

“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

Wow! Just plain, simple truth. Truth so apparent that I wonder who in the world would disagree with this collection of sayings. It's sole purpose is for us NOT to be an idiot. Believe me, I was one of the biggest idiots as a teenager. I was disengaged, shy, without morals or decent boundaries, fairly free to do whatever I wanted as long as I didn't get caught. AND, when I did get caught, I lied my way out of most situations. I had no purpose, no ambitions or respect for most people. I wasn't outwardly rude to adults, because that would draw too much attention, I was cunning and quiet. By the time I was fifteen, I lacked everything this book of Proverbs talked about. But until the moment God offered me something no human had been able to give me, I was a walking waste of space. One decision to yield to God's offer and the hardest part of my story was just beginning - wisdom, discipline and discernment were painfully, slowly confronting my emptiness. And I wanted to be taught and mentored by God!

## oratio

Dad,  
It is so strange, now looking back 44/45 years. Almost anyone who knows me now just can't believe who I was or what I was like then. But I know and you definitely know what those years were like. My earliest memories of discovering this book of Proverbs were someone suggesting that I read one chapter every day. That was the best advice anyone has ever given me. They taught me to fish on my own, instead of just tossing me some fish they had already caught. These Proverbs gave me a roadmap to follow as you were working on me to LISTEN to discipline and come under the authority of a loving father. Thank You!

## contemplatio

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