

AT HOME IN THE BOOK OF  
*Proverbs*

Teacher/Leader Guide

**SAMPLE PAGES:**

Leader's Guide: Lesson Seven

Board Layout: Lesson Seven

Small Group Guide: Lesson Seven

Material on the following pages is copyrighted. All rights reserved.

Third Edition  
Copyright © 2009 Kristie Gant  
In Praise of God Ministries  
P.O. Box 856  
Bellevue, NE 68005-0856  
(402) 292-2244  
(888) 792-2244  
[www.inpraiseministries.com](http://www.inpraiseministries.com)

*Kristie Gant*

# Lesson Preparation Guide

## Lesson Seven: Wellsprings of Life

### Aims

To understand the need and process for correcting sinful tendencies or habits of the heart  
To develop a greater desire and ability to search the Scriptures for wisdom  
To encourage believers to take necessary steps in order to have a heart of purity and to live in ways that bring life to others and glory to God

### Springboard to Prayer

#### **Praise and Adoration**

*“The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;”*  
Psalm 28:7

#### **Exaltation of God’s Word**

*“Your testimonies, which You have commanded,  
Are righteous and very faithful.”*  
Psalm 119:138

### Attention!

Solomon was the primary human author of Proverbs. In I Kings 3:12, God says to him, “I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before, nor shall any like you arise after you.”

However, there was a man wiser than Solomon: the God-man, Jesus Christ. Speaking of Himself, Jesus said, “indeed a greater than Solomon is here.” (Matt. 12:42)

Jesus, the only man wiser than Solomon, placed a great priority on the heart. Matthew 22:37 says, “...You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...” Here, Jesus lists other things, too, but He lists the heart first, giving it emphasis.

### Leading Students to Discover God’s Truth

1. Begin your coverage of Lesson Seven by reviewing Lesson Four.

*Note: On the board layout, the first three columns, and half of the fourth, come from this review of Lesson Four.*

Have class members turn in their books to Lesson Four. As you ask questions regarding the board layout column headings, record class members’ answers on the board.

*For example, for the first column, you could ask, “What is the heart? How would you define it? What takes place in the heart?”*

*For the second and third columns, you could ask, “What did you record in the boxes (Days Three and Four of Lesson Four) that tells us what our heart needs? What goals should we have for our heart? Who is responsible for each of these goals?”*

*Be sure to once again point out the paradox between God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility.*

2. Complete the remainder of column four and the rest of the board with information from the current lesson.

3. **NOTE: To simplify things, or if board space is limited, discuss all columns but print only the following three columns on your board:**

“Who is Responsible?”      “My Part”      “Why?”

## Application Questions

1. Will you take the time to do your part in cleansing, guarding and guiding your heart?
2. Will you search God’s Word for wisdom and trust Him to work in you that which is well pleasing in His sight?
3. Do you understand that, although you will never be perfect until you get to Heaven, you can still be a faithful servant? Will you commit to being such a servant?

## Possible Lecture Topics

1. Examine the flow chart example in more detail
2. Do a short study on patience (impatience is a very common sin area)  
See: Ecc. 7:8  
1 Cor. 13  
Gal. 5:22  
Eph. 4  
Col. 3:12  
1 Thess. 5:14  
1 Tim 6:11  
James 1:3

# Understanding and Correcting the Heart

Definition      Goals/Needs      Who is Responsible?      My Part      How?      Why?

These four columns contain a review of truths learned in Lesson Four. If time is limited, you may wish to print the definition of the heart on the board before class begins.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

These two columns will not be discussed until after your review of Lesson Four.

**Heart =**  
 thoughts  
 will  
 emotions  
 affections  
 feelings  
 plans

From box in Day 3

Review from boxed answers in Lesson 4—Day 4

**The heart needs to be:**  
 loyal      **God**  
 purified      **Me**  
 united (to fear the LORD)  
 opened  
 inclined (to God's Word)

Remember, when you do begin to write in these two columns, begin at the top of the column and do not leave this space.

**Keep it** (guard it)  
**Guide it** (in the way)  
**Apply it**  
**Teach mouth & lips**  
**Purify it**  
 (this last one comes from the box in Day Four)

The rest of the entries come from the current lesson (Lesson Seven)

Day 1	Discuss flow chart for how to understand and correct the heart. When done, you could note the following on the board:	Day 5—#2
<b>Evaluate the heart by:</b>		<b>For glory of God</b>
<b>Words</b>		<b>For next generation</b> <i>those who walk with the wise will be wise</i>
<b>Tone of Voice</b>		<b>For good of others</b>
<b>Body Language</b> (Eyes especially)		<b>Refreshment</b>
Day 2		<b>Health</b>
<b>The Word of God</b>	<b>Diligently</b>	<b>Blessing</b>
<b>Pierces</b>	<b>Without excuses</b>	
<b>Discerner of the heart</b>	<b>Honestly</b>	
	<b>Have a plan</b>	
	<b>Practice</b>	

# Lesson Seven: Small Group Guide

## Conversation Starter

Where is your favorite place to take a nap? When do you usually most feel you need a nap?

## Tie-in

When it comes to understanding and correcting the heart, we must never be caught “spiritually napping.” We must always be diligent and willing to put in the work to correct our heart “problem” and become more like Christ.

## Discussion

- Use this time to review the flow charts that group members completed in Day Five regarding their own situations.

*Note: Do not compel anyone to share what they have written. If no one volunteers, then as the leader, you should be prepared to share your answers to your own flow chart and let the group analyze and discuss your responses. After you share, group members may be willing to discuss their own situations.*

- Since examining and correcting the heart takes time (and is not always pleasant), what might be some excuses we would give ourselves for putting it off or not doing it?

*(too busy, too hard, no one else in the family is making any changes so why should I, I fail in everything I do, etc.)*

- Was the idea that we need to search the Scriptures for wisdom new to you? Do you think this truth is emphasized today?
- Do you think biblical terms really reach the heart in a stronger way than common terms? If so, why? Do you have an example of this in your own life?

## Using What You Know: Conversation Practice

Using the words of this week’s memory verse:

How might you lovingly begin helping your 8-12 year-old child recognize the role his/her heart plays in sinful misbehavior?

How might you initially respond to a friend who is sinfully angry—and venting it—because a spouse didn’t follow through on a promise? (Note: you are to help your friend focus on her *own* heart and *not* on the heart of her spouse!)

## Responding to the Thoughts of Others

Ask group members to comment on one or both of the following quotations:

- “We don’t radically change in a moment of trial. No, trials expose what we have always been. Trials bare things to which we would have otherwise been blind.”  
-Paul David Tripp<sup>15</sup>
- “...you cannot effectively help others change toward Christlikeness unless you adequately understand the basics of biblical change for yourself. You must have a working knowledge of the doctrine of progressive sanctification and must, by God’s grace, be practicing it in your own life.” -Jim Berg<sup>16</sup>

## Review

Briefly review some or all of the memory verses from the past seven weeks.

## Previewing “Join Me” Activities

If members of your group have children and are using the “Will You Join Me?” activities at home, allow time for one or two to share how God has used the study of Proverbs to impact their home or family. Then, read the Lesson Eight memory verse and learn the song together.

## Prayer Focus

- Thanksgiving for the wisdom from above that reveals to us the real needs of the heart.
- Commitment to do my part in keeping and purifying my heart.
- Thanksgiving for the mouth and speech that let us see the content of the heart so we can know what we do not see.
- Commitment to be a faithful servant in the area of the heart.
- For our life and words to bring glory to God and blessing to others.
- For the next generation: that faithful believers would arise and that we would call them to love God, behave righteously and evaluate their hearts.