

# PROVERBS 3:1–18

My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but let your heart keep my commandments,  
<sup>2</sup> for length of days and years of life  
and peace they will add to you.  
<sup>3</sup> Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;  
bind them round your neck;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
<sup>4</sup> So you will find favour and good success  
in the sight of God and man.  
<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.  
<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.  
<sup>8</sup> It will be healing to your flesh  
and refreshment to your bones.  
<sup>9</sup> Honour the Lord with your wealth  
and with the firstfruits of all your produce;  
<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled with plenty,  
and your vats will be bursting with wine.  
<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline  
or be weary of his reproof,  
<sup>12</sup> for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,  
as a father the son in whom he delights.  
<sup>13</sup> Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,  
and the one who gets understanding,  
<sup>14</sup> for the gain from her is better than gain from silver  
and her profit better than gold.  
<sup>15</sup> She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
<sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honour.  
<sup>17</sup> Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
<sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called blessed.

# WISDOM'S EXCELLENCE

**Intro:** Advice to teenage self

**The time for wisdom** (Proverbs 2)

Develops character

Protects character

**Remember not to forget** (Proverbs 3)

You are not wise

You will not find better

Your journey secure

**Taking wisdom to heart** (Proverbs 4)

**Wisdom fulfilled**