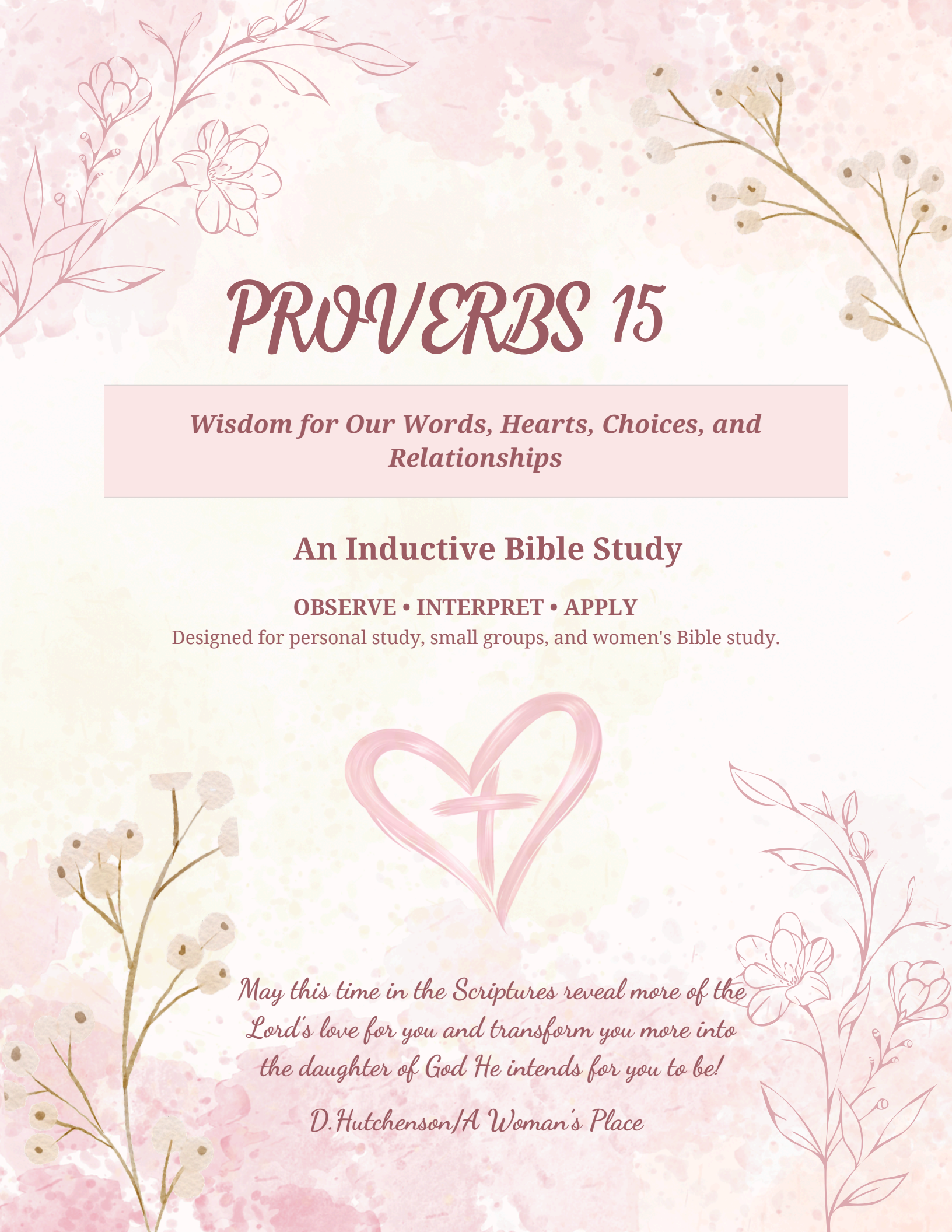




PROVERBS 15

Wisdom for Our Words, Hearts, Choices, and Relationships

An Inductive Bible Study

OBSERVE • INTERPRET • APPLY

Designed for personal study, small groups, and women's Bible study.



May this time in the Scriptures reveal more of the Lord's love for you and transform you more into the daughter of God He intends for you to be!

D. Hutchenson/A Woman's Place

How to Use This Study

Inductive Bible study begins with the biblical text itself. Read Proverbs 15 slowly.

Mark what you see, ask what the text means in context, and then consider how God's wisdom should shape your life. This guide intentionally uses Scripture references and only brief phrases so that you can work directly from your Bible.

1. OBSERVATION — What does the text say?	Notice repeated words, contrasts, commands, consequences, people, attitudes, and descriptions of the Lord.
2. INTERPRETATION — What does the text mean?	Ask what the proverb teaches about God, wisdom, foolishness, the heart, speech, correction, and righteous living.
3. APPLICATION — How should I respond?	Move from information to faithful practice. Identify a belief to embrace, a behavior to change, a relationship to approach wisely, or a prayer to pray.

Chapter Overview

Proverbs 15 repeatedly contrasts the wise and the foolish, the righteous and the wicked, humility and pride, and teachability and resistance. The chapter shows that wisdom is not merely knowing the right answer; it is a God-aware way of speaking, receiving correction, making decisions, ordering priorities, and living with others.

Key Themes in Proverbs 15

Theme	Verses	Teaching Point
Words can calm or inflame	vv. 1-4, 23, 28	Wise speech is restrained, timely, truthful, and life-giving.
God sees and weighs human life	vv. 3, 8-9, 11, 26, 29	The Lord is not distant from our conduct, motives, worship, or prayers.
Correction is a pathway to wisdom	vv. 5, 10, 12, 31-32	A teachable heart receives reproof rather than treating correction as an enemy.
The heart shapes the experience of life	vv. 13-15, 30	Inner condition affects countenance, endurance, perception, and joy.
Godly priorities are better than impressive abundance	vv. 16-17, 27	Reverence, love, peace, and integrity are worth more

		than wealth accompanied by turmoil.
Wise decisions welcome counsel	vv. 21-22, 24, 33	Wisdom looks beyond immediate preference and learns from godly instruction.

Study 1 — The Wisdom of Our Words

Read Proverbs 15:1-4, 23, and 28

Teaching point: Biblical wisdom is heard in the way we respond. A wise person does not merely avoid false words; she learns when to answer, how to answer, and when to consider her words before speaking.

OBSERVATION

1. In verses 1-4, circle or list every word or phrase connected to speech, the tongue, or an answer.

2. What contrasts do you see between wise speech and harmful speech?

3. According to verse 23, what makes an answer especially valuable?

4. Compare the righteous person and the wicked person in verse 28. What happens before each one speaks? _____

INTERPRETATION

5. Why can a gentle response require more strength and wisdom than an angry response?

6. What does the chapter teach about the connection between the heart and the mouth?

7. How can truthful words still be spoken foolishly? What additional qualities does Proverbs 15 commend?

APPLICATION

8. Which setting most tests your speech right now—home, work, church, family, social media, or another relationship? Why?

9. Before one difficult conversation this week, what could you do to 'ponder how to answer' (v. 28)?

Prayer: Ask the Lord to make your words truthful, timely, gentle, and life-giving.

Study 2 — Living Before the Eyes of the Lord

Read Proverbs 15:3, 8-11, 26, and 29

Teaching point: The Lord sees beyond outward appearances. Proverbs 15 joins conduct, motives, worship, and prayer together under God's holy attention.

OBSERVATION

1. What does verse 3 say about the Lord's awareness of human life?

2. In verses 8-9, what actions or ways are contrasted? What does the Lord delight in?

3. What does verse 11 suggest about God's knowledge of the human heart?

4. Compare verses 26 and 29. What does the Lord reject, and to whom is He near?

INTERPRETATION

5. Why is religious activity alone not presented as sufficient in this passage?

6. What do these verses teach about the difference between appearing godly and pursuing righteousness?

7. How should God's complete knowledge of us produce both reverence and confidence in prayer?

APPLICATION

8. Is there an area where you are more concerned with how others see you than with walking honestly before God?

9. What righteous pursuit can you intentionally practice this week?

Prayer: Invite the Lord to search your motives and align your worship, choices, and prayers with His ways.

Study 3 — Correction, Teachability, and Growth

Read Proverbs 15:5, 10, 12, 31-33

Teaching point: A teachable spirit is a mark of wisdom. Correction can be uncomfortable, but Proverbs presents godly reproof as a means by which wisdom, understanding, and honor grow.

OBSERVATION

1. What responses to instruction or correction appear in verses 5, 10, and 12?

2. What descriptions are given to the person who listens in verses 31-32?

3. What relationship do you see among humility, wisdom, and honor in verse 33?

INTERPRETATION

4. Why might a person who wants wisdom still resist correction?

5. What is the difference between destructive criticism and biblical correction?

6. How can humility protect us from remaining in foolish patterns?

APPLICATION

7. When corrected, do you tend to listen, explain, withdraw, become defensive, or reflect? What does that response reveal?

8. Name one trustworthy person whose wise counsel you should be more willing to receive.

9. What would humble teachability look like in one current area of your life?

Prayer: Ask God for humility to receive correction without losing sight of His grace and your identity in Christ.

Study 4 — The Heart and the Life We Carry

Read Proverbs 15:13-15 and 30

Teaching point: Proverbs does not deny sorrow or hardship. It teaches that the condition and nourishment of the inner life profoundly affect how we endure, perceive, and respond to our circumstances.

OBSERVATION

1. List the references to the heart, spirit, face, and eyes in these verses.

2. What contrasts are made between gladness and sorrow?

3. What kinds of input bring refreshment or strength in verse 30?

INTERPRETATION

4. Does a 'glad heart' mean pretending that painful circumstances do not exist? Explain from the passage. _____

5. How might what we repeatedly seek, hear, and dwell upon feed either wisdom or discouragement? _____

6. What is the difference between biblical joy and forced positivity?

APPLICATION

7. What has been feeding your heart lately?

8. Identify one source of godly encouragement you can intentionally receive this week—Scripture, worship, wise fellowship, prayer, gratitude, or another practice.

Prayer: Ask the Lord to strengthen your inner life with truth and to help you carry both joy and sorrow faithfully.

Study 5 — Better Than More

Read Proverbs 15:16-17 and 27

Teaching point: God's wisdom redefines abundance. Reverence for the Lord, love, peace, and integrity can make a modest life genuinely rich, while gain pursued wrongly can trouble an entire household.

OBSERVATION

1. What two 'better than' comparisons appear in verses 16-17?

2. What values are contrasted with treasure, feasting, and gain?

3. According to verse 27, how can a person's pursuit of gain affect others in the household?

INTERPRETATION

4. What does this passage challenge about common definitions of success?

5. Why are love and the fear of the Lord more foundational than material abundance?

6. How can greed create trouble even when the thing being pursued is not wrong in itself?

APPLICATION

7. Where are you tempted to believe that 'more' would automatically make life better?

8. What good gift in your present life may be easy to overlook because it seems ordinary?

9. What decision could you make this week that values peace, love, reverence, or integrity over appearance or gain?



Study 6 — Wise Paths and Wise Counsel

Read Proverbs 15:18-22,24, and 33.

Teaching point: Wisdom affects both the path we choose and the people we allow to speak into our choices. Humility slows impulsiveness, welcomes counsel, and keeps learning.

OBSERVATION

1. What character traits and outcomes are contrasted in verses 18-21?

2. What happens to plans when counsel is absent or present in verse 22?

3. What direction does the path of life take in verse 24?

4. Return to verse 33. What precedes wisdom and honor?

INTERPRETATION

5. Why is enjoying foolishness different from simply making a mistake?

6. What makes counsel wise? Should every opinion carry equal weight?

7. How are humility and good decision-making connected?

APPLICATION

8. Is there a current decision you have been trying to make without enough wise counsel?

9. Who are two biblically grounded people you could invite to speak honestly into that decision?

10. What would it look like to choose the wise path rather than merely the easiest path?



Proverbs 15 — Synthesis & Personal Response

After studying the chapter in sections, read all of Proverbs 15 again. This time, look for the relationships among the themes. Notice how speech, the heart, correction, humility, worship, relationships, priorities, and decision-making are not isolated subjects. Together they describe a life increasingly shaped by wisdom.

1. What did Proverbs 15 teach you about the character or activity of the Lord?

2. What did the chapter teach you about the wise person?

3. What did the chapter teach you about the foolish person?

4. Which verse or theme most exposed an area where you need to grow?

5. Which truth most encouraged you?

6. Write one sentence beginning: 'Because of Proverbs 15, with God's help I will...'

A Simple Weekly Practice

My words	Before responding, ask: Is it true, gentle, timely, and helpful?
My heart	Pay attention to what is feeding your inner life.
My teachability	Receive one piece of wise correction without immediately defending yourself.
My decisions	Seek biblical counsel and choose integrity over impulse or appearance.

Closing Prayer

Lord, teach me to walk in Your wisdom. Guard my heart and guide my words. Make me humble enough to receive correction, patient enough to seek counsel, and faithful enough to choose what pleases You over what merely looks successful. Let my speech give life, my choices reflect integrity, and my daily walk show reverence for You. Give me wisdom that becomes visible in the ordinary places of my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV translation of The Holy Bible.