

The Art of Living

Wisdom from the Book of Proverbs

Make Your Best Choice

Series Overview

In this series, we're exploring the book of Proverbs to learn the art of living with wisdom.

Sermon Introduction

Nothing shapes our lives more than the decisions we make. But how do we know what to choose? How can we make good decisions while avoiding bad ones? Throughout the book of Proverbs, Solomon offers principles that will help us make the wise choices we need in life.

Passage: Proverbs 3:5-6 & select verses (NIV)

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
 and lean not on your own understanding;
Prov. 3:6 in all your ways acknowledge him,
 and he will make your paths straight.

Personal Reflection and Group Discussion Questions

1. Do you ever struggle with decisions? Are there particular decisions or *kinds* of decisions that are harder for you to make?
2. Read Proverbs 12:15, 13:10, and 20:18. Looking at these verses, what advice does Solomon give for making better decisions?
3. Proverbs 13:20, 15:22, 24:6, and 27:17 point out the need for wise counsel. Does wisdom characterize your closest social circles? Why is it beneficial to have more than one person speaking into your life?
4. According to Proverbs 14:8 and 21:29, we should “give thought” to our choices. What are some things that prevent us from thinking? What are key ingredients for thinking well?
5. Proverbs makes it clear that (a) we're responsible for our decisions and (b) God is in charge (cf. Prov. 16:3-4, 33; 19:3, 20-21; 20:24; 21:30). Why are both important for making good decisions?

6. Self-awareness is a key ingredient for making good decisions (cf. Prov. 20:5, 21:5, 26:12). What can you do to guard against blindspots that could limit your ability to make wise decisions?
7. Read Proverbs 14:23. From this proverb, what advice would you give to someone wrestling with a hard decision?

Prayer

Often a position of submission helps us physically connect with the spiritual reality of meeting God. A posture of kneeling with open hands can demonstrate our willingness to submit to God's power.

- Praise God for how he created the world, the mystery and wonder of life, and for your miraculous capacity to think and reason.
- Share with him the decisions that are weighing heavily on your heart and mind today.
- Ask him for the wisdom you need, for wise counsel from others, and for the courage to make the best decision you can.
- Thank him that, while you are responsible for your choices, he is in control.