

# JAN 4

“Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives,

to help them do what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.” Proverbs 1:2-4 NLT

## [lectio] // PROVERBS 1:1-7

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

## [meditatio]

reflect on – what word, words, phrase, or sentence speaks to you from the text, then write them down

Solomon's book, with 31 chapters, isn't a quick read - it's a slow path of reference to reflect on regularly. He leaves a legacy of words. His life was not the best example of how to live a godly life. It was, however, an gritty, authentic attempt to write down the truths that separate the moron from the man. He writes, "teach to live," which I needed desperately as a youth and probably even more as I get older. "Disciplined and successful" lives, he writes. You know honestly, I would have never seen my future life as either of these words. Because of father & family issues, I spent most of my time worrying about survival and burrowing for some kind of peace. I rarely considered a future where I would win or be normal. Many of these wisdom words were designed just for me. To adapt and thrive and crawl out of dysfunctional, defensive, selfish posturing to "make" something out of my life. Making excuses is not a good product to sell to anyone!

## [oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Again and always, I don't know where I'd be without you. Thank you. I am eternally grateful for you whispering in my ear and taking on the task of fathering me. That offer, that opportunity became my way out. You redeemed, saved, transformed and loved me. I so want to make you proud, not to earn but to say thanks.

## [contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root