

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Verses 1-6.

1. What is a proverb? Did Solomon write the entire book?
2. Why was it written? What is the truest wisdom?
3. What are the two branches of our duty?
4. For whom were these proverbs chiefly prepared?
5. Why should we take good advice?
6. Give a second purpose of this book.

2. Verses 7-9.

7. What is meant by "the fear of the Lord?" How is it the beginning of knowledge? What will follow if we neglect God's claims?
8. What is next to piety toward God? What blessings are promised if we obey parents?

3. Verses 10-19.

10. Why do the wicked tempt the good? Is it a sin to be tempted?
11. What is meant by "lay wait?"
13. What do wrongdoers get besides booty or spoil?
15. Why should we guard against the first wrong step?
17. How may we imitate birds?
18. Who is hurt most by sin? Why should we refuse unlawful gain?

Teachings of the Lesson.

We should seek knowledge, that we may avoid the doom of wrongdoing and secure the reward of

obedience. It is our privilege to profit by the experience of others. We may safely trust the wisdom and love of good parents, and always obey them. Not all companionships are safe. As the most poisonous reptiles are the most brilliant in appearance, so the more desirable evil seems the more deadly it is. Religion will save us from falling into many snares.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

- What is a proverb?
 What is the Book of Proverbs?
 For what was it given to us?
 By whom was it written?
 What other books did Solomon write?
 What do the Proverbs teach us?
 What is the beginning of wisdom?
 What is a person who will not be taught?
 What did the psalmist say about wisdom?
 What does this lesson teach children?
 What is a good rule to live by?
 Why must we keep away from sinners?
 What happens to those who will not learn wisdom?
 How may we be sure of leading safe, happy lives?

What a child may have.

The wisdom that comes down from God.
 A little more wisdom each day.
 A happy life, because a good life.

LESSON OUTLINE.

The Proverbs of Solomon.

I. THEIR AIM.

1. **To impart instruction.** *To know wisdom and instruction.* v. 2.
 Wisdom is the principal thing. Prov. 4. 7.
2. **To improve the character.** *Justice, and judgment, and equity.* v. 3.
 Righteousness....a sure reward. Prov. 11. 18.
3. **To give discernment.** *Subtlety to the simple.* v. 4.
 Knowledge and....all judgment. Phil. 1. 9.
4. **To sharpen the intellect.** *To understand a proverb....dark sayings.* v. 6.
 Open my mouth in a parable. Psalm 78. 2.

II. THEIR FOUNDATION.

1. **The fear of the Lord.** *Is the beginning of knowledge.* v. 7.
 Fear God and keep his commandments. Eccles. 12. 13.
2. **Filial reverence.** *The instruction of thy father.* v. 8.
 Honor thy father and thy mother. Exod. 20. 12.

III. THEIR WARNING.

1. **Against evil companions.** *If sinners entice....consent thou not.* v. 10.
 No fellowship... works of darkness. Eph. 5. 11.
2. **Against injustice.** *Let us lay wait for blood.* v. 11.
 Steal no more. Eph. 4. 28.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

General Statement.

The Book of Proverbs presents the principles of heaven in their application to the affairs of earth. It contains pure gold, coined in the divine mint, and bearing the image and superscription of the King, for use in the minds of men. Three centuries before the "wise men of Greece" appeared, the wise King of Israel uttered these maxims, which embody more sound wisdom than may be found elsewhere in the ancient world. They do not soar into the lofty spiritual atmosphere of the Psalms or the prophecies; they move on the earth; but they lay the foundation of character in the fear of the Lord and the prin-