



JULY 2026 | DAY 26

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 1
Proverbs 2
Proverbs 3
Psalms 21

At the beginning, God gave humans a choice, represented by two trees. Will they eat from the tree of life and, therefore, live by Yahweh's wisdom in a rich garden land? Or will they eat from the tree of knowing good and bad and, therefore, live by their own wisdom and follow the path that leads to exile and death?

Humanity makes a poor choice and forfeits the blessing of Eden for a life marked by drought and weeds, swords and chains, sweat and tears, crutches and graveyards.

But what if there was a way back to a life of abundance, flourishing, and peace? What if there was a way to experience the blessings of Eden again, even in the harsh world outside the garden? What if the tree of life wasn't locked away behind the cherubim's flaming swords but was walking the streets, calling your name?

Meet Lady Wisdom, "a tree of life to all who take hold of her." She holds riches, honor, and blessings in her arms, and she offers them free of charge to anyone who heeds her call. Take her hand, and she'll lead you down the path of life.

Watch the video to learn about Lady Wisdom's invitation to live by the fear of Yahweh in the book of Proverbs.



JULY 2026 | DAY 27

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 4
Proverbs 5
Proverbs 6
Psalms 22

How does one experience the satisfaction and fullness of a good life? Fall in love with Lady Wisdom and remain faithful to her. Wisdom is of God, who creates all humanity. Who knows how people operate better than humanity's creator?

In today's reading, the father described in Proverbs urges his son to give his whole heart to wisdom. Chase her down, pull her close, and never let her go. If you stay faithful to Lady Wisdom, she'll crown you with life and honor.

Be warned, though, because another seeks after you. Proverbs picks up on the connection between marital infidelity and spiritual unfaithfulness we've seen elsewhere in the biblical story.

Like Ezekiel and Hosea, who described the Israelites as adulterers, the father in Proverbs warns his son against having an affair with another man's wife and against having an affair with foolishness. Faithfulness, after all, is a matter of life and death. As today's video explains, no amount of money can buy someone out of adultery's consequences.

Faithfulness to wisdom starts in the heart. Sometimes we assume that the "faithful" person is the one who thinks or believes correctly. However, we've seen a pattern in Scripture that suggests the opposite. Israel knows and believes more truthful information than most of its neighbors, but the people desire the wrong thing. Their hearts want social status and self-satisfaction more than blessing and well-being for all, which leads only to foolishness.



JULY 2026 | DAY 27 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 4
Proverbs 5
Proverbs 6
Psalms 22

The author describes wisdom as an all-encompassing, whole-body way of life. Tune your ears to sensible instruction. Make sure only truth rolls off your tongue. Turn your feet away from crooked paths. Use your hands to heal, not to harm. Fear Yahweh with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength—and flee from infidelity in all its forms.



JULY 2026 | DAY 28

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 7
Proverbs 8
Proverbs 9
Psalms 23

Some invitations deserve an enthusiastic RSVP. Others, however, should go straight into the trash. Today's reading features a contrast between two banquets one might be invited to: one hosted by an adulterous woman, the other hosted by Lady Wisdom.

The adulterous woman lurks in the shadows, waiting to ambush unsuspecting travelers with her seductive summons. But don't listen to her smooth talk of spiced wine and scented sheets. The seats at her table are snares, and she serves only shame and shackles. One bite of her deadly meal will send you straight to the grave.

Lady Wisdom, on the other hand, delivers her invitations in broad daylight. She calls out to anyone who will listen from the highest windows in the city: Dinner is ready! So sit down for a hearty serving of sense. Pour yourself a tall glass of justice. Wisdom's plates are piled high with the kind of food that gives life to your body and health to your bones.

Lady Wisdom, after all, has been cooking up life since the earliest days of creation. Watch today's video to learn about how wisdom carves order out of chaos in Proverbs 8.



JULY 2026 | DAY 29

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 10
Proverbs 11
Proverbs 12
Psalms 24

Lady Wisdom has delivered her invitation to feast on the good life. How do we respond to her call? What does it look like to apply wisdom and the fear of Yahweh to our everyday lives?

Today's reading launches us into the second main section of Proverbs. This section contains hundreds of ancient aphorisms or sayings, each like a mini case study on wisdom applied to real life. Remember, this is proverbial wisdom, not divine promise. If it says "the one who works diligently becomes wealthy" (Prov. 10:4b), that's a wise reality in general; diligence is a wiser route than laziness. It's not a promise from God that all diligent work guarantees big money.

Most of the proverbs appear as a pair of statements, or a couplet, with the second line building on the first in some way. The relationship between the two lines invites you to meditate on the couplet's meaning.

Notice, for instance, the careful design of Proverbs 11:16, "A gracious woman attains honor, and ruthless men attain riches." The two lines start with several pairs of opposites: female and male, one and many, gracious and ruthless. When we meditate on these early contrasts, we realize the final words are opposites too: Honor is antithetical to riches in this proverb.

Proverbs offers valuable principles for the good life—as long as we don't treat those guidelines as guarantees.



JULY 2026 | DAY 30

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 13
Proverbs 14
Proverbs 15
Psalms 25

God's intent through all creation is justice—a way of right relating with one another and the land. Justice brings about shalom and the blessing of life for all.

Today's reading features several proverbs focused on justice and righteousness. From these sayings, we learn that living wisely in Yahweh's world requires living justly. Living justly means treating Yahweh's entire world, especially his image-bearers, with dignity and lovingkindness. As you learned from the prophetic books, those who do wrong suffer as a result. They also cause others to suffer. We see that principle at work in sayings like Proverbs 13:21 or 15:27. Because Yahweh has woven justice into the fabric of life in the universe, those who sow evil experience a loss of life. To the contrary, those who practice righteousness—that is, right relationships with God and others—are more likely to enjoy security and success.

These are general statements about reality at large. Skip ahead to Jesus, the most righteous human ever, who also suffers immensely. Jesus' experience doesn't mean Proverbs 13:21—"Calamity chases sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous"—is incorrect. It reminds us that proverbs are generalizations, not promises.

More than anything, justice in Scripture is restorative. It seeks out vulnerable people who are being taken advantage of and helps them. We see this restorative dimension in passages like Proverbs 14:21 and 14:31. Yahweh looks out for the destitute, the disadvantaged, and the downtrodden. Those who want to live by the fear of Yahweh should do the same.



JULY 2026 | DAY 31

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 16
Proverbs 17
Proverbs 18
Psalms 26

Our words reveal the kind of people we truly are. We can use them to build up or tear down, to hide the truth, and to show off. We can also remain silent, hiding foolishness by simply staying quiet. According to the proverbs in today's reading, that's just the start. As Proverbs 18:21 puts it, "death and life" are in the power of the tongue.

Wise words accomplish good in the world with creative power. Sweet words of truth can lift a head bowed in despair, and trustworthy words can strengthen the hearts and minds of kings and servants alike. But foolish words corrupt with infectious power. Cruel words can sicken friendships, deceptive words can breed a swarm of lies, and vindictive words can unleash torrents of hostility, escalating into all sorts of violence.

Today's proverbs also reveal that the wise tune their ears toward truth. Those who speak wise words are eager to listen to the wisdom of others. Fools, on the other hand, aren't interested in wise counsel. They prefer the comfort of simple, agreeable thoughts or the entertainment of gossip. The many individual proverbs build a larger picture of such foolishness. It's a way of remaining willfully blind to truth while prattling on with meaningless and, therefore, corrupting words.

The narrator seems to have Yahweh's original creation in view, where God's words create life and goodness. With power that's somehow similar, human beings too can speak words that bring life and goodness. We can also do the opposite. The wisdom in these proverbs suggests that what people say will one day bear fruit, whether sweet or rotten.



AUGUST 2026 | DAY 1

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 19
Proverbs 20
Proverbs 21
Psalms 27

Like a lion's roar, the fury of a king strikes bone-chilling terror. The spouse who's always picking fights, persistent as a leaky tap, wears down the marriage. And riches piled up through deceptive schemes will vanish like fog in a strong wind. These are a few examples of the poetic metaphor found in today's reading.

As you'll learn in the video, metaphor invites us to experience ideas with imagination and often emotion. Some biblical metaphors make intuitive sense to modern readers. You've probably seen mist evaporate on a hot day and heard the nagging drip ... drip ... drip of a water leak. But other metaphors are more confusing outside of the Bible's ancient context. Take Proverbs 21:31, for example: "The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord." Most 21st-century readers associate horses with ranches, racetracks, and rodeos, so it's more challenging to connect the dots and see the basic idea of this proverb. However, in the ancient Near East, armies commonly used horses in warfare, to terrifying effect. Just imagine how 1,000 pounds of hooves and muscle barreling toward you at a full gallop would feel! A horse-drawn chariot was the ancient equivalent of an armored tank. Early readers, then, would have understood this proverb as a reminder to trust Yahweh, not human military might, for success in battle.

Metaphors do more than just add poetic flair. These images invite us to feel the Bible's words at a visceral level—and let this wisdom form us from the inside out.