

**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART**

Old Testament Lesson #217

The book of Proverbs opens with words of wisdom given from the King of Israel to his son. They are words of advice, encouragement and teaching to help the son grow in understanding in the things of God.

Proverbs 3 begins with the words: “My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:1-4).

The writer of the Proverbs makes an important point about trusting in God above all things. As human beings, we tend to always want to do everything ourselves, trying to control our lives and circumstances ourselves. However, we won’t be as successful in the end if we don’t put God first. The Proverb says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

By trusting in God first, we can avoid the problem of letting our pride get big and cause us to be wise in our own eyes. The writer counsels “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones” (Proverbs 3:7-8). Putting God first helps us to be humble and to treat others appropriately.

As we receive blessings from God, we want to be sure to honor Him and be thankful for what He has provided us. We’re told, “Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

These are positive things we need to learn and use in our lives. At times though, we will make mistakes. We can do the wrong thing and when that happens, sometimes God may discipline us. But, we need to readily accept any such discipline from God because it is to our benefit. The Proverb says, “My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in” (Proverbs 3:11-12).

Let us all pay attention to these helpful words of wisdom and do all we can to put all our trust in God, acknowledging Him in all that we do, so that His blessings will be with us.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- Though the book of Proverbs is attributed to Solomon as the author, there are some sources that attribute the first 9 chapters to David. If that

is the case, these words of wisdom are his counsel to his son Solomon for living a faithful and obedient life before God. If he were to do that, he will have a long and prosperous reign as the King of Israel.

- When Moses died, Joshua was given the great responsibility of leading the nation of Israel. This was going to be a big job, especially as they were now going to enter the Promised Land. God gives Joshua the same advice as found here in Proverbs 3. He tells Joshua: “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful” (Joshua 1:7-8).
- The words of this chapter echo what Moses wrote in the book of Deuteronomy. Specifically, “These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you” (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).
- The writer to the Hebrews in the New Testament quotes from this chapter in Proverbs to emphasize to the believers that we receive discipline from God out of His great love for us, and it is a source of encouragement. He writes: “And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: ‘My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son’” (Hebrews 12:5-6).

**ANSWER KEY:**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

eyes

**N**ever let love and faithfulness leave you.

Fill in the missing vowels.

u i e o i a o u e a a e a o o o u o u e a i i a o u a a o e e i a e i a e o u a a i

“Tr\_\_st \_\_n th\_\_ L\_\_rd w\_\_th \_\_ll y\_\_ur h\_\_rt \_\_nd  
l\_\_n n\_\_t \_\_n y\_\_r \_\_wn \_\_nd\_\_rst\_\_nd\_\_ng; \_\_n \_\_ll  
y\_\_r w\_\_ys \_\_ckn\_\_wl\_\_dg\_\_ h\_\_m, \_\_nd h\_\_ w\_\_ll  
m\_\_k\_\_ y\_\_r p\_\_ths str\_\_ght.”

Draw what is missing from the faces. Then fill in the word above.

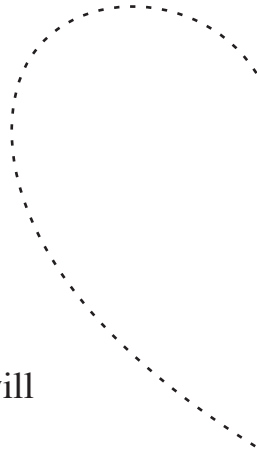
Verse 7 says, “Do not be wise in your own \_\_\_\_\_.”



Name \_\_\_\_\_

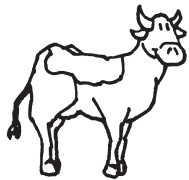
**N**ever let love and faithfulness leave you.

Trace the dashed line, then draw the other half of the heart.



“... in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Draw a straight line to connect the objects that belong together.



Name \_\_\_\_\_