

Proverbs – examples and questions

Some examples of proverbs:

The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.
(Proverbs 11:3)

The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry,
but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.
(Proverbs 10:3)

Hatred stirs up strife,
but love covers all offences.
(Proverbs 10:12)

The wise lay up knowledge,
but the babbling of a fool brings ruin near.
(Proverbs 10:14)

Lying lips conceal hatred,
and whoever utters slander is a fool.
(Proverbs 10:18)

Like vinegar to the teeth, and smoke to the eyes,
so are the lazy to their employers.
(Proverbs 10:26)

Whoever belittles another lacks sense,
but an intelligent person remains silent.
(Proverbs 11:12)

Those who are kind reward themselves,
but the cruel do themselves harm.
(Proverbs 11:17)

Rash words are like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
(Proverbs 12:18)

Discussion questions:

What piece of wise advice would you give to someone who:

Has upset one of their friends by saying something unpleasant to her?

Is feeling angry about what someone else has posted online about him?

Is feeling lonely?

Is about to move school?

Doesn't try very hard to do well at school?

Who do you look to for wisdom? Why?

Do you think that only clever people can be wise?

Do you think it's right to say that the theme of the Book of Proverbs is 'everything'?

Many of the proverbs come from King Solomon, who was famed for his wisdom. However, sometimes he himself still got things badly wrong in a whole range of different ways.

What might that show us about what it is like to be a human?



All Bible quotations from the New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA).