

Do you like to read to children?

Here is a little booklet of proverbs for you—
for those moments on the couch with a child on
your lap—a little booklet with special power.

These proverbs are from the Bible,
from the *inspired* proverbs of the wise—
but they are also versified into English rhyme,
with illustrations from a child's mind—
all for your pleasure in reading time.

*Because the Preacher was wise,
he still taught the people knowledge;
yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order
many proverbs.*

—Ecclesiastes 12:9

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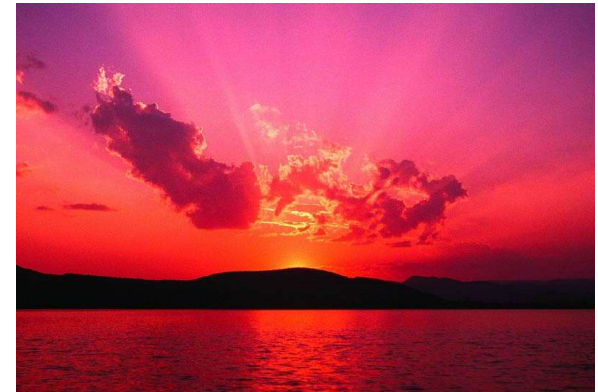
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THIRTY WORDS FROM THE HOLY BOOK



Robert A. Snyder

with illustrations by his daughter Laura

Spring Branch Academy

www.sbacademy.us

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Second Edition

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*The mission of Spring Branch Academy is
to promote the worship of God
through the exposition of Scripture,
the explanation of history,
and the application of faith in Christ to all of life.*

**The sunset on the front cover, taken from Microsoft clip art, reminds us:
*It's good to read to little ones; to redeem the setting of the sun.***

To my children—
Paul, Laura, Noah, Owen, Joseph, and Mary

and to other Christian fathers,
who desire to fill their home with godly proverbs

Preface

In the early 1700s, Isaac Watts wrote hymns in *imitation* of the psalms of David. The idea intrigued me. Instead of merely translating the Hebrew words into English words, perhaps we could also translate the Hebrew forms into English forms—not just for the Psalms, but also for the Proverbs. The booklet in your hand is my attempt at this idea.

The poems are based on the “words of the wise” found in Proverbs 22:17-24:34. Although scholars debate the relationship of this set of proverbs to a similar Egyptian collection, it may be that the Egyptian collection is edited under divine inspiration in the light of other biblical revelation (see Derek Kidner, *Proverbs*). If so, we have precedence for reclaiming and modifying secular literature for the truth. In some versions of the Bible, this collection is explicitly said to have “thirty words” (Prov. 22:20 NIV). With this in mind, I present to you thirty poems with occasional exhortations interspersed. The exhortations are given without illustration so that you can whisper them to your child eye-to-eye.

Fathers, the days of planting are limited. While you have opportunity, plant the good seed of truth in the heart of your children before tares overtake the garden. Granted, this collection falls short of the Bible itself, and some paraphrases are looser than others, but the biblical idea is still present and the entertainment given is long-lasting. Therefore, seize the day and sow the seed—and may God grant it a meek reception (cf. James 1:21).

Acknowledgments

A special thanks to Mike and Amy Ransdell,
Tim Guest, and Beth Morris,
whose help has been a blessing
in completing this project.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Introduction

Give ear, and hear the words of the wise
And set your heart to what I know,
For words are pleasant, when they arise
Assembled and ready from down below.

That in the Lord may be your trust,
I teach you now today—I must!

Have I not written you thirty words
In counsel and information,
That you may learn and so return
The truth in recitation?

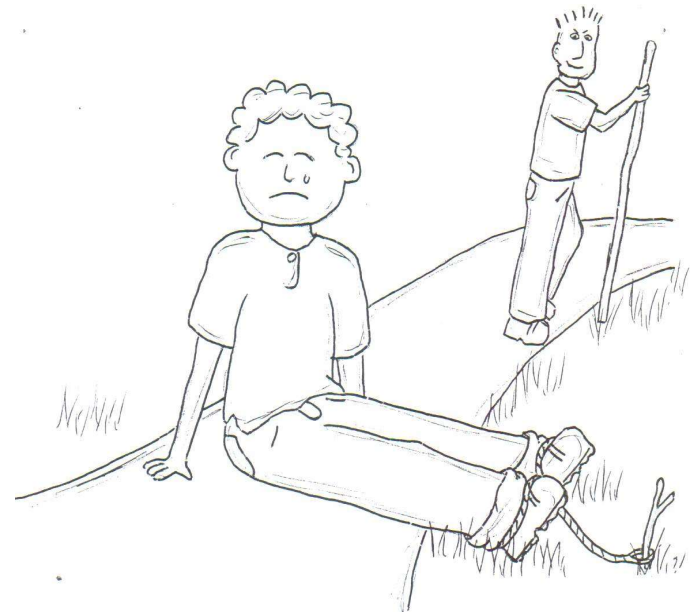
—from Proverbs 22:17-21



One

Do not rob the poor because he is poor,
For Jesus is standing at the door.

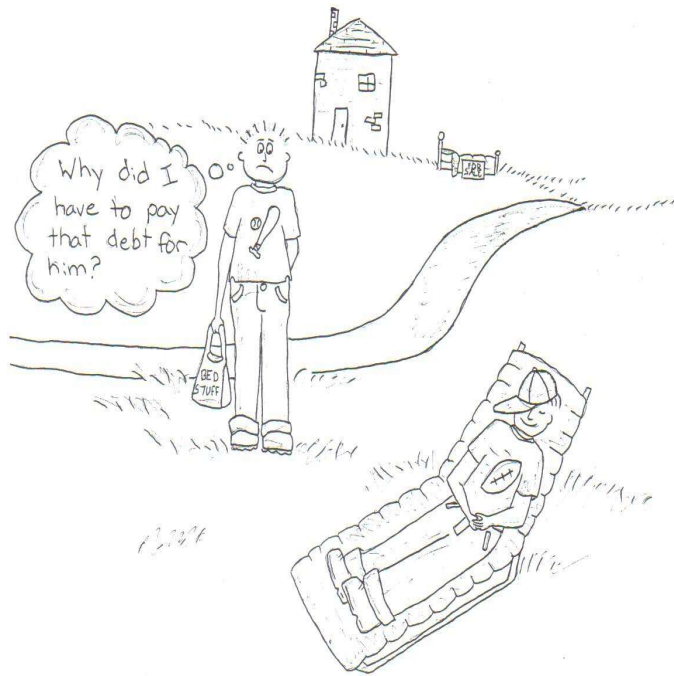
—from Proverbs 22:22-23



Two

Do not go with a man of heat;
You'll learn his ways and trap your feet.

—from Proverbs 22:24-25



Three

Do not co-sign your neighbor's debt;
If you default, why lose your bed?

—from Proverbs 22:26-27



Four

Do not move the ancient fence,
Which your fathers set with sense.

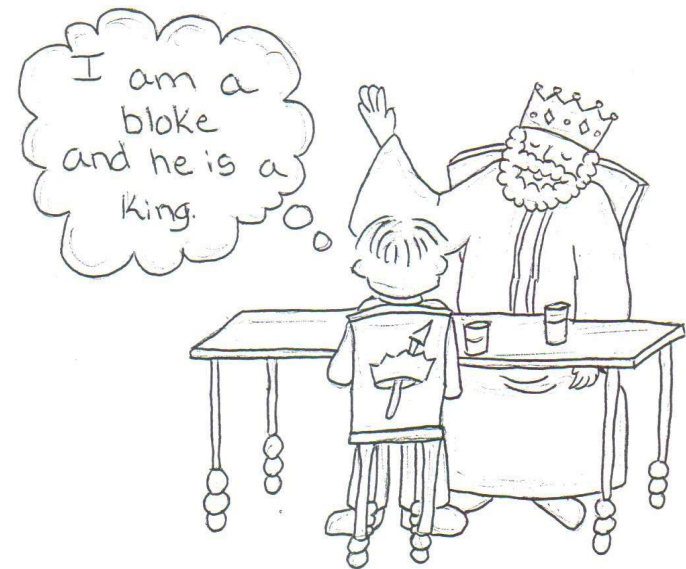
—from Proverbs 22:28



Five

Do you see a master crafter?
Unknown now, but not hereafter.

—from Proverbs 22:29



Six

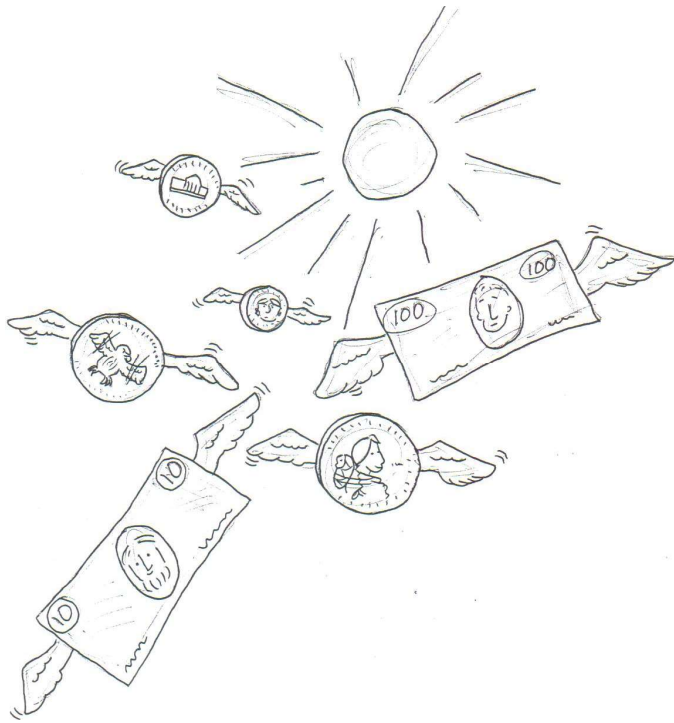
If you dine with a king,
Please remember one thing:

That you are a bloke,
And he is a king.

So if you love veal and goat,
Put a knife to your throat:

The food is a lie—
A deception. Take note!

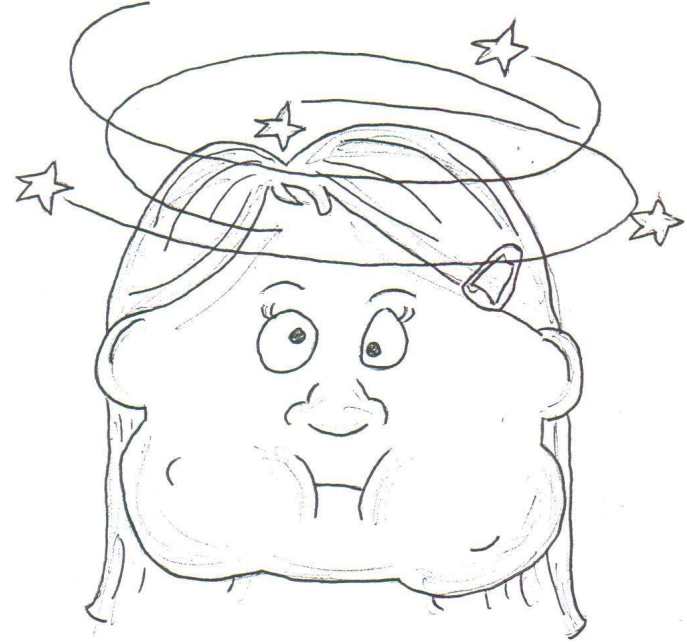
—from Proverbs 23:1-3



Seven

Do not wear yourself out
To get lots of money,
For wings it will sprout
And fly to the sun-ny.

—from Proverbs 23:4-5



Eight

Do not eat the miser's meat,
For as he thinks, so is he.
He may say, "Eat;" it may taste sweet;
But it will make you dizzy.

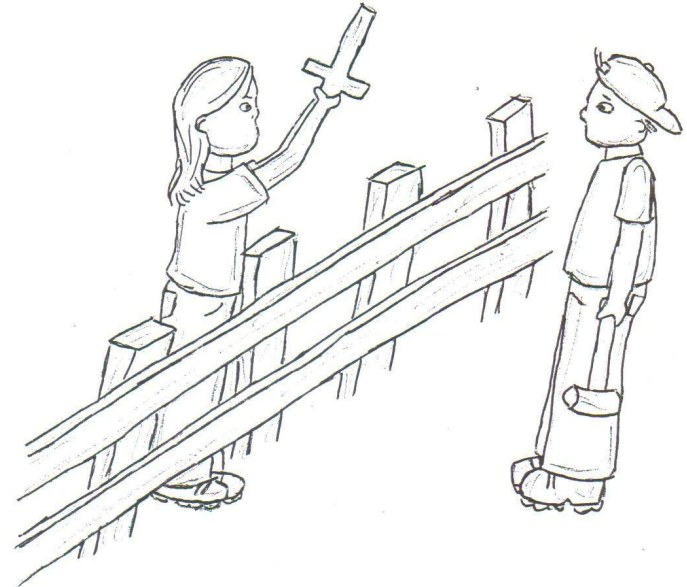
—from Proverbs 23:6-8



Nine

Do not school the fool;
He'll despise what is wise.

—from Proverbs 23:9



Ten

Do not move the orphan's fence,
For Jesus Christ is his defense.

—from Proverbs 23:10-11

Put your heart into training,
And your ear into learning.

—from Proverbs 23:12



Eleven

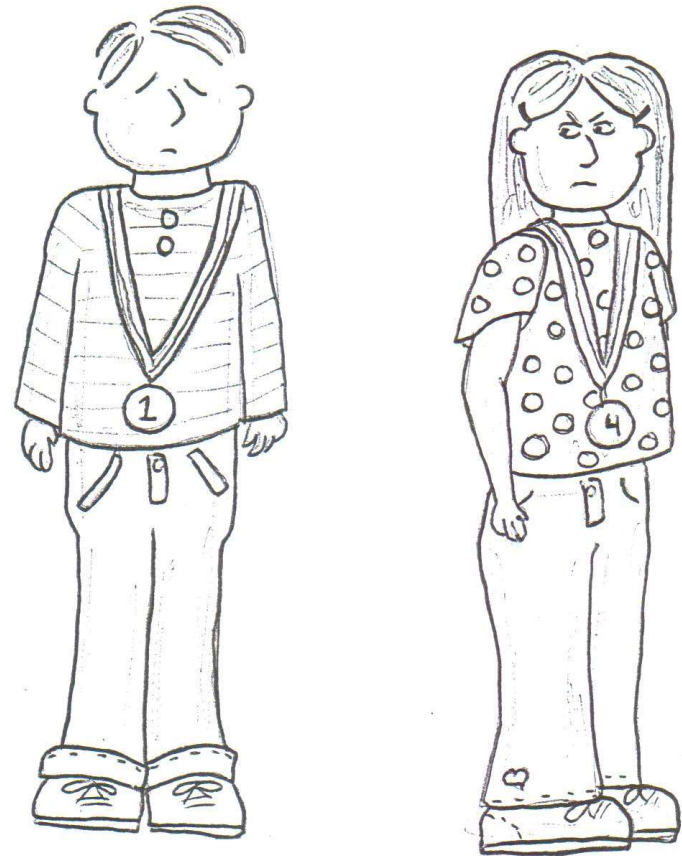
Do not spare the rod,
But listen to God:

You spank the boy well
To keep him from hell.

—from Proverbs 23:13-14

My son,
If your heart is wise,
Then my heart is glad;
When your lips speak right,
How glad is your dad!

—from Proverbs 23:15-16



Twelve

Do not envy sinners,
But always fear the Lord;
Soon you'll be a winner—
Your hope has its reward.

—from Proverbs 23:17-18

My son,
Listen up,
Wizen up,
Know the Way to rise on up.

—from Proverbs 23:19



Thirteen

Do not hang out with those who meet
To over-drink and over-eat,
For drunkenness and gluttony
Will lull you into poverty.

—from Proverbs 23:20-21

Listen to your dad and mom forever,
Buy the truth and sell it—never!
Become wise!
Do what's right!
Give your dad and mom delight.

—from Proverbs 23:22-25



Fourteen

My son, give your heart to me.
A tempting girl is a bottomless pit,
A bandit hard to see.

—from Proverbs 23:26-28



Fifteen

Who has trouble?

Who sees double?

Men at bars with beer that bubbles!

Do not linger over liquor,

Let not in the liquor viper;

Seeing things! Saying things!

Like sleeping behind the wheel:

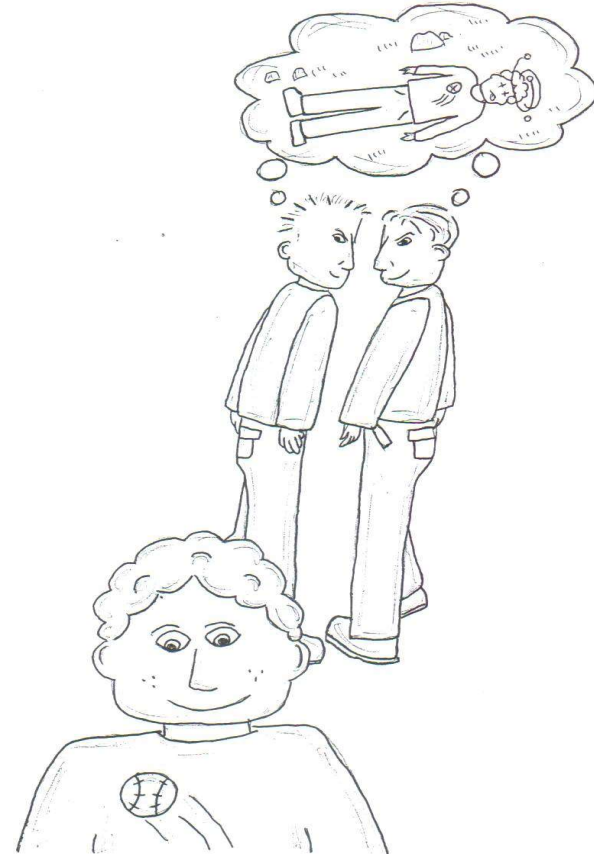
“They beat me up—it’s no big deal!

They beat me up—I didn’t feel!

Waking up has one appeal:

I cannot wait to fill my cup!”

—from Proverbs 23:29-35



Sixteen

Do not envy evil men,

Nor want them as your friend.

They think up harm,

And talk up trouble;

Hellfire is their end.

—from Proverbs 24:1-2



Seventeen

Wisdom built our house;
 Discernment moved us in;
 Then knowledge filled our many rooms
 With precious, pleasant things.

—from Proverbs 24:3-4



Eighteen

With wisdom, you're strong;
 With counsel, you're stronger:
 Deliverance comes with many a counselor.

—from Proverbs 24:5-6

A fool is too short
To speak in high court.

—from Proverbs 24:7



Nineteen

Two evil men the world abhors:
He who schemes and he who scorns.

—from Proverbs 24:8-9



Twenty

If you're slack on your back—
Oh, the strength that you lack!

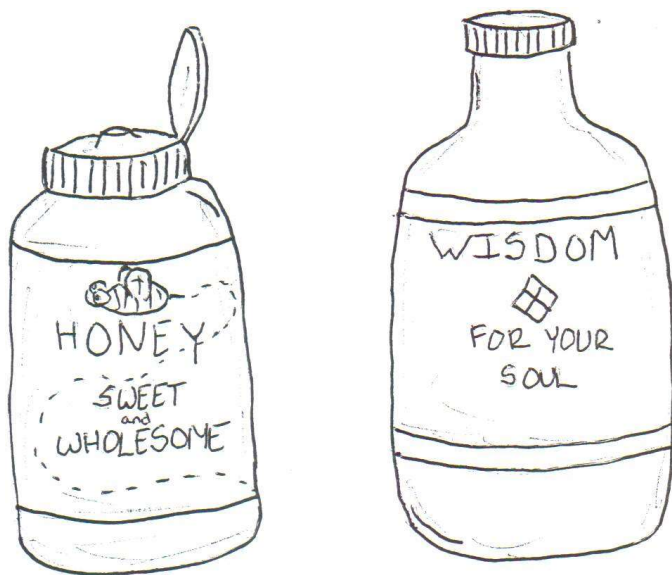
—from Proverbs 24:10



Twenty-One

Save those stumbling down to death.
If you should say, "We did not know,"
Does He not know?
Will He not render
According to each man's agenda?

—from Proverbs 24:11-12



Twenty-Two

Honey is so sweet and wholesome;
Wisdom thus is to your soul, son.

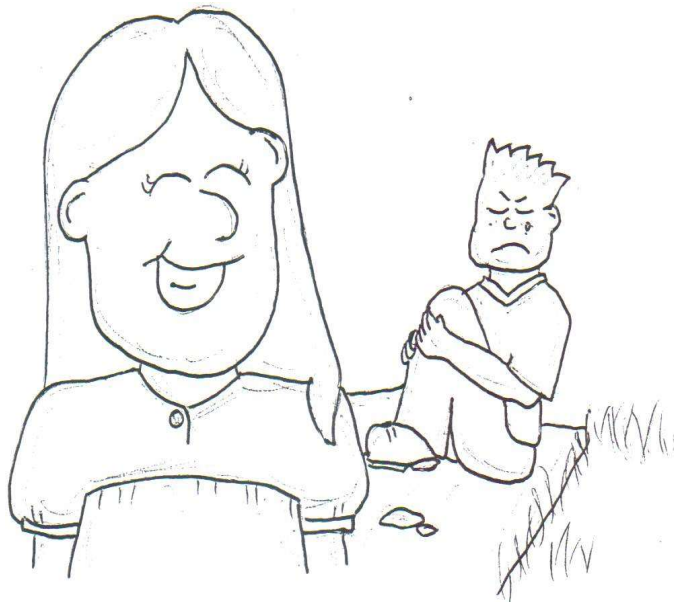
—from Proverbs 24:13-14



Twenty-Three

O wicked man, leave off your plan,
The righteous man to plunder.
The righteous fall and rise again;
The wicked fall down under.

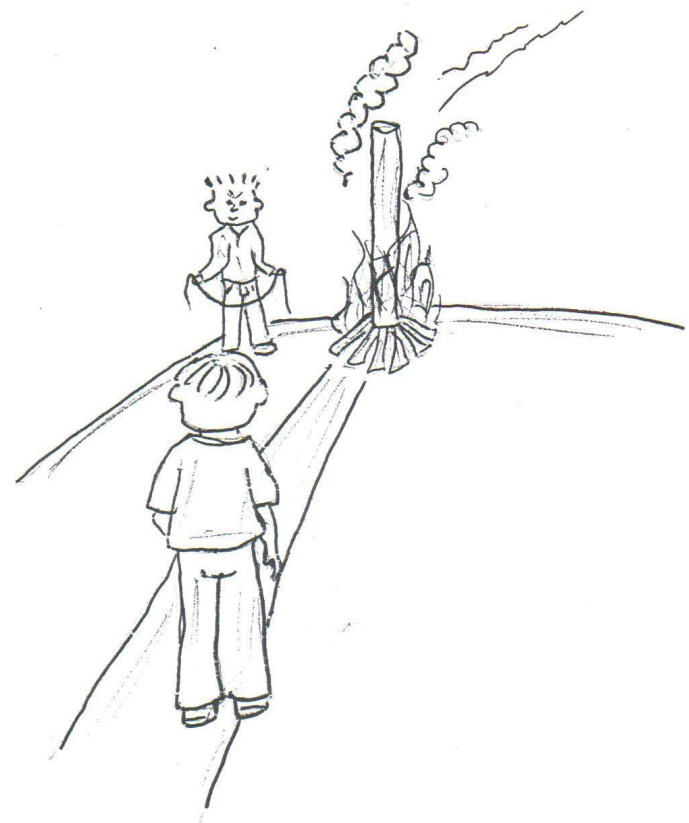
—from Proverbs 24:15-16



Twenty-Four

Do not be happy
When your enemy falls,
Lest God be unhappy
And His wrath, recall.

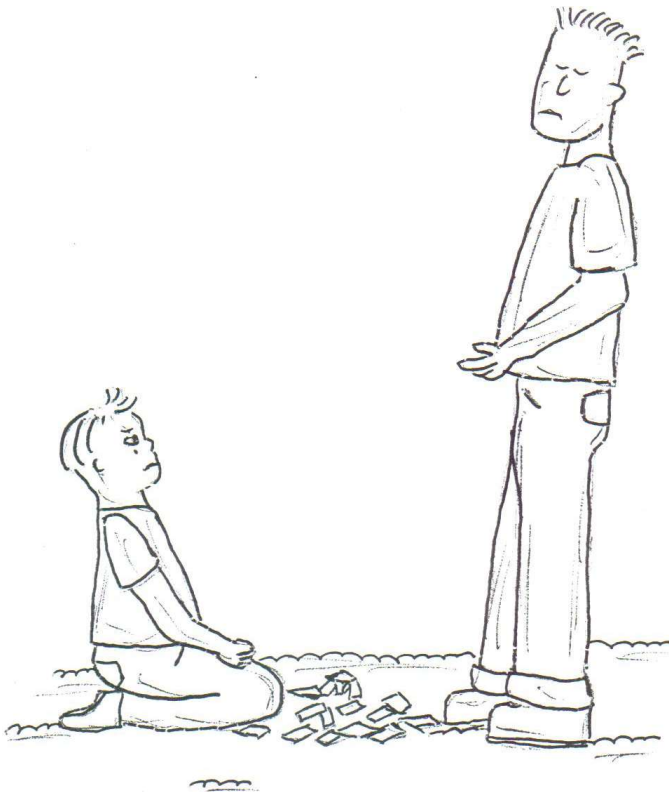
—from Proverbs 24:17-18



Twenty-Five

Do not fret the evil blaze;
For evil men have numbered days.

—from Proverbs 24:19-20



Twenty-Six

Fear the Lord and fear the king,
Rebellion ruins most everything.

—from Proverbs 24:21-22



Twenty-Seven

It is not good to judge a hood good.
Leave the crook on the hook—or be cursed;
Throw the book at the crook and be blessed.

—from Proverbs 24:23-25

An honest answer is a friendly kiss.

—from Proverbs 24:26



Twenty-Eight

Outside, outside, outside first—
Build your house, after your work.

—from Proverbs 24:27

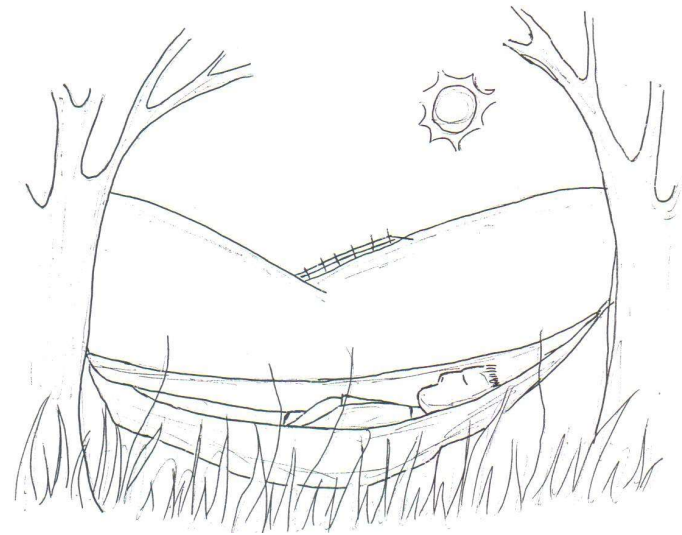


Twenty-Nine

Do not bear false witness.

Do not say, "A tit for tat, I'll pay him back."

—from Proverbs 24:28-29



Thirty

I went by the farm of the lazy,
The farmer whose thinking was hazy:

The weeds were grown up,
The fences were down;
I pondered and thought
As I looked all around,

"So why does this man act so crazy?"

I saw and I thought,
I looked and was taught

The crazy way lazy men say:

"A wee sleep, a wee nap,
With my hands on my lap."

Then poverty steals you away.

—from Proverbs 24:30-34

About the Author

Bob Snyder has been blessed to be both a pastor and teacher in the household of God as well as a father and grandfather in his own family. This little booklet began years ago as “white board stories” for his own children. It was his heart’s desire—and still is—that books for children would present the truth of the Bible with delightfulness. It is his hope that this desire has been granted for you and your children.

Bob and his wife Jinna reside in southern Michigan, where he serves as an associate pastor, teacher and adjunct professor. The Snyders have been married almost thirty years and have been blessed with six children—some of whom are now married—and a growing number of grandchildren.

About the Illustrator

Laura Hammer is now a happily married mother of two, who still enjoys artistic expression and other imaginative activities. At the time she illustrated this book, she was living at home with her siblings Paul, Noah, Owen, Joseph, and Mary, a dog named Prince, a very favorite cat named Cleo, and a hamster named Webster.