

Youth Ministry 2:2
Bible discussion lessons for youth groups
from the Old and New Testaments

Bible 101 - year 2

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Proverbs



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Why be good?

Proverbs

1. What kind of people sometimes cause us to fear?

Is this fear helpful? When?

2. Proverbs - What is the 'fear of the Lord?'



Verses	The value of fearing the Lord
Proverbs 9:10-12	It gives _____; your days will be multiplied, and years will be _____ to your life.
Proverbs 14:2	We will walk _____(in an honorable way).
Proverbs 14:26,27	We have a secure _____, a refuge for our children, and a _____, turning us from the snares of death.
Proverbs 15:33	We follow _____
Proverbs 19:23	It leads to life and _____.

3. How does the fear of the Lord make us wiser?

What areas of our life will the fear of the Lord affect?

4. 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.' (Proverbs 9:10)

Why be good? (The Fear of the Lord – Proverbs)

Significance for teens:

One pastor said that it is important to gain wisdom over the years of life, because the beauty and strength of youth are temporary but wisdom lasts. It is not too early to begin this process in adolescence. Our job is to help young people understand what it means to fear the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom.

1. Hook

Ask, 'What kind of people sometimes cause us to fear?'

Possible answers: police officers, scary teachers, mean parents, strangers, people who can hurt or judge us, etc.

Ask, 'Is this fear helpful? When?'

Possible answers: fear helps keep us safe; sometimes we do what we should out of fear (ex. homework; obey our parents).

Ask, 'What happens if we don't fear the people we should fear?'

Possible answers: we think we can do whatever we want; we become lazy or careless; we can get hurt, etc.

2. Book – Proverbs

Today we begin studying a new book in God's Word, the book of Proverbs. The main theme of Proverbs is how to get wisdom. This book is found in the 'poetry' section of the Bible. The verses in this book are actually the 'proverbs:' short, helpful sayings about life. Most of these proverbs were written by King Solomon.

Ask, 'What do you know about King Solomon?'

Possible answers: He was the son of David and Bathsheba; God let him ask for anything, and he asked for wisdom; he had great wealth, 300 wives,

and 700 concubines; his wives led him away from God into idolatry; he wrote the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon

Today's topic is, *the fear of the Lord*. Ask, 'What does that mean? What is the fear of the Lord?'

Possible answers: Standing in amazement at God's power and holiness; treating God with high regard because He is the Creator and King of the universe; a 'wholesome dread' of displeasing Him because you love Him; etc.

Read the following proverbs about the fear of the Lord and write down from each verse the value of fearing the Lord.

1) Proverbs 9:10-12 – It gives wisdom; your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

2) Proverbs 14:2 – We will walk uprightly (in an honorable way).

3) Proverbs 14:26,27 – We have a secure fortress, a refuge for our children, and a fountain of life, turning us from the snares of death.

4) Proverbs 15:33 – We follow wisdom.

5) Proverbs 19:23 – It leads to life and contentment.

3. Look

Ask, 'How does the fear of the Lord lead to wisdom?'

Possible answers: we know that God sees us, and this affects our behavior, like when our parents watch us; we want to please Him, etc.

Ask, 'What areas of our life will the fear of the Lord affect?'

Possible answers: it affects our words; what we do when no one is watching; how we treat others; etc.

Over the next few weeks, we will look at how, according to the book of Proverbs, the fear of the Lord impacts different areas of our lives.

4 – Took

At the end, remind the teens that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). To love God and give Him the respect He deserves leads us to make choices that are wise and honor Him. To live our lives this way consistently helps us to grow in wisdom.

Conclude with prayer.

Leader's Guide

To be honest...

Proverbs (with Acts 5:1-11)

1. Why does God want Christians to tell the truth?

2. Honesty, according to Proverbs:



Proverbs 12:22 - The Lord detests lying lips,
but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Proverbs 13:5 – The righteous hate what is false,
but the wicked make themselves a stench and bring shame on themselves.

Proverbs 24:26 – An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

Proverbs 26:18,19 – Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death is one who
deceives their neighbor and says, 'I was only joking!'

What do these verses say about lying?

And what do they say about honesty?

Read Acts 5:1-11 – Why was Ananias and Sapphira's punishment so severe?

3. True or False

- If a friend asks if you like her new outfit, and you actually don't like it, it's better to say that you do.
- Cheating on a test is lying.
- It is possible to lie by remaining silent.
- If the situation is life-threatening, it is acceptable to lie.
- Everyone lies.
- It is acceptable to lie if it does not harm anyone.
- Telling your parents that you have already completed the homework you plan to do tomorrow is a lie.
- Christians should never lie.
- Promising to pray for someone and then forgetting is a lie.
- Singing song words we don't believe is a lie.

4. God's Word: 'Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.' (Ephesians 4:25)

To be honest ... (Telling the Truth – Proverbs with Acts 5:1-11)

Significance for teens:

In our culture, lying is widespread. Movie characters lie, politicians lie, and even friends lie to each other. Sometimes it is difficult for teens to know who they can trust.

The Word of God says that honesty should mark the character of His children.

1. Hook

Begin with prayer. Then play the game, **Liars Club**:

In advance, prepare several objects (or parts of objects) that are unusual or unfamiliar, and select three or four volunteers. One tells the truth about what the object is used for, while the others lie (make something up). The teens try to figure out whose answer is the right one. You should talk with the volunteers beforehand about who will tell the truth and discuss possible wrong answers. The truthful answer shouldn't always come from the same person. The winner is the student who guessed most often who was telling the truth.

An alternative game would be **Two Truths and a Lie**, where several people tell two truths and a lie about themselves, and everyone else guesses which is the lie.

Ask, 'Why does God want Christians to be honest?'

Possible answers: because God always tells the truth and we should be like Him; it shows love or respect when people can trust what we say; etc.

2. Book – Proverbs (with Acts 5:1-11)

Today we will look at what is written in the Book of Proverbs, then read a story from

the New Testament about honesty and lying.

Read the verses in the handout and summarize what specifically is said there about honesty and lying.

Possible answers about lying: it brings shame and disgrace; it is like being shot with arrows.

Possible answers about honesty: it brings happiness; it is like a kiss (it is a kind, loving thing to do).

Read Acts 5:1-11 and ask the question: 'Why was the punishment of Ananias and Sapphira so severe?'

Possible answers: as a warning (the church was brand-new and needed a good start); to show that you can't fool God; God takes lying very seriously; it hurts His reputation.

3. Look

'Now let's see what this means for us.'
(See the True-False list on the handout).

There are several ways to discuss these answers:

Option 1. The students can mark each statement on the handout true or false and then share answers together.

Option 2. Hang two pieces of paper with the word, 'agree' on one wall and the word, 'disagree' on another. After you read each statement twice, everyone chooses which wall to stand by. Sometimes the students choose the center. Ask them to explain why they chose that position. I usually allow those in the minority to speak first. If anyone changes their minds, they can switch sides.

Option 3: Read the sentence twice, count 'One, two, three,' and the kids express

their agreement by raising their thumb up, and their disagreement by putting their thumb down. Sometimes kids put their thumb to the side, if they think something is true sometimes but not always. Ask them to explain their choice.

Don't rush to say what you think about each statement. It's better if they take time to think critically about real life situations. Ask them why they think the way they do. If you share your opinion after each statement, the activity might be them just trying to guess what you will say, instead of thinking for themselves.

At the end of the game, if the kids have dangerous misconceptions, you can correct them. But it's better if they don't expect you to have all the answers; after all, you won't always be around.

4 – Took

Read Ephesians 4:25 from the handout (“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.”) Conclude with prayer.

How to Find Good Friends

Proverbs

1. Name your three best friends and explain what makes them good friends.

Friend 1: _____

Reason: _____

Friend 2: _____

Reason: _____

Friend 3: _____

Reason: _____



2. Friendship, according to Proverbs:

Proverbs 12:26 'The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.'

Proverbs 13:20 'Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.'

Proverbs 14:7 'Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips.'

Proverbs 17:17 'A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.'

Proverbs 18:24 'One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.'

A Good Friend	A Bad Friend
Results	Results

3. What qualities do you value most in a friend?

How can you make good friends?

4. God knows that your friends will influence you.

Which friend do you spend the most time with? _____

Which friend do you get advice from? _____

How to find good friends (Friendship – Proverbs)

Significance for teens:

It is well known that friends play a huge role in the development of adolescents. Thanks to their friends, they become independent. This makes it really important that they have the right kind of friends. The Book of Proverbs gives helpful guidance for identifying what makes a friend a good friend.

1. Hook

Ask your students to write down the names of up to three friends (fewer is okay) and the reason they consider them good friends. Discuss their answers and at the end, draw their attention to how many answers are related to the other person's character.

Today, the book of Proverbs will show us the importance of good character traits when choosing a friend.

2. Book – Proverbs

Read the proverbs printed on the handouts and discuss what they say about good friends, bad friends, and the consequences of friendship with each kind are. Fill in the table as you go.

Answers:

A good friend is wise (13:20); loving (17:17); and loyal (18:24).

The results of friendship with them are wisdom (13:20) and support in times of trouble (17:17).

A bad friend is wicked (12:26); foolish (13:20; 14:7); and unreliable (18:24).

The results of friendship with them are being led astray (12:26); harm (13:20); ignorance (14:7); and ruin (18:24).

3. Look

In the book of Proverbs, we see some qualities of a good friend. But there may

be more that are important to your kids. Ask the question, 'What qualities do *you* value most in a friend?' Add their answers to those already recorded from the Bible. Possible answers: cheerful, patient, caring, good listener, fun, can keep confidences, etc.

Ask, "When Jesus was on earth, He was called, 'a friend of sinners' (Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34). Does that mean our friends should be sinners too?" Possible answer: Jesus was not afraid to associate with sinners, but His closest friends were His disciples. We should be as friendly as possible to everyone, but it's good if our closest friends also love the Lord.

Ask, 'How can we find good friends?'

Possible answers: ask God for a friend; be active in church and in places where there are potentially good friends; remember people's names; be a good friend yourself; don't be afraid to reach out; etc.

Ask, "We want a good friend with the qualities we have listed, but do we have those same qualities to offer others? Some translations of Proverbs 18:24 read, 'A man that hath friends must himself be a friend.'"

4. Took

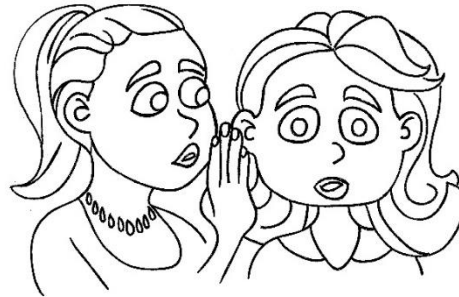
God knows that your friends will influence you. It is very important that your closest friends influence you in a good way, not tempting you or bringing you harm.

Answer the last questions on the printout about yourself: Which friend do you spend the most time with? Which friend do you get advice from? Does he or she have a good influence on you? Ask God for wisdom in your friendships. End with prayer.

Taming the Tongue

Proverbs

1. It can be difficult for us to control our tongue (our words). James 3:8



2. Our words, according to Proverbs:

Proverbs 10:19 'Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues.'

Proverbs 11:13 'A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.'

Proverbs 12:18 'The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.'

Proverbs 15:1 'A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.'

Proverbs 28:23 'Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue.'

Good use of Words	Harmful use of Words	Consequences of Uncontrolled Words

3. Why do we so often use words to hurt others?

'A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of (Luke 6:45).'

If your mind is filled with garbage, then garbage comes out of your mouth.

4. According to this lesson, in what ways do I need to 'tame my tongue?'

Cards for playing the forbidden words game “Taboo”

<p align="center"><u>Tiger</u></p> <p align="center">Cat</p> <p align="center">Stripes</p> <p align="center">India</p> <p align="center">Zoo</p> <p align="center">Animal</p>	<p align="center"><u>Reading</u></p> <p align="center">Book</p> <p align="center">Words</p> <p align="center">Story</p> <p align="center">Library</p> <p align="center">Pages</p>	<p align="center"><u>Fire Drill</u></p> <p align="center">School</p> <p align="center">Alarm</p> <p align="center">Smoke</p> <p align="center">Outside</p> <p align="center">Emergency</p>
<p align="center"><u>Sledding</u></p> <p align="center">Snow</p> <p align="center">Sports</p> <p align="center">Winter</p> <p align="center">Hill</p> <p align="center">Children</p>	<p align="center"><u>Bible</u></p> <p align="center">Book</p> <p align="center">God</p> <p align="center">Scripture</p> <p align="center">Jesus</p> <p align="center">Verse</p>	<p align="center"><u>Mom</u></p> <p align="center">Mother</p> <p align="center">Woman</p> <p align="center">Children</p> <p align="center">Child</p> <p align="center">Family</p>
<p align="center"><u>Dime</u></p> <p align="center">Money</p> <p align="center">10 cents</p> <p align="center">Coin</p> <p align="center">Round</p> <p align="center">Spend</p>	<p align="center"><u>New Year</u></p> <p align="center">Holiday</p> <p align="center">January 1</p> <p align="center">Fireworks</p> <p align="center">Midnight</p> <p align="center">Party</p>	<p align="center"><u>Ocean</u></p> <p align="center">Water</p> <p align="center">Atlantic</p> <p align="center">Pacific</p> <p align="center">Body</p> <p align="center">Island</p>

Taming the Tongue (Our Words – Proverbs)

Significance for teens:

The Bible says that only a perfect person can control the tongue (James 3:2). Since none of us is perfect, words can be a problem for everyone. Teens can be verbally cruel to those who are not like everyone else: who dress, think, or act differently from the rest. Your task is to help young people understand the power of words to tear others down, or to build others up.

1. Hook

Start with the forbidden words game, 'Taboo.' Cards for the game are included after the handout for this lesson, or you can use the boxed game if you have it.

Divide the kids into two groups. The leader of the first group describes the first word on the card to their team. They are not allowed to say any words written below the first word. They are also not allowed to act out the word or make any sounds. Once the team guesses the word, the leader turns over the second card, and the process continues until 30 seconds have elapsed. (A representative from the other team also looks at the words on the card and makes sure the rules are followed. If any forbidden words are said, that card must be put aside and the next card taken). The more words a team guesses in 30 seconds, the more points they get. Then the second team takes their turn. You can play as many times as you like or until you run out of cards. To make the game last longer, you can make your own cards.

'It can be difficult sometimes to control what we say'. Read James 3:8.

2. Book – Proverbs

Today we will look at what is written in the Book of Proverbs about the way we use our words.

Read the proverbs on the handout, answer the questions, and fill in the chart:

'According to these verses, how can words be used for good?' Possible answers: holding our tongues (10:19); keeping secrets (11:13); giving wise advice (12:18); gentle responses (15:1); helpful or needed rebukes (28:23).

The Bible calls 'rebuking' 'speaking the truth in love' (Ephesians 4:15). You may want to discuss with the kids when it is proper to rebuke and when it is better to be silent.

'How can words be used for harm?'

Possible answers: talking too much (10:19); gossiping (11:13), reckless talking (12:18); flattery (28:23); harsh words (15:1).

'According to these verses, what are the possible consequences of harmful/foolish words?'

Possible answers: sin (10:19); betraying a friend (11:13); hurtful – 'wounds like a sword' (12:18); stirring up anger (15:1). Our bad words can cause a lot of pain.

3. Look

'If our words have so much power, why do we often use words to hurt others?'

Possible answers: we speak before we think; we want something from the other person; we want to protect ourselves; we want to make others look small so we look big, etc.

Divide the group into teams of 2-3 people and give them the task of coming up with a short role-play based on a real-life situation, where someone has a choice about their verbal reaction to another person.

They should act out their scene twice, with different endings. The first time, careless or hurtful words cause a relationship to deteriorate. The second time, helpful or encouraging words make a relationship better.

After the scenes, read Luke 6:45 from the handout. If your mind is filled with garbage, garbage comes out of your mouth. Conversely, if you have good thoughts in your head, it is easier to speak good words.

One of the best sources of good thoughts is the Word of God. It is helpful to read and memorize verses from Scripture and meditate on them.

4. Took

Ask, 'According to this lesson, in what ways do I need to change the way I use my words? OR: tame my tongue?' Give everyone time to pray silently and think about what God wants from them. Conclude with a prayer aloud that God will help us control what we say. Or 'use our words to build others up.'

Leader's Guide