

## All Your Heart (Proverbs 3)

When something is important and we want to remember it, we write it down. Proverbs 3 essentially begins with, *“This is so important that I want you to write it over your heart; the very center of who you are.”* Spoken with tenderness and love, Proverbs 3:1-12 is an urgent appeal to give God our full attention and total dependence. What does it look like in everyday life to trust him with all your heart? What does it produce?

### 1. Your full attention (Proverbs 3:1-4)

*“don’t forget”* – don’t move away from; dismiss; treat lightly. Action is called for. The “heart” according to biblical authors is the center of who you are.

V1 Give your whole heart to keeping (guarding; staying alert) to this instruction (God’s wisdom). Hebrews 2:1

Allow God’s covenant love to inform and shape you.

### 2. Your total dependence (Proverbs 3:5-12)

This is about a deep reliance and resolved confidence in God’s care; in his faithfulness to his promises. V5 Trust = *“to have a strong confidence or reliance on someone or something”*

John Goldingay: *“Proverbs invites us to lean on the arm of Yahweh that grasps us.”*

*“I trust you with my failures and fears...  
my feelings and desires...  
I trust you with \_\_\_\_\_.”*

The book of Proverbs is presenting the way to life. A life in step with the God who created this universe; a life walking in the way of Jesus (who is God’s wisdom incarnate/in the flesh). 1 Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:1-3

### 3. Your greatest delight (Proverbs 3:13-20)

**QUESTIONS** (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Proverbs 3:1-12. What pressing concern does the father have for his son in VV1-2?
2. When the father says to *“keep”* his instructions the idea is to *“guard,” “maintain”* or *“continue walking in.”* Why is it so easy to drift away from the truth of God’s word? What are some ways you have fought to *“keep”* the instructions you’ve received from God’s word?
3. *“Steadfast love and faithfulness”* are attributes the Bible uses to describe God and are attributes that should mark the lives of those who worship him. Proverbs 3:3 says we should *“bind them around our necks”* and *“write them on the tablet of our hearts.”* When the biblical authors say *“heart”* what are they talking about? How does that shed light on what this is calling us to do?
4. In our weakness and dependence on God, he shows himself strong. Share a time when leaning on God (fully) felt difficult or awkward at first but in the end brought you grace and peace.
5. What does it mean to *“fear the Lord”*? What does *“turning away from evil”* require? How are these practices *“medicinal”* and restorative? See Proverbs 3:7-8
6. Read Proverbs 3:13-20. Some think this is a hymn (song) to wisdom. What are we invited to do?
7. How does this imagery point us to Jesus? Consider Colossians 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:24

Spend time thanking God for what he’s doing in your heart today. Pray it would be the practice of our lives both personally and corporately to *“lean on the arm of Yahweh”* with all our hearts.