ruler threw three of his advisors into a fiery furnace (Daniel 3).
19. This ruler appointed his sons as judges for Israel (1 Samuel 7).
20. Often called the "father of all nations," this man had more descendants than stars in the heavens (Genesis 12).

DOWN

1. Rebelled against Solomon and became the King of ten of Israel's tribes; however, he was punished when he refused to listen to God's orders (1 Kings 11).
2. When he refused to listen to Moses' warnings, God sent ten plagues to destroy his land and his people (Exodus 7-8).
3. One of David's sons, he was replaced by his younger brother when he failed to follow God (1 Kings 1).
4. A powerful king, he recovered Israel from its enemies, but he chose to follow the wicked ways of his ancestors (2 Kings 14).
7. This man killed his own brothers to become king (Judges 9).
11. One of the first things he did as ruler was to break the bronze snake idol Moses made (2 Kings 18).
14. This man took up the task of leading the Israelites after Moses died (Joshua 1).
18. This man led a complaining group of people out of Pharaoh's rule and into the desert (Exodus 14).



**THE GOOD, THE NOT-SO-GOOD, AND THE
DOWN RIGHT BAD: KINGS, LEADERS, AND
RULERS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Answer key

