



Please do not send this newsletter back to Crossroads.

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
– Proverbs 1:7 (NIV)*

Growing in Wisdom

The apostle Paul wrote:

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:11-12)

As summer plants and crops grow, let this season be a time for you to grow in wisdom too. Money, fame, and power can disappear at any time, but no one can take away the wisdom that God gives through His Word.

A Message from Crossroads’ President, Joe Pryor

The choices we make have a big impact on our lives. Whom we spend time with, how we treat others, and how we care for ourselves all shape our futures. But every choice needs to be built on a strong foundation.

Joshua gives us an example of an important choice that shapes all others. In Joshua 24:15, he says:

“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua made it clear—we all have to choose. Will you follow the false gods of this world, or will you serve the one true God who loves you and offers eternal life through Jesus? The choice is yours.

New Curriculum Course Sequence

For some time, we’ve been talking about new courses coming soon. Changes in our budget, staffing, and prison mail rules caused some delays. But we’re excited to share that **the new curriculum officially launches in English on July 1!** A full timeline for Spanish-language courses will be announced at a later date. Until then, Spanish-language students will continue in their current courses.

If you are a current student, you can finish the course you are working on. Once you finish, you will move into the new course sequence at the right place in the sequence. If you’ve already completed *Survey of the Bible* or *God’s Story of Redemption*, you will not be able to retake the updated version, now called *God’s Great Story*.

Core Program (Tier 1)

The Core Program helps students understand the key truths of the Christian faith.

- **Who Are You?** (3 lessons) – Explores life’s big questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? (Jail students will take a shorter, single-lesson version called **Three Big Questions**.)
- **Who Is Jesus?** (4 lessons) – Teaches about the life and teachings of Jesus.

- **What Is the Bible?** (4 lessons) – Helps students understand how to read and study the Bible.
- **Truths of the Faith** (8 lessons) – Covers key teachings and beliefs of the Christian faith. (Updated from *Great Truths of the Bible*.)

After completing the Core Program, students can:

1. Receive a certificate and choose not to continue.
2. If the student has 18 months or less until release, they can take **Returning Home** (6 lessons), a course focused on preparing for reentry.
3. Continue with the Growth Program (Tier 2) and one-on-one mentoring by completing **What Is a Mentor?** (3 lessons).

Until this point, students will have a different mentor for each lesson.

Growth Program (Tier 2)

The Growth Program helps students grow spiritually and understand the Bible better. In the Growth Program, students are paired with one mentor who will review each lesson.

- **A Renewed Mind** (4 lessons) – Helps students address sin and negative thinking.
- **Sermon on the Mount** (5 lessons) – Focuses on Jesus' teachings from Matthew 5-7.
- **God's Great Story** (8 lessons) – Tells the story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. (Updated from *Survey of the Bible*.)
- **The Church Inside the Fence** (4 lessons) – Explains how to serve God while in prison.

Advanced Program (Tier 3)

The Advanced Program is for deeper study and leadership development. Placement in the Advanced Program requires a mentor recommendation.

- **Biblical Interpretation** (12 lessons) – Teaches how to study and understand the Bible.
- **Biblical Truths in Depth** (10 lessons) – Explains the key teachings of Christian theology.

Jail Program

We now have a special program for students in jail. Most people stay in jail for about 21 days, so we created a shorter program to help them start learning quickly.

Jail students will begin with *The Three Big Questions*—a shorter version of *Who Are You?*—designed to be completed before transfer or release. Students who stay in jail for at least three months will then continue with the full Core Program.

Reentry Course

Preparing for returning home from prison is the key to staying out for life. Crossroads is committed to helping people during this critical life transition. For students who complete the Core Program, and are within 18 months of going home, the course *Returning Home* provides a roadmap for release planning. Placing God first in their reentry planning gives the Crossroads student strategies for continued spiritual growth and personal success after release from incarceration.

Spread the Word

Most new Crossroads students hear about us because current students like you share the program with others. This is important because it means this is your ministry. While Crossroads staff and volunteers are here to support you, you are the ones helping to spread the Gospel.

Jesus told a story about a rich man who gave money to his servants while he was away. When he returned, two of the servants had used the money wisely and increased its value. The man said to them:

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

God has given you something even greater than money—a relationship with Him. As a follower of Jesus, you have received the greatest gift: eternal life and a relationship with your heavenly Father.

In this issue of *Just for Students*, you were sent extra Spread the Word cards to share with others at your facility (if your facility allows them). God has placed you where you are for a reason. You are part of His plan. We pray that God will use you to build His kingdom.

We continue to be amazed and thankful for each of you who have committed to following Jesus.

Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide: The Wisdom of Proverbs

The book of Proverbs, written primarily by King Solomon, offers wisdom for living a godly life. Many of its sayings may sound familiar. When God told Solomon He would give him anything he wanted, Solomon asked for wisdom. By applying the teachings of Proverbs to our daily lives, we can grow in our relationships and improve in all we do.

Date	Passage	Reading Topic	Prayer Focus
Jun. 1	Proverbs 1:1-19	A Call to Gain Wisdom	Ask God to give you His wisdom
Jun. 2	Proverbs 1:20-33	The World Rejects God's Wisdom	Pray for those who need God
Jun. 3	Proverbs 2:1-8	God Gives Knowledge	Ask God for understanding in your life
Jun. 4	Proverbs 2:9-22	Wisdom Keeps Us from Sin	Pray for strength to resist temptation
Jun. 5	Proverbs 3:1-20	The Value of Wisdom	Pray to value what God values
Jun. 6	Proverbs 3:21-35	Wisdom in Action	Pray for confidence in the Lord
Jun. 7	Proverbs 4:1-9	A Father's Instruction	Thank God for those who have taught you about Him
Jun. 8	Proverbs 4:10-27	Continue in What You Were Taught	Pray for strength to keep following Jesus
Jun. 9	Proverbs 5:1-14	Warning Against Adultery	Ask God to help you love His laws
Jun. 10	Proverbs 5:15-23	Enjoy God's Gifts	Pray for contentment with what you have
Jun. 11	Proverbs 6:1-19	Warning Against Foolishness	Pray to live a holy life set apart for God
Jun. 12	Proverbs 6:20-35	Further Warning Against Adultery	Pray for purity in your thoughts and actions
Jun. 13	Proverbs 7:1-20	Warning Against Temptation	Pray for those struggling with temptation
Jun. 14	Proverbs 7:21-27	Further Warning Against Temptation	Pray for those struggling with addiction
Jun. 15	Proverbs 8:1-21	The Treasure of Wisdom	Pray to grow in your love for Jesus
Jun. 16	Proverbs 8:22-36	The Power of Wisdom	Give your worries to God
Jun. 17	Proverbs 9:1-12	Invitation to Be Wise	Pray for those who aren't seeking God's wisdom
Jun. 18	Proverbs 9:13-18	Invitation to Be a Fool	Pray that sin would seem foolish to you
Jun. 19	Proverbs 10:1-16	"Love Covers All Wrongs"	Pray to grow in your love for others
Jun. 20	Proverbs 10:17-32	"Slander is Foolish"	Pray for pure and kind speech
Jun. 21	Proverbs 11:1-15	The Righteous Are Rescued	Pray for those being persecuted for their faith
Jun. 22	Proverbs 11:16-31	The Wicked Won't Escape Judgment	Pray for those with hard hearts
Jun. 23	Proverbs 12:1-14	The Lord Corrects the Wise	Pray to be open to God's correction
Jun. 24	Proverbs 12:15-28	The Wise Person Seeks Advice	Pray for wise people in your life
Jun. 25	Proverbs 13:1-13	The Wise Person Is Humble	Pray for humility
Jun. 26	Proverbs 13:14-25	Walk with the Wise	Pray for leaders in the church
Jun. 27	Proverbs 14:1-17	Fear the Lord	Pray to have a right view of God
Jun. 28	Proverbs 14:18-35	The Wise Person Is Kind	Pray for chances to bless others
Jun. 29	Proverbs 15:1-16	"A Gentle Answer Turns Away Wrath"	Pray to be more gentle
Jun. 30	Proverbs 15:17-33	The Wise Person Is Loving	Pray for those who feel unloved
Jul. 1	Proverbs 16:1-16	The Wise Person Commits to God	Pray to be open to God's guidance
Jul. 2	Proverbs 16:17-33	Pride Leads to Destruction	Pray for those who feel lost or far from God
Jul. 3	Proverbs 17:1-14	The Wise Person Is Honest	Pray to live with integrity
Jul. 4	Proverbs 17:15-28	"A Cheerful Heart Is Good Medicine"	Pray for joy in your life
Jul. 5	Proverbs 18:1-12	The Wise Person Seeks Shelter in God	Pray to trust God more
Jul. 6	Proverbs 18:13-23	The Wise Person Speaks Carefully	Pray to honor God with your words
Jul. 7	Proverbs 19:1-15	The Wise Person Is Patient	Pray for more patience
Jul. 8	Proverbs 19:16-29	The Wise Person Is Generous	Pray for opportunities to be generous
Jul. 9	Proverbs 20:1-15	The Wise Person Works Hard	Pray to work for God's glory
Jul. 10	Proverbs 20:16-30	Wait for the Lord	Pray for those suffering from war or conflict
Jul. 11	Proverbs 21:1-16	The Wise Person Hears the Poor	Pray for those suffering from hunger
Jul. 12	Proverbs 21:17-31	Nothing Can Defeat God	Pray for the Gospel to reach unreached people
Jul. 13	Proverbs 22:1-16	The Wise Person Seeks Justice	Pray for those suffering from injustice
Jul. 14	Proverbs 22:17-29	Listen to Wisdom	Pray for a soft heart that listens to God
Jul. 15	Proverbs 23:1-18	Be Content with What You Have	Pray for contentment
Jul. 16	Proverbs 23:19-35	The Wise Person Has Self-Control	Pray for the fruits of the Spirit

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Jul. 17	Proverbs 24:1-16	"A Wise Man Has Great Power"	Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit
Jul. 18	Proverbs 24:17-34	"Don't Fret About Evil Men"	Pray to know God's love more
Jul. 19	Proverbs 25:1-14	Humility Is the Way of the Wise	Pray to have the humility of Jesus
Jul. 20	Proverbs 25:15-28	Be Kind to Your Enemies	Pray that your enemies would know God's love
Jul. 21	Proverbs 26:1-14	The Wise Are Slow to Argue	Pray for patience and love in your relationships
Jul. 22	Proverbs 26:15-28	Gossip Feeds Conflict	Pray to avoid gossip
Jul. 23	Proverbs 27:1-14	Don't Boast About Tomorrow	Pray to rely on God in your plans
Jul. 24	Proverbs 27:15-27	The Wise Person Makes Wise Plans	Pray for wisdom in planning
Jul. 25	Proverbs 28:1-14	"The Righteous Are Bold"	Pray for boldness to speak the truth
Jul. 26	Proverbs 28:15-28	"Trusting Yourself Is Foolish"	Pray to trust God's wisdom more
Jul. 27	Proverbs 29:1-14	The Wise Care About Justice	Pray for those facing injustice
Jul. 28	Proverbs 29:15-27	"Pride Leads to a Fall"	Pray for humble leaders
Jul. 29	Proverbs 30:1-14	A Wise Person Loves God's Word	Pray to love reading the Bible
Jul. 30	Proverbs 30:15-33	"Anger Causes Conflict"	Pray for peace in your life
Jul. 31	Proverbs 31:1-9	The Wise Speak Up for Others	Pray for the defenseless
Aug. 1	Proverbs 31:10-31	A Wise Woman	Pray for wisdom for mothers

Proverbs Trivia

How many of these did you know?

- Solomon wrote most of the book of Proverbs.
- King Solomon's reign was the most prosperous time in Israel's history.
- Proverbs is written as Hebrew poetry, which pairs two lines together—the second line usually complements or contrasts the first line.
- The first seven verses of Proverbs explain that the purpose of the book is to give God's people wisdom.
- Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job are part of the Old Testament's wisdom literature.
- Proverbs describes wisdom as "Lady Wisdom."
- The term "wisdom" in Proverbs can be translated as "skill in the art of godly living."
- Proverbs 31, which describes the virtuous woman, is written as an acrostic using the Hebrew alphabet (each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet).

Call for Artwork

We're looking for artwork to feature on this year's Christmas card, which will be sent to all Crossroads students (where facilities allow them)! If you're interested in submitting your art for consideration, please mail it to the same address where you send your lessons, with **ATTN: Prison Art Project** included.

From the Operations Department

Here are a few important reminders about your lessons and mail:

- **Moving or going home?** If you move to a new facility or return home and want to continue your lessons, please let us know. If you are moving home, wait until you are settled to send us your new address.
- **Lesson ID number.** You may notice a six-digit number printed on the back of your lessons. This number helps us with processing—you don't need to do anything with it.
- **Return address reminder.** Please do not write the lesson ID number on your return address when you mail back completed lessons.
- **Include every page.** When you return a completed lesson, make sure to send back every page of the lesson.

Thank you for your dedication to growing in God's Word. We are praying for you and are excited to see how God continues to work in your life!



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