

	<h1>LESSONS FOR LIVING FROM THE PROVERBS</h1>	
	<h2>Session Six</h2>	

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<h2>Recap Session Five</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are all called to be <b>DILIGENT</b> in our work, whatever our vocation may be.</li> <li>Our basic need for food drives us to work; if we neglect this, we will experience poverty, hunger and lack of basic needs.</li> <li>Diligence brings its own rewards, including ample provisions of food and financial resources.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prov. 10:16</b> <i>The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 3:11-12</b> <i>My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DISCIPLINE</b> is a part of the Christian life; we are disciplined by God just as a child is disciplined by his father.</li> <li>Just as a child's behavior improves over time with proper discipline, we also benefit from God's discipline as we mature and grow in our faith.</li> </ul>	
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	<h1>CHOICE OF COMPANIONS</h1>	
	Topic 10	3

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	<h1>CHOICE OF COMPANIONS</h1>	<p><b>Prov. 12:26</b>  <i>The righteous should  choose his friends  carefully,  For the way of the wicked  leads them astray.</i></p>
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<p><b>Prov. 27:17</b></p> <p><b><i>As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.</i></b></p>	<p><b>Eccl. 4:9-12</b></p> <p><i>Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.</i></p>
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<p><b>Prov. 22:24-25</b></p> <p><i>Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 18:24 (NIV)</b></p> <p><i>One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.</i></p>	<p><b>Prov. 17:17</b></p> <p><i>A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 27:9-10</b></p> <p><sup>9</sup> <i>Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.</i></p> <p><sup>10</sup> <i>Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.</i></p>
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	<p>Can you think of any examples from scripture of good friendships?</p>
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	<p><b>John 15:13-14</b></p> <p><i>Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.</i></p> <p><b>Matt. 18:19-20</b></p> <p><i>“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”</i></p>
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	<b>WISE COUNSEL</b>	
	Topic 11	9

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	<b>WISE COUNSEL</b>	<p><b>Prov. 19:20</b>  <i>Listen to counsel and receive instruction,  That you may be wise in your latter days.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 9:9</b>  <i>Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.</i></p>
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<p><b>Prov. 1:5</b></p> <p><b><i>A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,</i></b></p>	<p><b>Prov. 12:15</b></p> <p><b><i>The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.</i></b></p>
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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Example of King Rehoboam – 1 Kings 12:1-17</b>	
<p><b><i>And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt), that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, “Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.” So he said to them, “Depart for three days, then come back to me.” And the people departed. Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, “How do you advise me to answer these people?” And they spoke to him, saying, “If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.” But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. And he said to them, “What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?’” Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, ...</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us’—thus you shall say to them: ‘My little finger shall be thicker than my father’s waist! And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!’” So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, “Come back to me the third day.” Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!” So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the Lord, that He might fulfill His word, which the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>“What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!”</i></b></p> <p><b><i>So Israel departed to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.</i></b></p>

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<p><b>Prov. 15:22</b></p> <p><i>Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.</i></p>	<p><b>Prov. 11:14 (NIV)</b></p> <p><i>For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.</i></p>
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<p><b>Prov. 19:21</b></p> <p><i>There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel— that will stand.</i></p>	<p><b>Prov. 21:30</b></p> <p><i>There is no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the Lord.</i></p>
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	<p><b>Prov. 20:5</b></p> <p><b><i>Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.</i></b></p>
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	<p><b>DISCERNMENT</b></p>	
	Topic 12	16

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	DISCERNMENT	<p><b>Prov. 14:15</b></p> <p><i>The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 2:11-12</b></p> <p><i>Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things,</i></p>
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	Some definitions ...	
<p><b>DISCERNMENT</b></p> <p>The power or faculty of the mind by which it distinguishes one thing from another, as truth from falsehood, virtue from vice; acuteness of judgement; power of perceiving differences of things or ideas, and their relations and tendencies.</p> <p>The errors of youth often proceed from the want of <i>discernment</i>.</p>	<p><b>DISCRETION</b></p> <p>Prudence, or knowledge and prudence; that discernment which enables a person to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution, directed by circumspection, and primarily regarding one's own conduct.</p>	18

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<p><b>Hebrews 5:14 (ESV)</b></p> <p><b><i>But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.</i></b></p>	<p><b>1 Corin. 2:12-16</b></p> <p><b><i>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>
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<p><b>Summary ...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our choice of companions is among the most important life decisions we can make.</li> <li>• We are not created to live solitary lives; we are created for community, and God empowers us to live in His will with others.</li> <li>• Wise counsel is essential as we grow and mature in Christ.</li> <li>• As believers we have the mind of Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, who guides us in discerning right from wrong, choosing appropriate friends, and seeking out Godly counsel.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prov. 12:26</b> <b><i>The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.</i></b></p> <p><b>Prov. 12:15</b> <b><i>The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.</i></b></p> <p><b>Hebrews 5:14 (ESV)</b> <b><i>But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.</i></b></p>
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	QUESTIONS?	
		Favorite Proverb?
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<b>If time permits ...</b>	<p><b>Prov. 23:1-3</b>  <i>When you sit down to eat with a ruler,  Consider carefully what is before you;  And put a knife to your throat  If you are a man given to appetite.  Do not desire his delicacies,  For they are deceptive food.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 21:1</b>  <i>The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord,  Like the rivers of water;  He turns it wherever He wishes.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 14:10</b>  <i>The heart knows its own bitterness,  And a stranger does not share its joy.</i></p> <p><b>Prov. 21:31</b>  <i>The horse is prepared for the day of battle,  But deliverance is of the Lord.</i></p>	22
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<h2>Tool to Interpret</h2>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the central concepts or persons being compared or contrasted?</li> <li>2. Identify figures of speech and rephrase without the figure (ex. “put a knife to your throat” from Prov. 23:1-3)</li> <li>3. Summarize the lesson or principle of the proverb in a few words.</li> <li>4. Describe the behavior that is being taught or encouraged.</li> <li>5. Can you identify examples elsewhere in Scripture that illustrates the truth of that proverb?</li> <li>6. How can you apply this lesson or principle to your own life?</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>
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<h2>Class Assignment</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a goal to read through the Book of Proverbs at least once throughout this class semester.</li> <li>• Bring your questions for proverbs you have trouble understanding, or a favorite proverb that you would like to share with the class.</li> </ul>	
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Possible Future Topics			
Teaching sons and daughters	Choice of Companions	Trusting God	Righteousness vs. Wickedness
Integrity	Guard Your Mind	Discipline	Shine the Light of Christ
Sexual Purity	Deceitful Tongue	Diligent Worker	Leave a Legacy
Money Management	Love Your Neighbor	God's Protection	Virtuous Woman
Avoid the World's Distractions	Truth	Types of Fools	Seeking Counsel
God Hides Himself	Sin of Pride	Discernment	Anger / Temper
Honor Your Parents	Revenge	Conscience	Repentance

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