

# Proverbs

## Overview

- “Proverb” – “timeless words of wise men concerning the way to conduct one’s life, both in terms of what is right and what is prudent”
- Principal author is Solomon, the man who “spoke 3,000 proverbs” (I Kings 4:32)
- Work done to collect the proverbs in Hezekiah’s time (Prov. 25:1); generally thought to have been finalized shortly after Babylonian exile

## Outline

- Preface – “Hear O son the instruction of a father” (1-9)
- First volume of Solomon’s proverbs (10-24)
- Second volume of Solomon’s proverbs (25-29)
- Words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle (30)
- Words of King Lemuel, the oracle which his mother taught him (31)

## Purpose of the book (1:2-6)

*“To know wisdom and instruction,  
To discern the sayings of understanding,  
To receive instruction in wise behavior,  
Righteousness, justice and equity;  
To give prudence to the naïve,  
To the youth knowledge and discretion,  
A wise man will hear and increase in learning,  
And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,  
To understand a proverb and a figure,  
The words of the wise and their riddles.”*

## Preparation for class

- 1) Take a moment to reflect on the meanings of the words in Proverbs 1:2-6 (the purpose of the book). What do we learn about the benefit of Proverbs? How can the book help us today?
- 2) Read through the book and choose a few proverbs that you thought about in a new way, or that taught you something new. Come to class prepared to discuss these specific passages. We will spend the class period reading through selected passages that are volunteered.