

Let not your eyes look away,  
bind them around your neck;

write them on the tablet of your heart.

So you will prosper and good success  
in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

**LIVING in**

and refreshment to your bones.

Honor the LORD with your wealth

and with the firstfruits of all your harvest;

**WISDOM**

or be rebuked by his reproof.

for the LORD reproves him whom he loves,  
as a father the son in whom he delights.

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,

and the one who gets understanding,

for the gain from her is better than gain from silver  
and her profit better than gold.

She is more precious than jewels.

Nothing you desire can compare

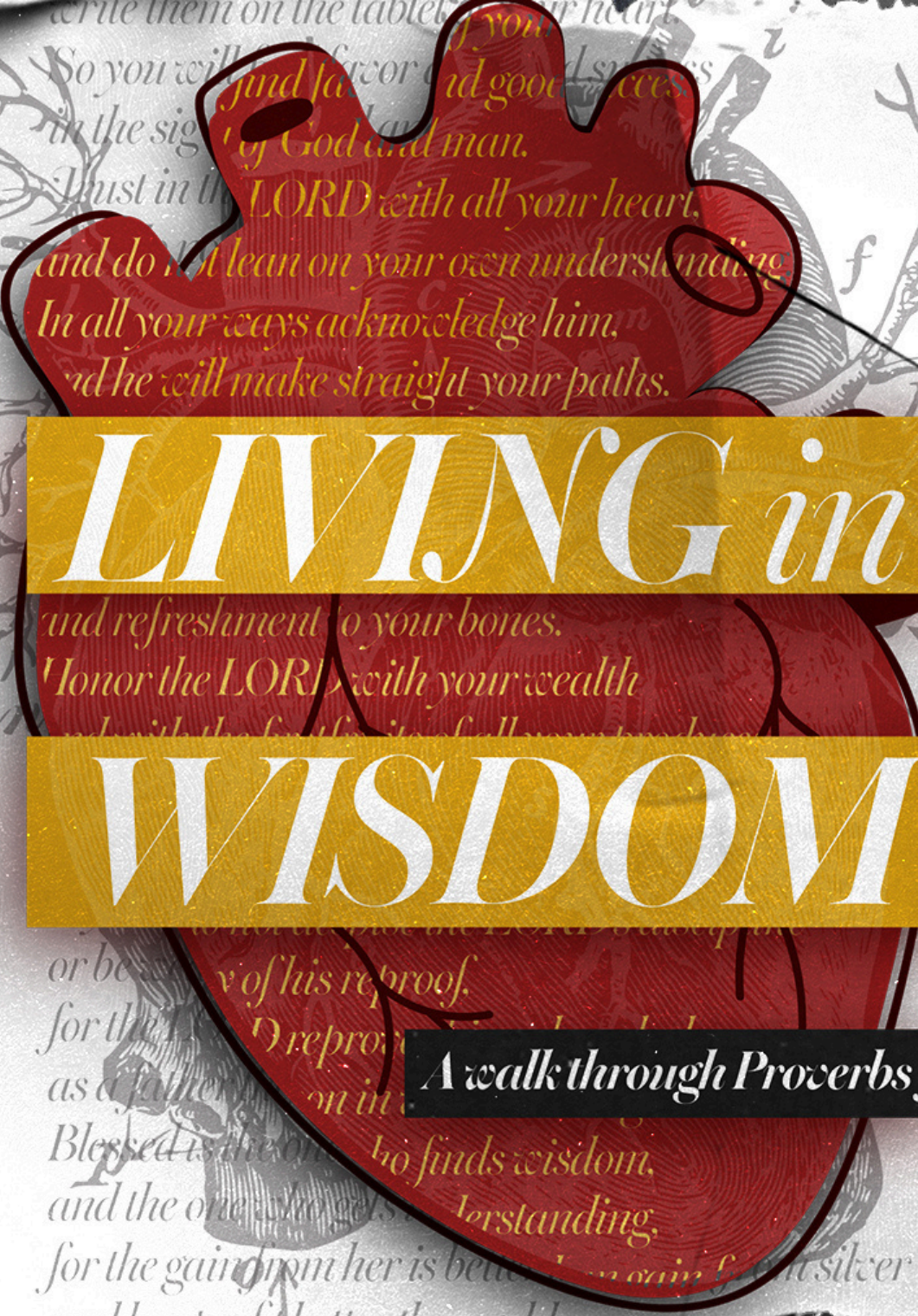
**A walk through Proverbs 3**

**WEEKS 1-5  
LEADER GUIDE**









*So you will find favor and goodness in the sight of God and man.*  
*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.*

**LIVING in**

*and refreshment to your bones.  
Honor the LORD with your wealth  
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**WISDOM**

*or because of his reproof.  
for the LORD reproves as a father,  
as a father corrects his son in the LORD.*

**A walk through Proverbs 3**

## WEEK 1

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

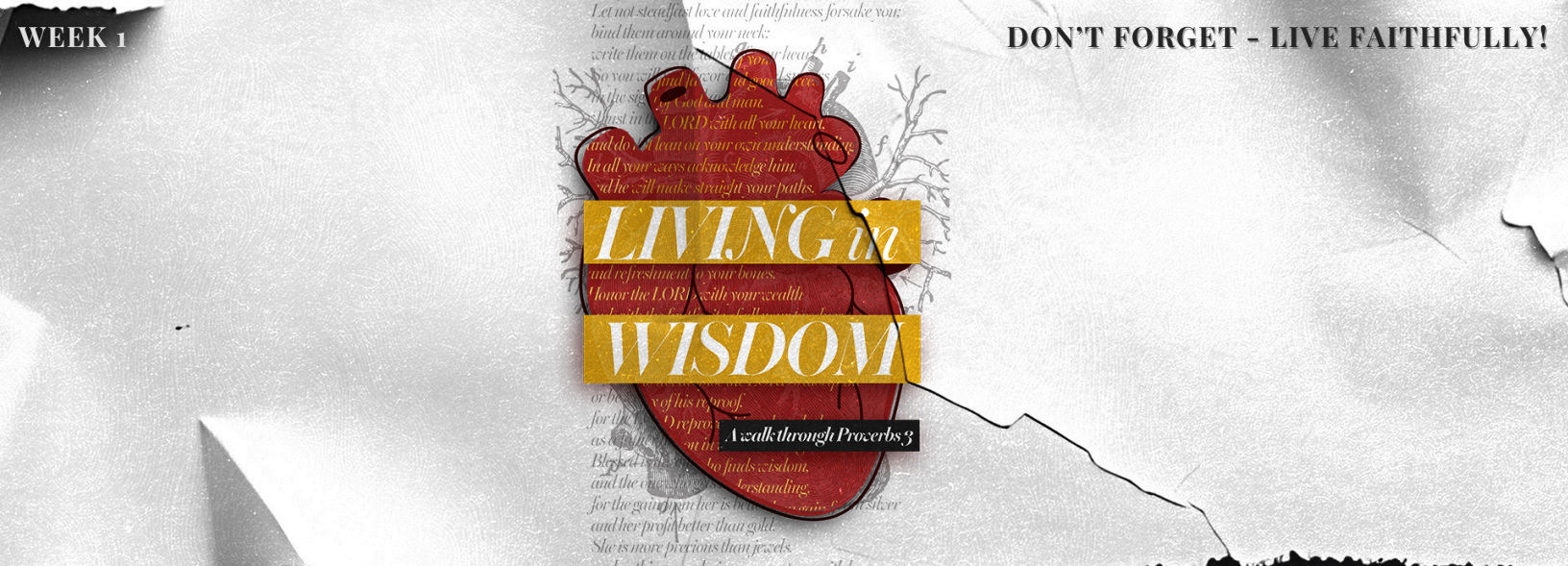
### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

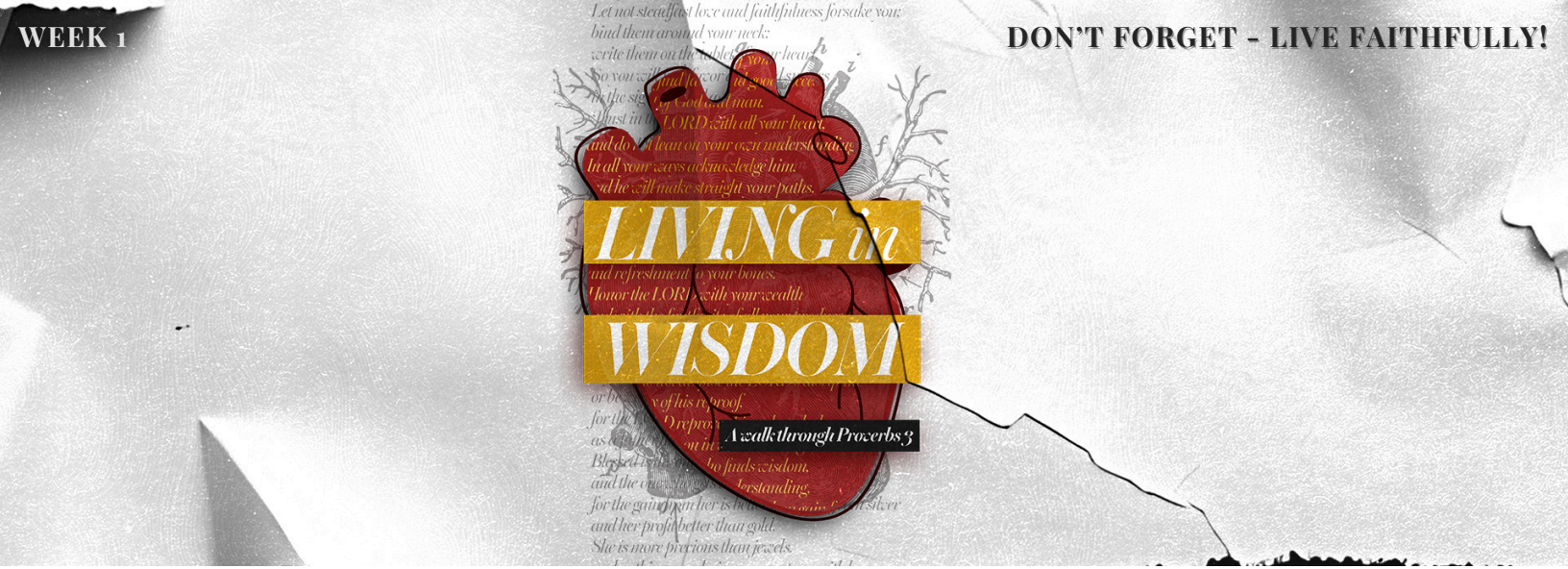




## NOTES

[illegible][illegible]





## NOTES

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**What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?**





## NOTES

Paul wrote to his protégé Timothy to encourage him as he served God faithfully in a world that didn't value God, urging him to be fully equipped to serve God in all things.

## What can we do to ensure that we are “fully equipped” for the good works that God has prepared for us?

*(Open for discussion. We must separate ourselves from what is false and devote ourselves to His truth as we study His Word! As we study and apply it to our lives, we grow in Christ, making us holy as we become a “person of God”, equipped to do what He calls us to do. The better we know and understand His Word, the better equipped we will be!)*





God will never call us to do something that He will not enable us to do through His power and in His Spirit! With His wisdom, we can withstand attacks, abandonment, and even persecution, just as Timothy did!





## NOTES

**What does it mean for God’s Word to be “on your heart”? What can you do to keep His commands at the forefront of your mind, other than just verbally reciting them?**

*(Open for discussion. In the Hebrew context, the heart was not the center of emotion, but rather the intellectual or rational center. So the phrase “on your heart” means that we are to constantly and consciously reflect on His Word at all times, allowing it to help us as we make decisions. While the “easiest” way is to memorize scripture, we can also take time to meditate on His Word and keep His truth in our mind. When we meditate on it, we take time to contemplate on His truth unhurriedly and peacefully, without distractions.)*



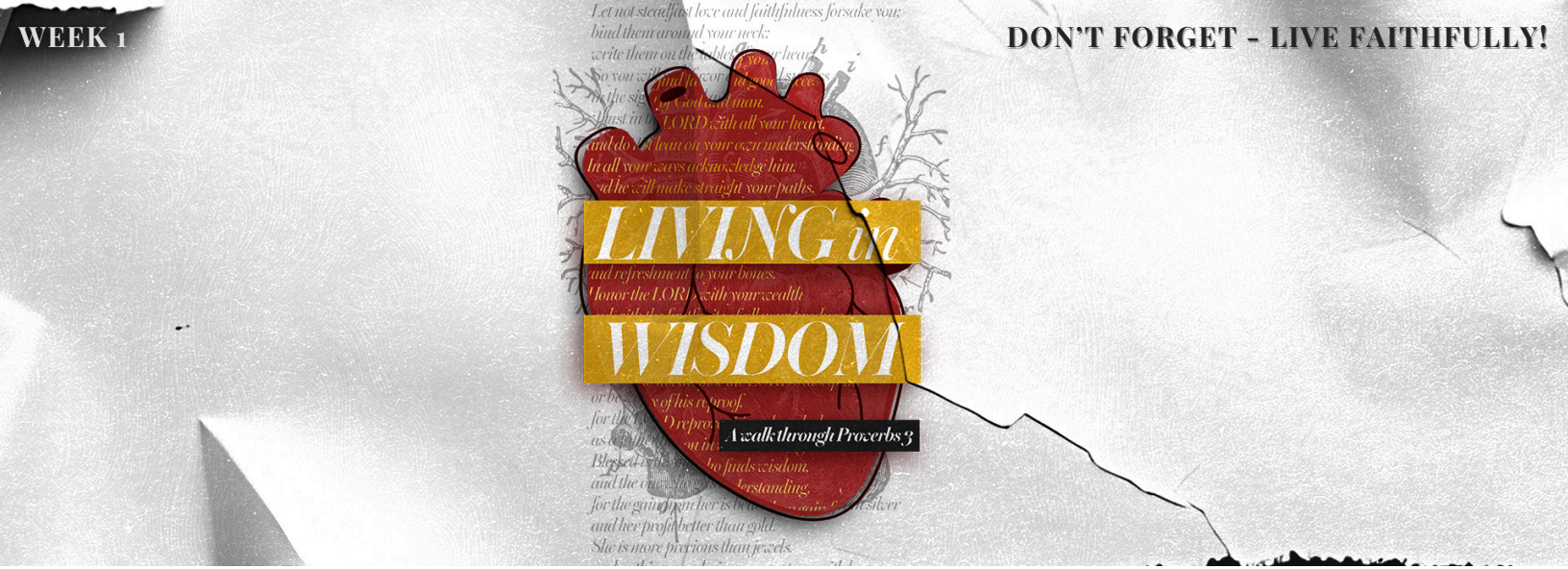


**In what ways do these verses represent more than a list of dos and don'ts, and instead reflect a comprehensive worldview and way of life?**

*(Open for discussion. These verses aren't just about a checklist for our outward actions; they are to affect us inwardly in the heart! In order to live our lives in a way that honors and glorifies God, we must love God completely, think constantly about His commands - knowing that they are for our best interest and not just a list of rules, teach them to our children, and live each day by the guidelines He gives us in His Word.)*

**Read James 1:22-25.**

## What does it mean to be a “hearer” only, and how can this lead to self-deception?



*(Open for discussion. To be hearers only means that we only read and study the Bible as a religious exercise or obligation. We won't grow from it and allow it to change us. Hearing is not the same as doing. The difference between hearing and doing is much like that of a photo versus an x-ray. Hearing just affects the outer parts of our lives that others see, whereas doing changes us from the inside, meeting our deepest needs. Hearing alone can lead to self-deception because we don't get an accurate measure of where we stand in comparison to God's perfection. We cannot grow by simply taking in instruction; we must put it into practice in order to grow and receive His blessings.)*

# NOTES

**What are some common ways that we rationalize or excuse our inaction when it comes to living out God's commands? What steps can you take to identify and overcome this self-deception?**

*(Open for discussion)*



*(Our obedience to God's law brings freedom from sin and death and helps us to joyfully obey God's Word and do His will as we live it out.)*



## NOTES

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*(Open for discussion)*





## NOTES

**Read Psalm 119:97-104**

In this stanza of the Psalm, the psalmist focuses on how meditating on God's Word makes us wise!

**In what specific ways has God's Word provided you with wisdom or insight that you could not have gained otherwise?**

*(Open for discussion)*

[illegible]



**How does meditating on Scripture throughout the day impact our thoughts and actions? What are some practical steps you can take this week to better integrate God's Word into your life?**

*(Open for discussion. The more we meditate on His Word throughout the day, the more precious and pleasing it becomes. As we focus on His Word, we allow His truth to penetrate our hearts, helping us to be able to test and discern the truth in what others may say. As students of His Word, we must desire to obey Him above all else. We can't just pick and choose what we study; we must take it all to help us discern right from wrong and live life obediently.)*





*(Open for discussion. The “sweetness” refers to the truth that is revealed through God’s Word. As we grow in God’s wisdom and understanding, we will find God’s Word to be more appealing than anything else as we gain understanding, helping us to want to live God’s way rather than the world’s way. It leads us to a life of fulfillment and a future with Him. Worldly pleasures are carnal and sinful, not of God. They may bring temporary pleasure, but they will not last and will lead to lack of fulfillment and even death.)*

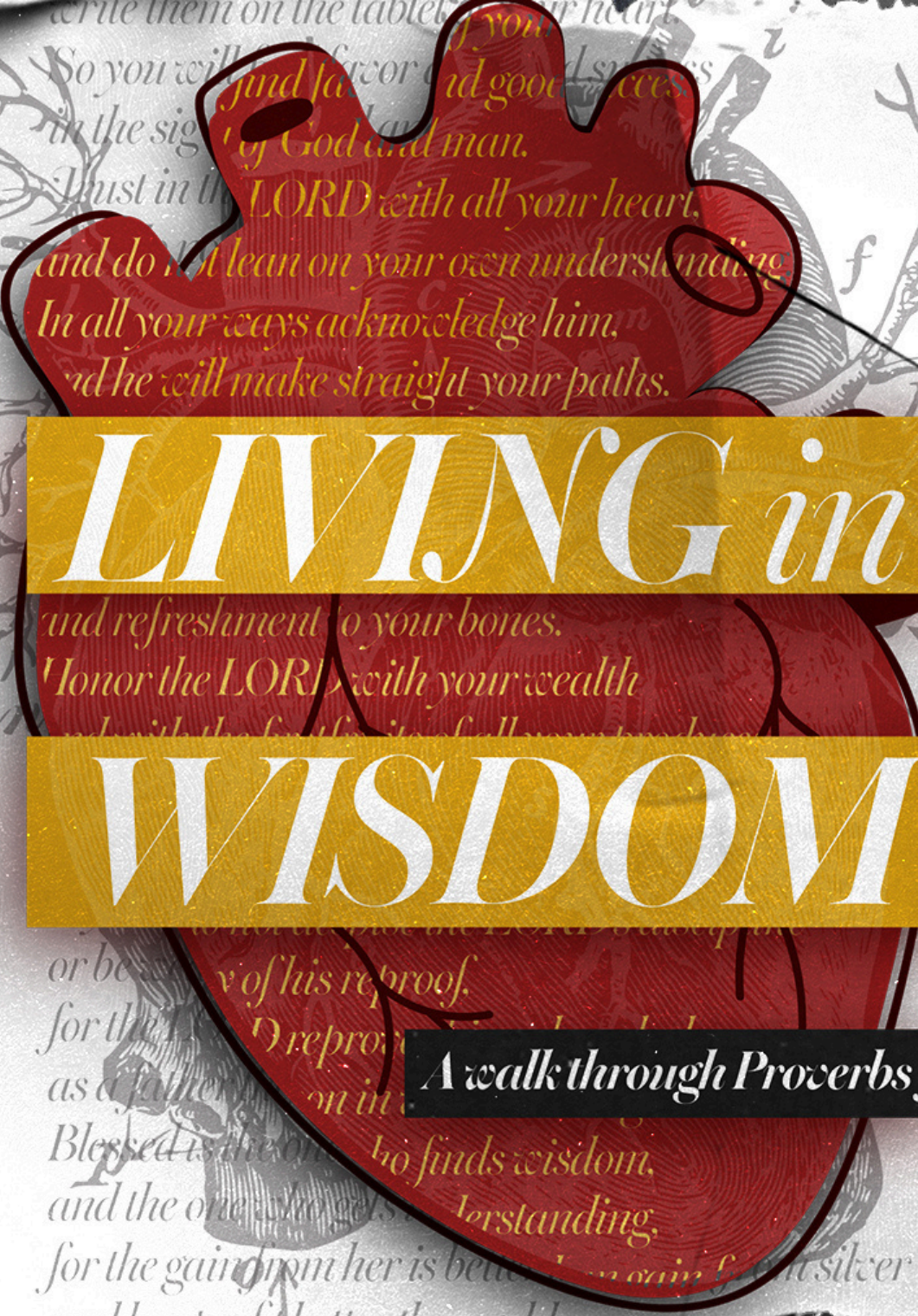


## NOTES

- Are you truly allowing all of Scripture to shape you, or do you only focus on the parts that feel comforting or easy? Is your reading focused on gaining information, or are you seeking to be shaped by it?
- What specific truths have you heard recently but not put into practice? In what area of your life could you do a better job applying God's Word rather than merely listening to it?
- If a non-believer looked at your life over the past week, what would they conclude is most important to you? Is your faith evident in your actions? What specific actions can you take this week to move from being a "hearer" to a "doer" of the Word?
- How does the Psalmist's love for God's law compare to your own relationship with Scripture? In the areas mentioned in the Psalm, where do you feel you are currently strongest and where do you most need to grow?

[illegible]





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**LIVING in**

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**WISDOM**

*or because of his reproof.  
for the LORD reproves as a father,  
as a father corrects his son in the LORD.*

**A walk through Proverbs 3**

## WEEK 2

### WATCH

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### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# NOTES

“The desire of excessive power caused the angels to fall; the desire of knowledge caused men to fall: but in charity there is no excess; neither can angel or man come in danger by it.” [Francis Bacon] The word desire is connected to the word hedonism, which is the belief that the chief purpose of living is to satisfy self. Hedonism is often associated with a life of luxury, sensual pleasure, and instant gratification. For many people, their motivation is driven by their pursuit of pleasure. However, the pursuit of pleasure can often lead to unhappiness. Jesus taught many times on this topic as He warned against the dangers of love of money, reputation, success, power, in fact, anything that focuses more on our own personal achievement rather than God’s will.

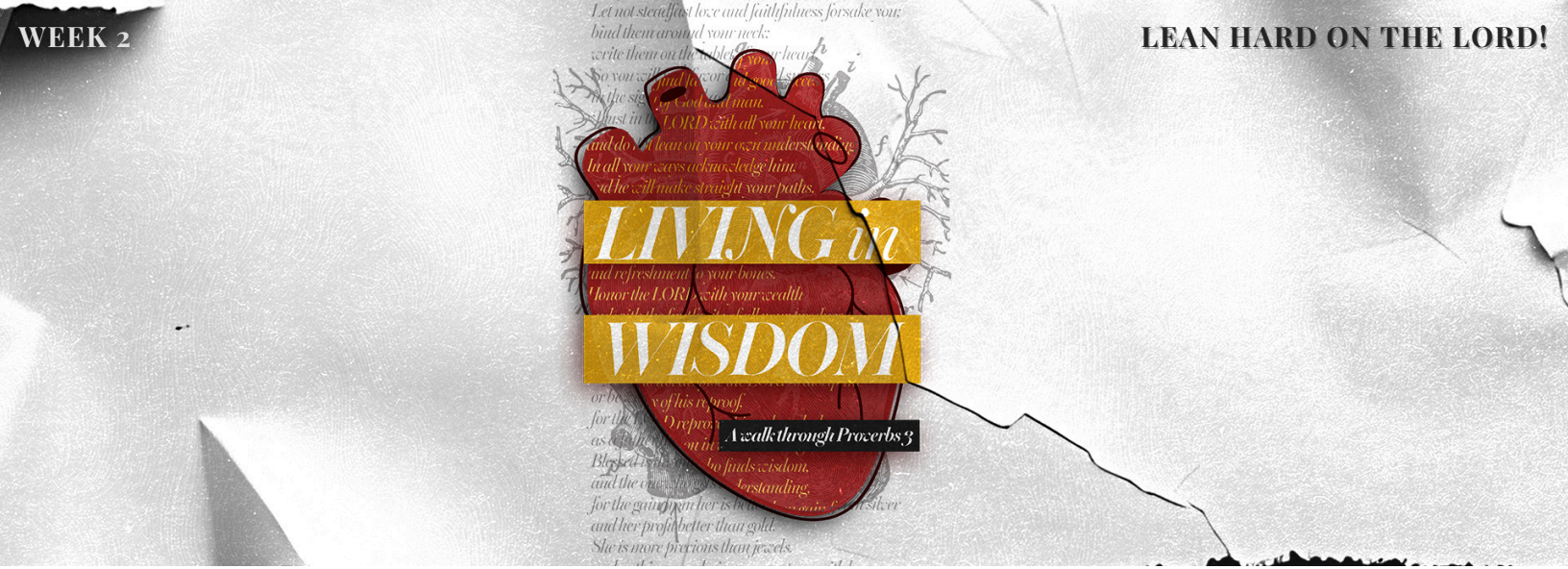
As followers of Christ, we are not exempt from these desires. They are still at war within us as we seek to follow Him, fighting for control over our lives. We cannot do it on our own, but by the grace of God, we can overcome them! We discover that our only source of true pleasure and fulfillment can be found in God alone. In





## NOTES

**What purchase is currently a “big-ticket item” on your wish list? What deeper need or desire does this item represent?**



## NOTES

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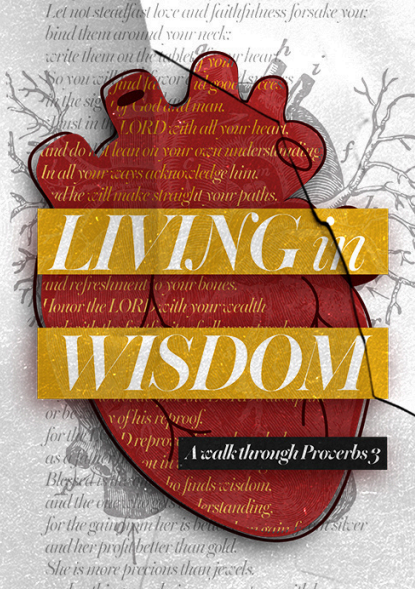
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## NOTES

*(Open for discussion. James is referring to them as people who have turned away from God. They have made a deliberate choice to follow the ways of the world, which means that they have rebelled against God and His ways. “The world” in this context refers to a society that is separated from God and lives by its own set of values and a godless agenda. We are guilty of being “friends” of the world when we live in ways that seek to gain the world’s approval - like envy, strife, selfish ambition, jealousy, and hypocrisy. We also embrace being “friends” with the world when we allow other things to take over as lord of our lives - like job, pleasure, recognition, personal accomplishment, etc.)*



**When disagreements arise between people, especially followers of Christ, what needs to happen?**

**NOTES**

*(Open for discussion. We need to take time to stop and examine our own lives and the state of the heart. Are we reacting from selfish motives? If we are not focused on God and His plan, we must seek to turn from our sinful desires and seek God’s plan, working together with other believers to accomplish His purposes.)*

**How does understanding God’s love motivate us to turn away from worldly attachments?**

*(Open for discussion. When we take time to understand the greatness of God’s love for us, we are reminded that we could not earn it on our own merit. It is only by God’s grace that we can have a relationship with Him. We must recognize that our true worth only comes from God alone, as we humbly acknowledge that He alone can defeat sin and death. We must rely on His power and guidance as we navigate through life!)*





## NOTES

*(Open for discussion. Satan seeks to have a foothold in the lives of believers in order to distract us and fight against God. He gains that control by what we allow! In order to resist him, we must actively and intentionally draw near to God, allowing Him to cleanse us and make us pure and holy. We can resist Satan by carefully monitoring what we watch, evaluating what we engage in, and being aware of where our focus lies. We must choose to give God complete control of our lives and desires, realizing that He is greater than us. We can do this by studying His Word and making it active in our lives, just as Jesus did when He faced temptation in the desert. We can draw near to God as we worship Him and commit our lives to Him alone. As we know more of Him and His Word, we will grow in His strength. We can do this by praying for one another, practicing righteousness, living in truth, living out our faith, and making sure that we put on the full armor of God each and every day [Ephesians 6:10-17]. When we are bold and confident in the Lord, Satan will flee!)*



*(Open for discussion. When we see God for who He really is - holy and full of glory - then we begin to see ourselves as we really are - sinful and depraved. This is what brings about true humility. It recognizes the seriousness of sin, realizing the consequences of our decisions, not taking it lightly, but mourning over its severity and how it separates us from God.)*





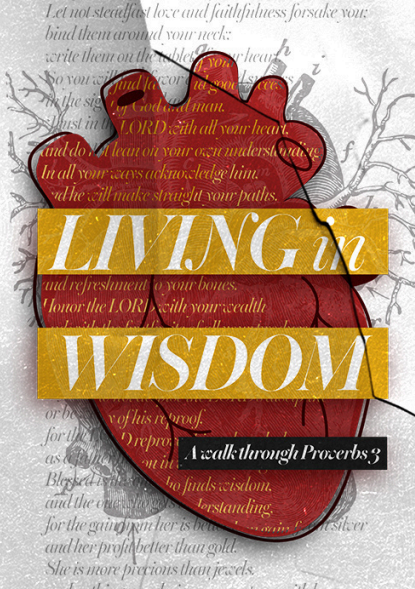
**How would you describe the difference between merely asking for forgiveness and truly purifying your heart? How is Christian humility different from how the world views weakness? Why is humility so important for our spiritual growth?**

*(Open for discussion. When we just ask for “forgiveness”, we are simply expressing regret for a decision made, or perhaps from being caught in the act. Christian humility comes from a true change of heart, not as a result of lack of strength or failure. It represents a controlled strength, in which we choose to lay aside our own pride and control and follow God instead, seeking Him and His ways over our own. Our Christian humility empowers us to live for Him, while the world’s “weakness” results in failure – being overtaken by lack of strength and inferiority, overcome by the will of others. Christian humility admits that we can’t live on our own strength, but only by His strength, not achieving success on our own, but for His glory!)*



*(Open for discussion. We can humble ourselves before God by recognizing our need for Him each and every day, regularly thanking Him for His blessings, praising Him for who He is and all He has done, remembering that His ways are higher, and that we must learn from Him. We can humble ourselves before others by looking for opportunities to serve others, accepting guidance and corrections from others, respecting one another, not judging others, being quick to forgive, crediting others for their part in successes, admitting our wrongdoing and offering a sincere apology, and seeking to encourage and build others up.)*





NOTES

**What is the difference between judging someone’s heart and motives and practicing righteous correction? How does remembering God’s mercy towards you prevent you from being critical?**

*(Open for discussion. Judging the heart and motives is something only God can do accurately. When we judge someone’s heart and motives, we are attempting to play God, using our limited abilities and understanding. When we do this, we are slandering others. Instead, we should love others as God loves us. We should first make sure that we are right with God and seek His will, only then can we seek to help others live for Him. We should aim to build others up in Christ rather than humiliate and tear them down.)*



## NOTES

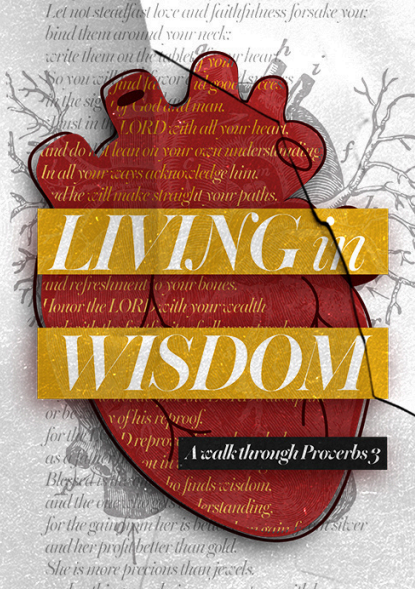
**The promise “He will give you the desires of your heart” is often misunderstood as God granting any worldly wish we make. What does it mean to “delight yourself in the Lord”? How does genuine delight in God change the desires of your heart?**

*(Open for discussion. When we delight in God, we find our complete satisfaction in Him, and the chief desire of our hearts is to know Him better. As we delight in Him, we reflect on the abundance of all of His blessings and value and delight in Him even more! As we focus on Him, we begin to conform to His likeness, allowing Him to change our heart to be like His. As a result, we desire the things of God rather than our own selfish desires.)*





*(Open for discussion. “Be still” more accurately means cease striving, or stop struggling. It is a command that tells us to not be anxious or restless, focused on our circumstances, but to focus on God. We may not receive instant gratification here on earth, but we must trust His ultimate plan and wait expectantly on His perfect timing. We are often distracted by the temporal, earthly things around us, and they can make it hard to surrender our plans to God and submit to His guidance. We only see the short-term situation, and forget that God knows everything! When we have a worried, grumbling heart, we lose sight of His joy and peace and have a hard time trusting Him.)*



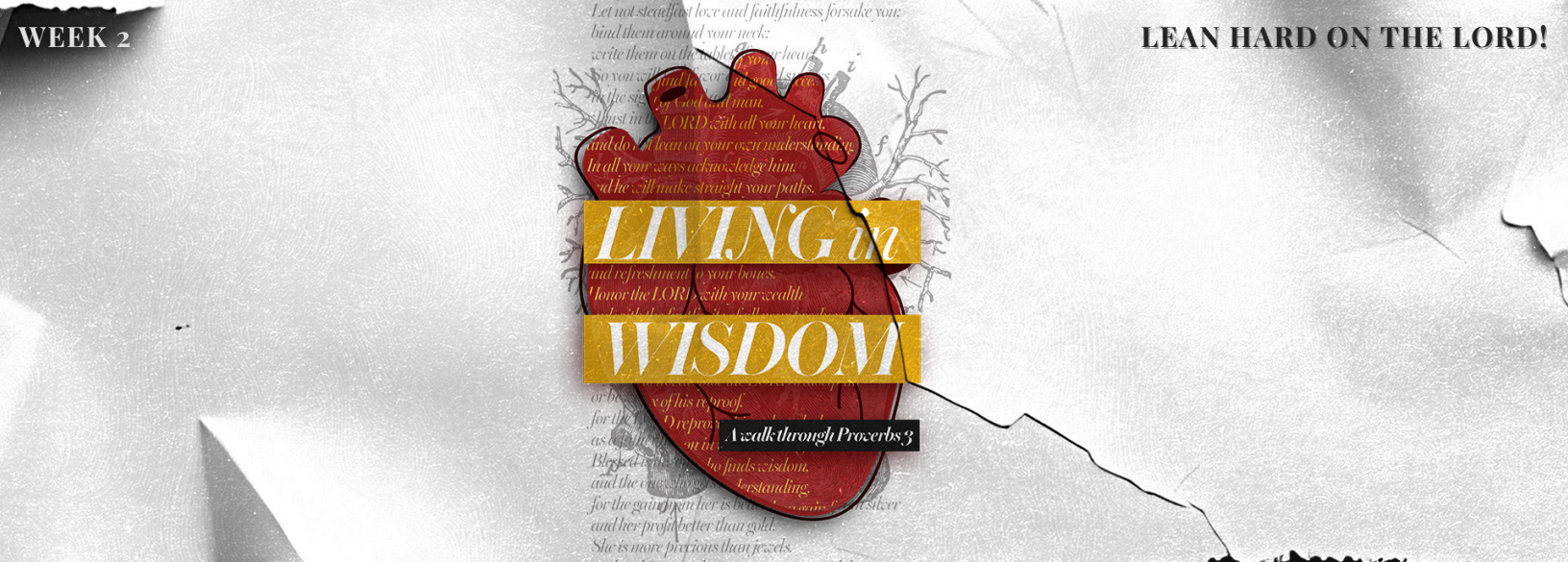
How can comparing our lives to those who seem to prosper without God affect our emotions and perspective? What are the emotional and mental costs of fretting over others' success?

NOTES

*(Open for discussion. We can be disheartened when we see those who don't follow God seemingly succeed while we have struggles and hardships, even when we are following Him and living obediently. We must remember that God is the Righteous Judge, and that He will judge everyone once and for all. We cannot let our own emotions interfere!. By focusing on others we allow anger and worry to take control of our lives. We lose sight of what God is doing in our own lives to help us become who He wants us to be!)*

**“Sinners are not, as a general rule, punished here. Their sentence is reserved until the day of judgement...This is not the time of judgement. Judgement is yet to come.”**  
**(Charles Spurgeon)**



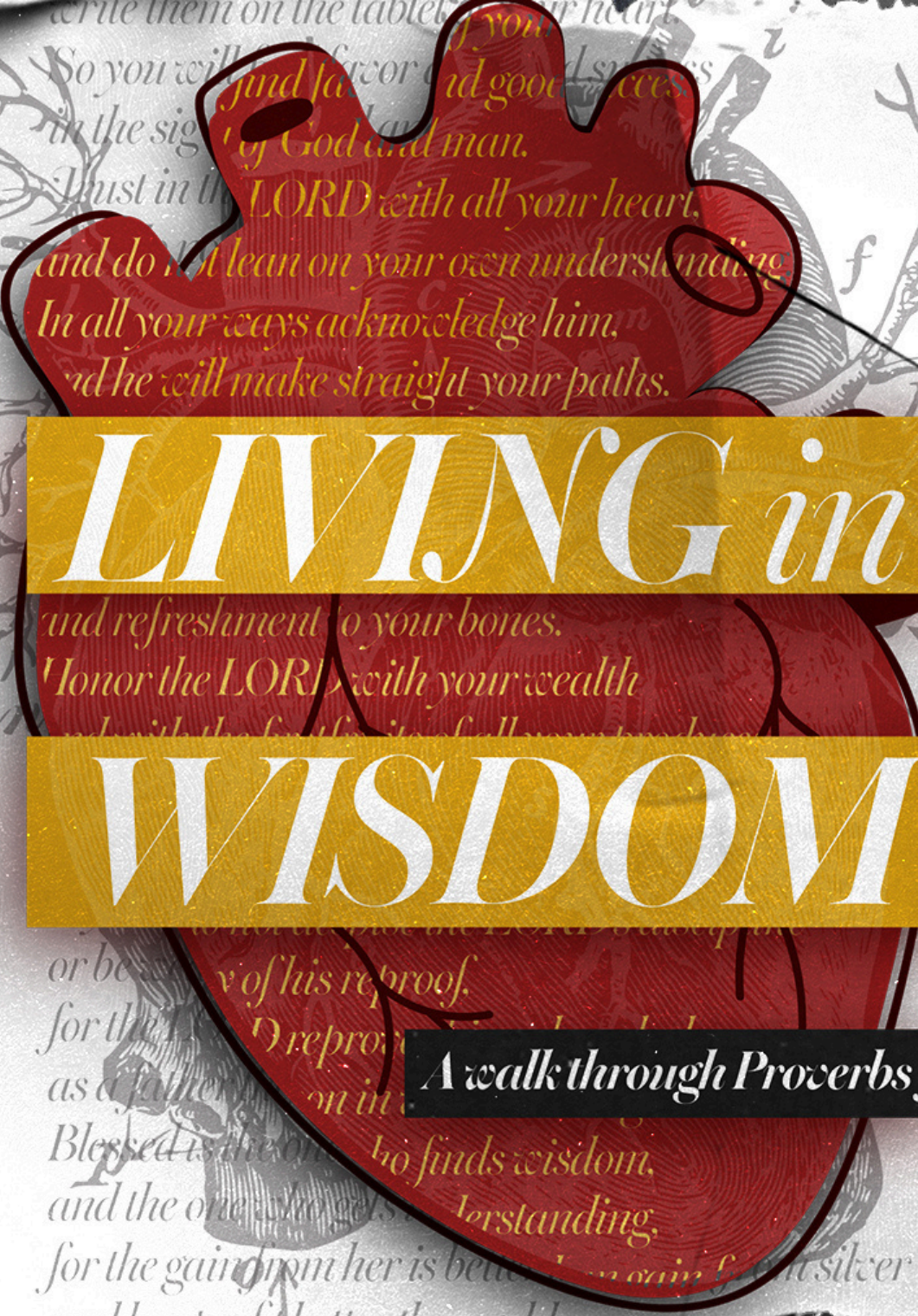


# NOTES

[illegible]

- When you quarrel with others, do you seek to understand what desire is really motivating you? Do you pray about this desire? Where do you need to improve?
- How are you most likely to become a “friend of the world”? Lifestyle? Image? Pleasures or money? How does coming near to God strengthen you?
- In what areas of your life is it most difficult to “trust in the Lord and do good”?
- James gives us several commands: Submit, resist, draw near, cleanse, purify, grieve, mourn, weep, and humble ourselves. Which of these commands do you find most challenging, and how could you put it into practice this week?





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*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
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**LIVING in**

*and refreshment to your bones.  
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**WISDOM**

*or because of his reproof.  
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**A walk through Proverbs 3**

## WEEK 3

### WATCH

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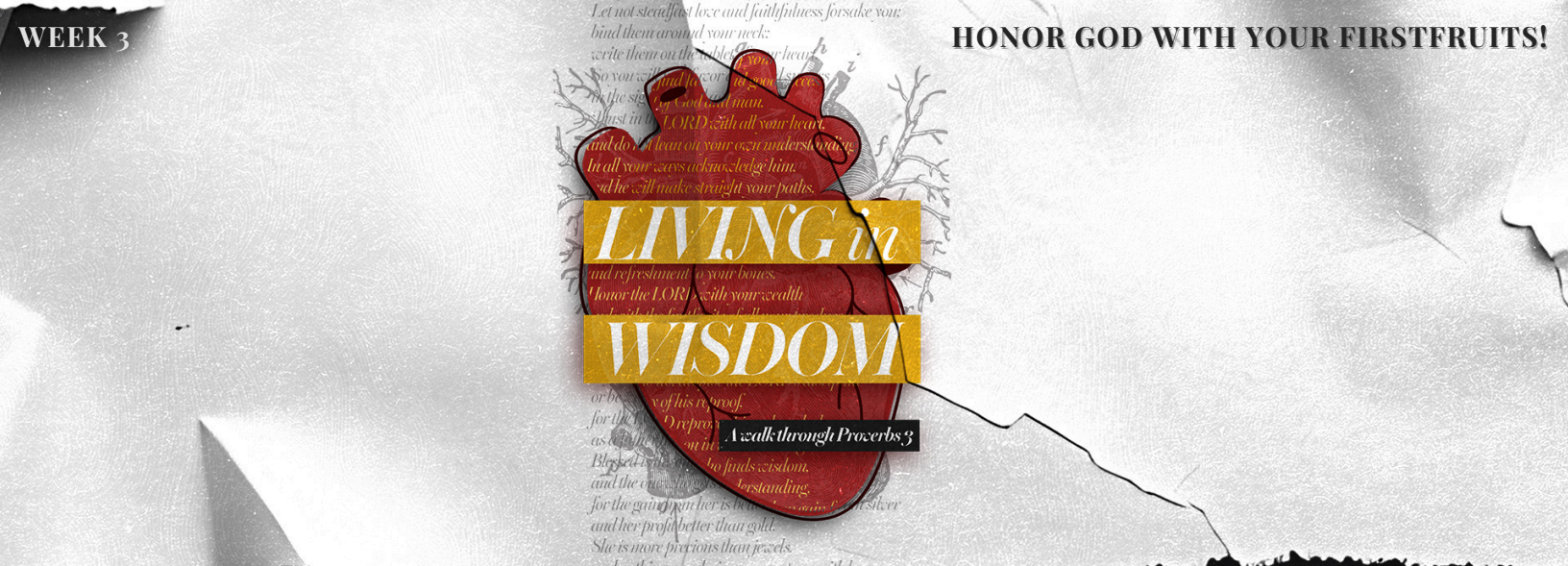
### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.





# NOTES

[illegible]

Allegiance is defined as a debt of loyalty or personal devotion to a cause or person; a voluntary or legal obligation. Historically, allegiance was reciprocal in nature, a bond that bound the subject to the monarch and the monarch to the subject. It provided a return in protection or benefits for the one who gave it. It served as a symbol of one's steadfast faithfulness.

# NOTES

Proverbs 10:22; Matthew 6:19-21, 24;  
Deuteronomy 8:17-20





How is success generally measured in our society? From what sources do you feel pressured to meet this standard?

**If you suddenly became extravagantly wealthy, what is the first thing you would do? What would stay the same in your life?**

# WATCH

**Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.**

**What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?**

## NOTES

[illegible]



## NOTES

**According to this verse, what is the source of true wealth? How does this contrast with the wealth that is gained through other means, such as luck or dishonesty?**

*(Open for discussion. God, in His righteousness and wisdom, is the source of true wealth. Wealth that is gained by other means is often unappreciated and can result in problems of its own - greed, legal problems, etc.)*

**How does this proverb challenge your definition of a “rich” life? How does understanding God’s blessing change your perspective on material wealth and success?**

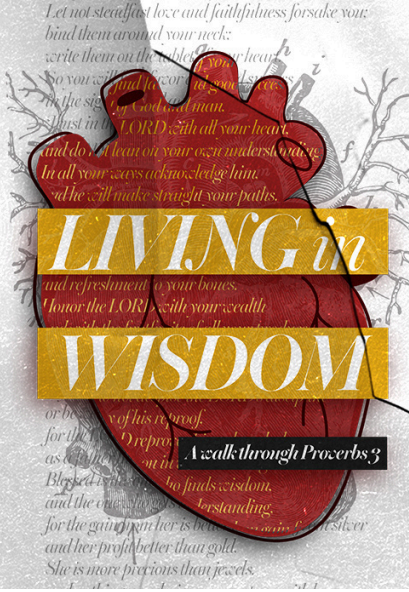
*(Open for discussion)*





**What are some examples of earthly treasures versus heavenly treasures? How do the treasures we choose reveal what is most important to our hearts? How can we identify which ones we are pursuing?**

*(Open for discussion. The type of treasure we choose indicates the state of our heart, for our spiritual problems always begin with the heart! Earthly treasures are things that we place value on here on earth that can pass away, like fame, fortune, power, intellect, or influence. They are the things that we place our confidence in other than God. Heavenly treasures are things that have eternal value and cannot pass away. They are the result of the good works we do for God and bring glory and honor to Him. We must look at the reason behind what we do. If God grants us riches and we use them for His glory, then they are a blessing. Otherwise, they are earthly treasures that will cost us greatly.)*



NOTES

What does it look like to “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”? How does this differ from simply giving to a charity?

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*(Open for discussion. When we invest in “heavenly treasures”, we are using all that we have for God’s glory. This is much more than simply giving to a charity. It isn’t about a tax break or a pat on the back for our generosity. We must forget the things of earth and think of heaven! We can’t waste our lives trying to get ahead in this world; rather we must look to God and look ahead to our eternity with Him!)*

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Reflect on a time in your life when your heart was too focused on earthly treasures. What prompted you to refocus on eternal values, and what was the outcome?

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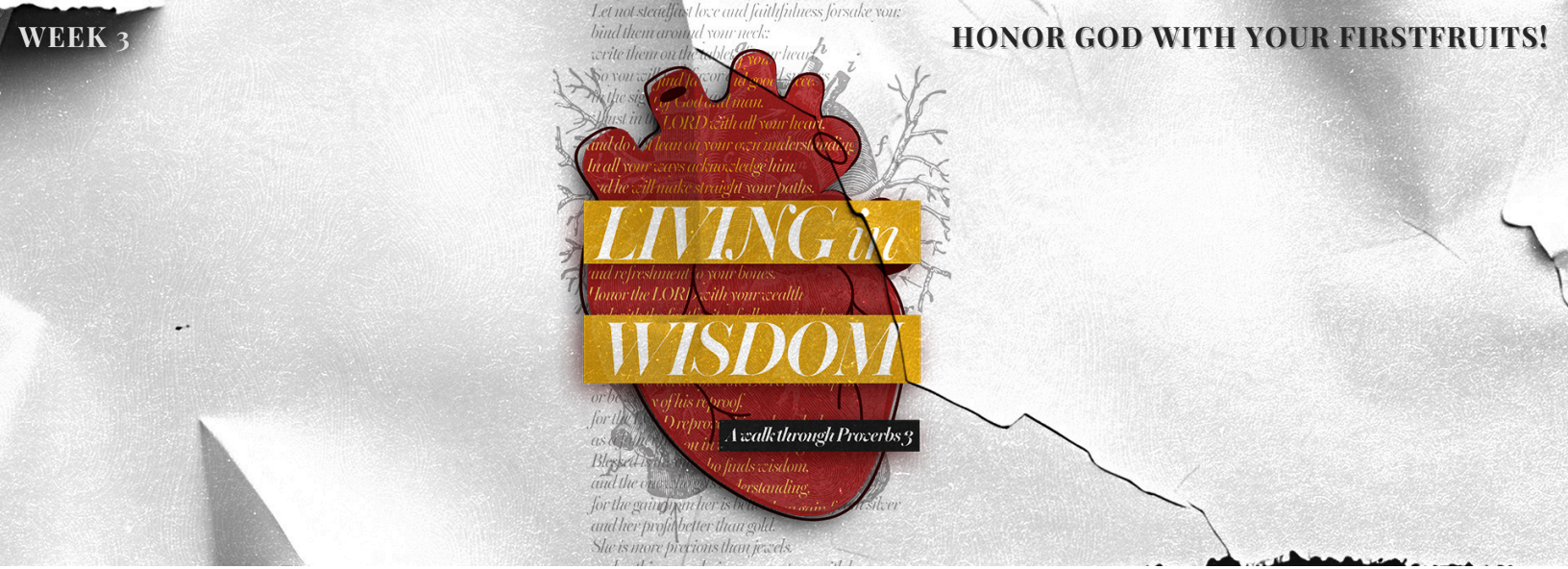
*(Open for discussion)*

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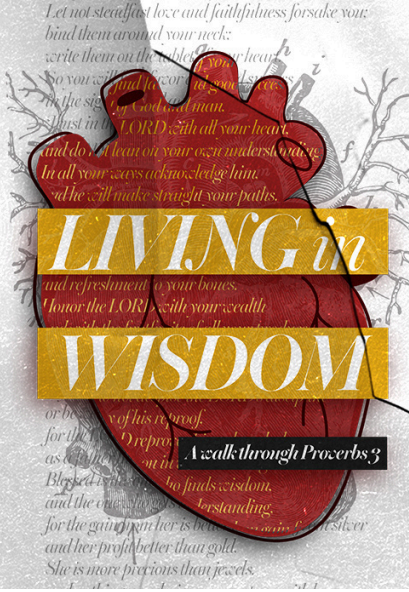


## NOTES

[illegible]

**Can we be “mostly” devoted to God but still hold on to other “lesser” masters? How would Jesus’ words challenge this mindset?**

*(Open for discussion. No, we can't claim to be devoted to God and serve Him but live a life that is devoted to other things as well. The term "master" refers to slavery, in which the owner had total control over the slave. Everything he had was given to his master, so it was impossible to have additional, lesser masters! If we are not fully and completely devoted to God, we cannot truly call Him our Lord. Jesus said we must choose which we will love. If we choose our possessions, we are not devoted to Him.)*



NOTES

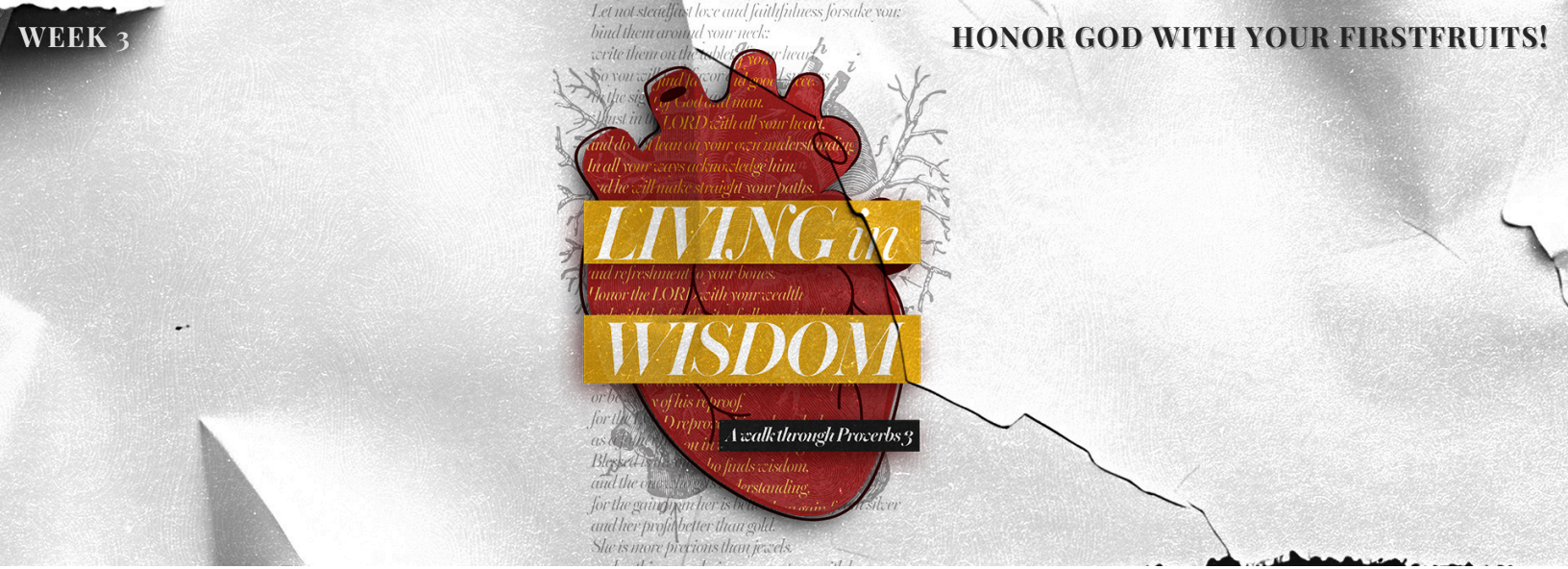
**In what ways can money become a “master” in a person’s life? What might be some indicators that someone loves money more than they should?**

*(Open for discussion. When we accumulate money for our own sake, whether to hoard it or spend it lavishly, it becomes an idol in our lives, and as a result, a “master”. When we value our money above everything else, we love it more than we should.)*

**In your own experience, how has money failed to ultimately provide the satisfaction or security that you might have hoped for?**

*(Open for discussion)*



[illegible]

*(Open for discussion)*

**Read Deuteronomy 8:17-20**

*(Open for discussion. When we are experiencing prosperity and success, it is easy to become so consumed with the “blessings” that we forget the One who gave us those blessings. This leads us to become prideful and arrogant. Pride can prevent us from enjoying all that God gives us.)*



**LIVING in**  
*and refreshment in your bones*  
*'Honor the LORD with your wealth*  
*and with the fruit of your fullness in land*  
**WISDOM**

# NOTES

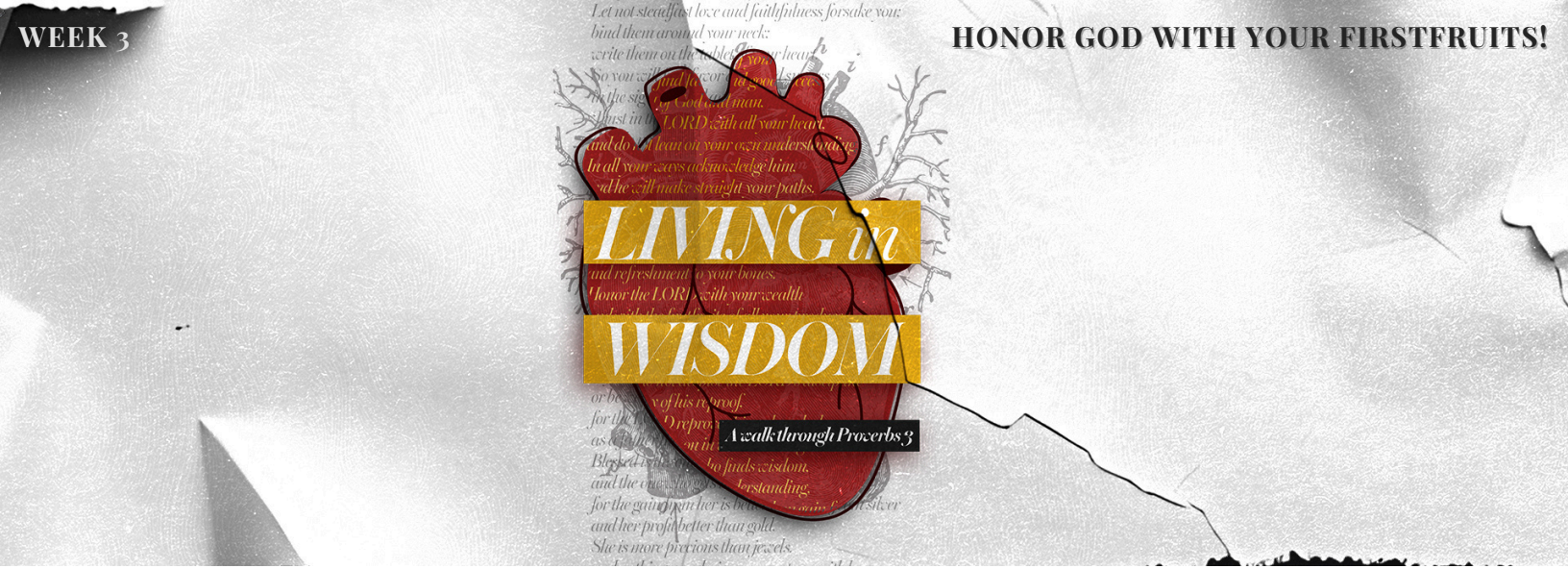
**How have you experienced God's loving discipline in your own life? How did it bring you back to a place of humility and reliance on Him?**

*(Open for discussion)*

**According to verse 18, God gives us the ability to prosper in order that we may “confirm His covenant”. How does this perspective of prosperity change how you view your own career, finances, or achievements? How can your resources be used to honor God and advance His kingdom?**

*(Open for discussion)*



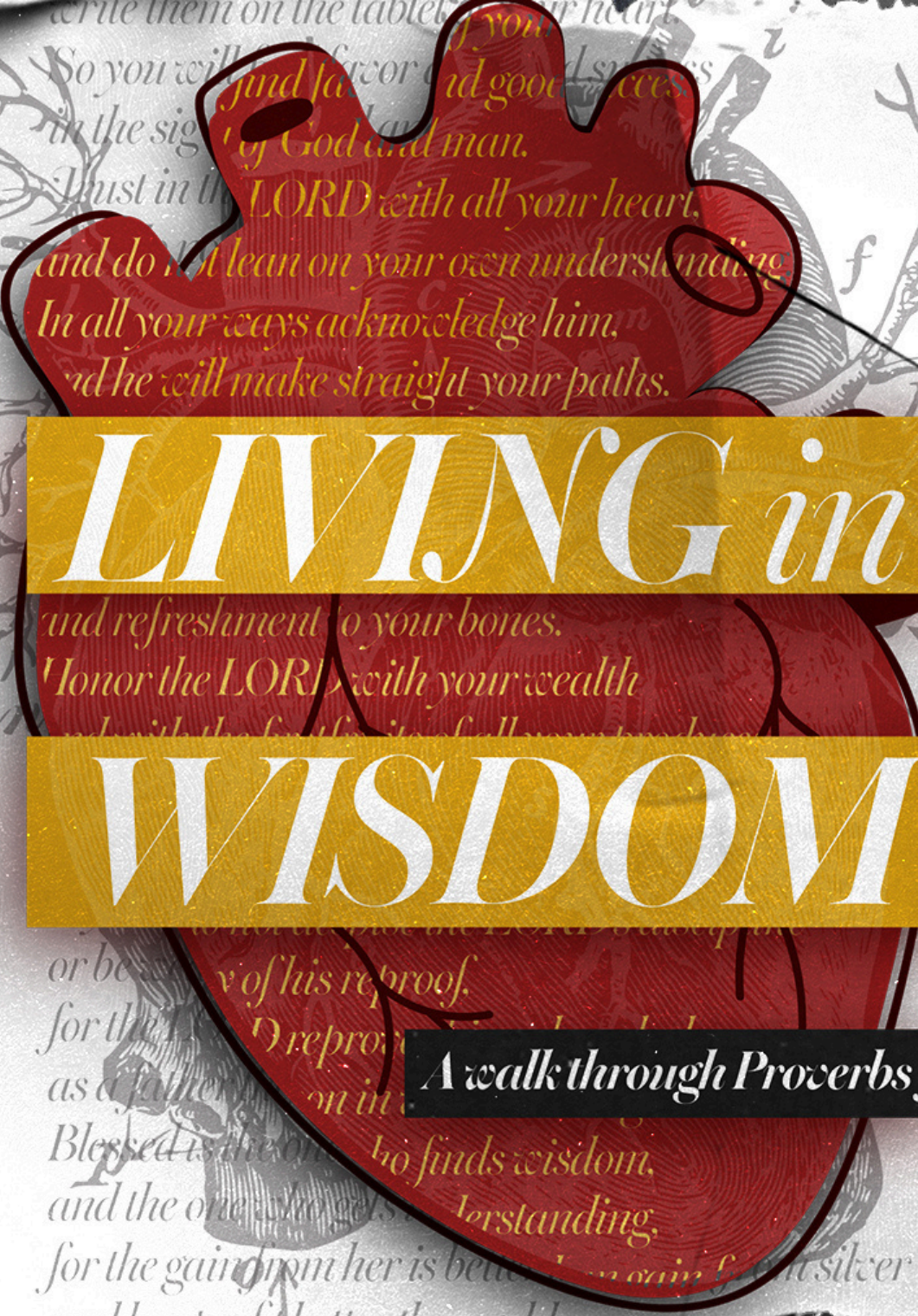


## NOTES

[illegible]

- If Jesus was to analyze your life, what would He say your “treasure” is? What does your weekly schedule reveal about where your time, energy, and resources are invested? Does your heart follow your treasure, or does your treasure follow your heart?
- What are your motivations for pursuing wealth, and how can you ensure they are aligned with God’s will? Do you feel more secure because of your savings account or because of God’s promises?
- In what areas of life do you feel like you are currently serving money more than God?
- How do you use your time, energy, and money in ways that intentionally store up “treasures in heaven”?





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**A walk through Proverbs 3**

## WEEK 4

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### DISCUSS

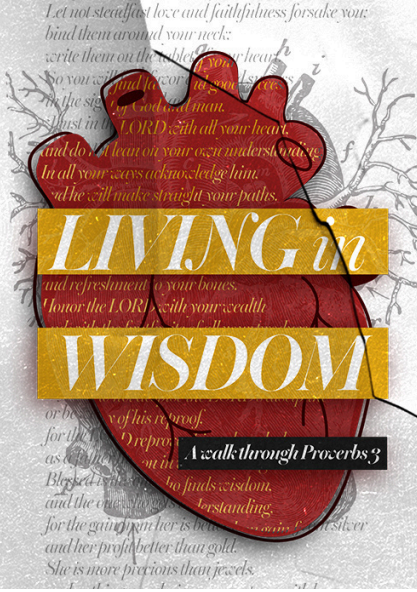
We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



# NOTES

[illegible]

Modern society believes that anything can be achieved or obtained if only you have enough power or money. But power and money can only attain temporary gain. True wisdom isn't found in the things of this world. In fact, true wisdom costs much more than we can afford. The problem lies in the fact that man doesn't comprehend the price of wisdom, and thinks he



can get it cheaply. And that is where the delusion lies: Wisdom can't be attained by anything we do. It can't be created. It can't even be bought. The "wisdom" that comes from these things has one common thread: pride! The treasure of true wisdom can only be found in Christ alone! When we understand that our own knowledge, abilities, and possessions will never be enough and look to Jesus Christ as the source of all wisdom, then we will find the greatest treasure! In this week's study, we are reminded that when we know Jesus Christ, we don't need to seek God by means of other religions, cults, or unbiblical philosophies. Christ alone holds the answers to the true meaning of life, because He is life!

NOTES

Passages we'll review:  
Colossians 2:2-10; Job 28:12-19, 28

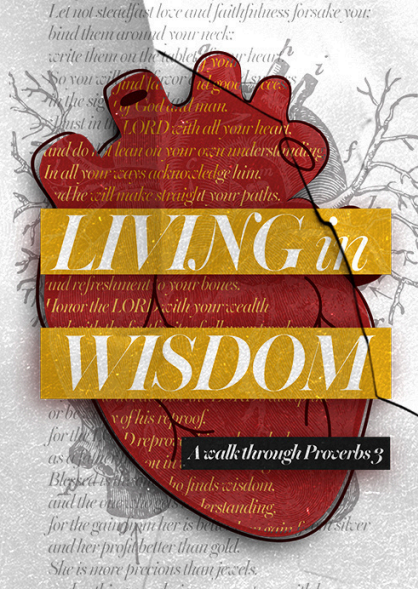


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## NOTES

**Read Colossians 2:2-7.**

**When you face a challenging or difficult situation, where do you typically look for answers first? What are some "Jesus plus (fill in the blank)" temptations that people face today, where they seek fulfillment or wisdom from sources other than Christ alone?**

*(Open for discussion)*

**Paul wrote that in Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”. How does the modern pursuit of worldly wisdom or “secret knowledge” compare to finding all truth in Christ? How can you get into the habit of looking to Jesus first for wisdom?**





*(Open for discussion. When we “walk in Him”, we remember that life is a journey, not a sprint. We move forward with steady progress, step by step, moment by moment, day by day. Everything we do should be by faith in Christ as we submit to His lordship and guidance.)*



*(Open for discussion. We are to be “rooted” in Christ – grounded and secure in Him. Roots give strength and provide nourishment, just as Christ does for us! Without Him, we are like tumbleweed, blowing everywhere. “Built up” refers to our foundation in Christ, the Solid Rock. With a firm foundation, we can continue to grow in grace. We can deepen our roots as we grow in the knowledge of His truth that is revealed to us in Christ. This comes through the building process as we read the Bible, pray, fellowship with other believers, have an accountability partner, and commit to regularly attend church and Bible Study.)*





**LIVING in**  
*and refreshment in your bones*  
*'Honor the LORD with your wealth*  
*and with the fruit of your fullness in land*  
**WISDOM**

# NOTES

**Paul also encouraged the believers to be overflowing with gratitude and thanksgiving. Why is a posture of gratitude so important for our spiritual stability and growth?**

*(Open for discussion. When we focus on gratitude, it changes our perspective and keeps us focused on Him! It takes our eyes off of our own temporary circumstances and helps us refocus on God's eternal view!)*

## **Read Colossians 2:8-10**

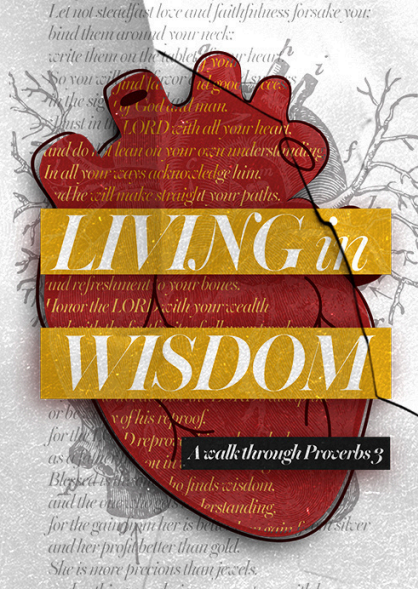


*(Open for discussion. Paul would warn us about anything that promises much but delivers nothing! It could be through astrology, mysticism, or the occult. In our day, this often presents itself through entertainment. It can be money, prestige, or things that promise influencer status. Worldly wisdom doesn't necessarily demand that we turn away from God completely, but that we simply make Him just a part of the whole thing, taking Him from His place of ultimate authority. It seeks to convince us that He is not fully God or that He alone is not enough to make us complete. Divine wisdom is based on Christ alone and the truth of His Word! The true test for any religious teaching is to ask the question: "Where does it put Christ, His person, and His work?")*





**How can we avoid being led astray by these deceptive philosophies and human traditions, ensuring that our faith is not shaken and our focus remains on Christ?**



## NOTES

**Knowing that we are complete in Christ, why might we still be tempted to look for fulfillment or spiritual completeness through other means (rules, rituals, special knowledge, performance)?**

*(Open for discussion)*





## How can we practically live out our identity of being complete in Christ?

*(Open for discussion. We can serve others willingly and with humility, reflect the love of God, practice gratitude for all that we have, share the gospel message with others, live out the Fruit of the Spirit, etc.)*

**Read Job 28:12-19, 28**

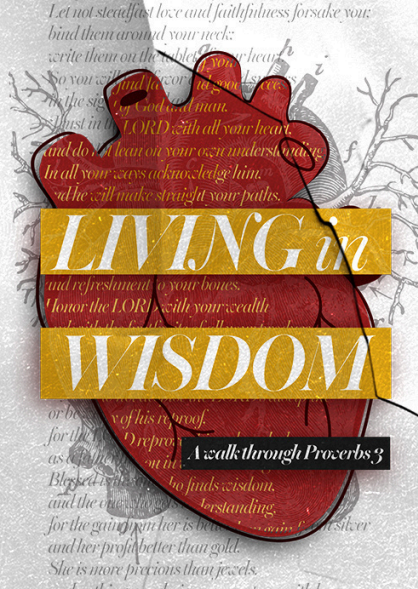
**How does this passage challenge our modern views of wealth and success? Why do you think humanity fails to understand the worth of true wisdom?**

[illegible]



*(Open for discussion. Even the most valuable things on earth are worthless when compared to God and His wisdom. There is nothing we can do on our own to find it; it can only come from God!)*





**In verse 28, we discover that true wisdom comes from “the fear of the Lord”. How does God’s revelation of wisdom contrast with humanity’s futile search for it in earthly treasures?**

*(Open for discussion. True wisdom can be found only when we seek God, fear Him, and worship Him. It is only when we realize His absolute greatness and stand in awe of His limitless attributes that we can begin to gain wisdom. “Fear of the Lord” isn’t a fear that paralyzes us, but rather energizes us to do His work! It comes when we have a loving reverence for who God is, what He says, and what He does. This is a stark contrast to humanity’s search for earthly wisdom and treasure, because earthly treasures are focused on our own selfish desires. Wisdom and evil cannot co-exist; one will always displace the other!)*



## NOTES

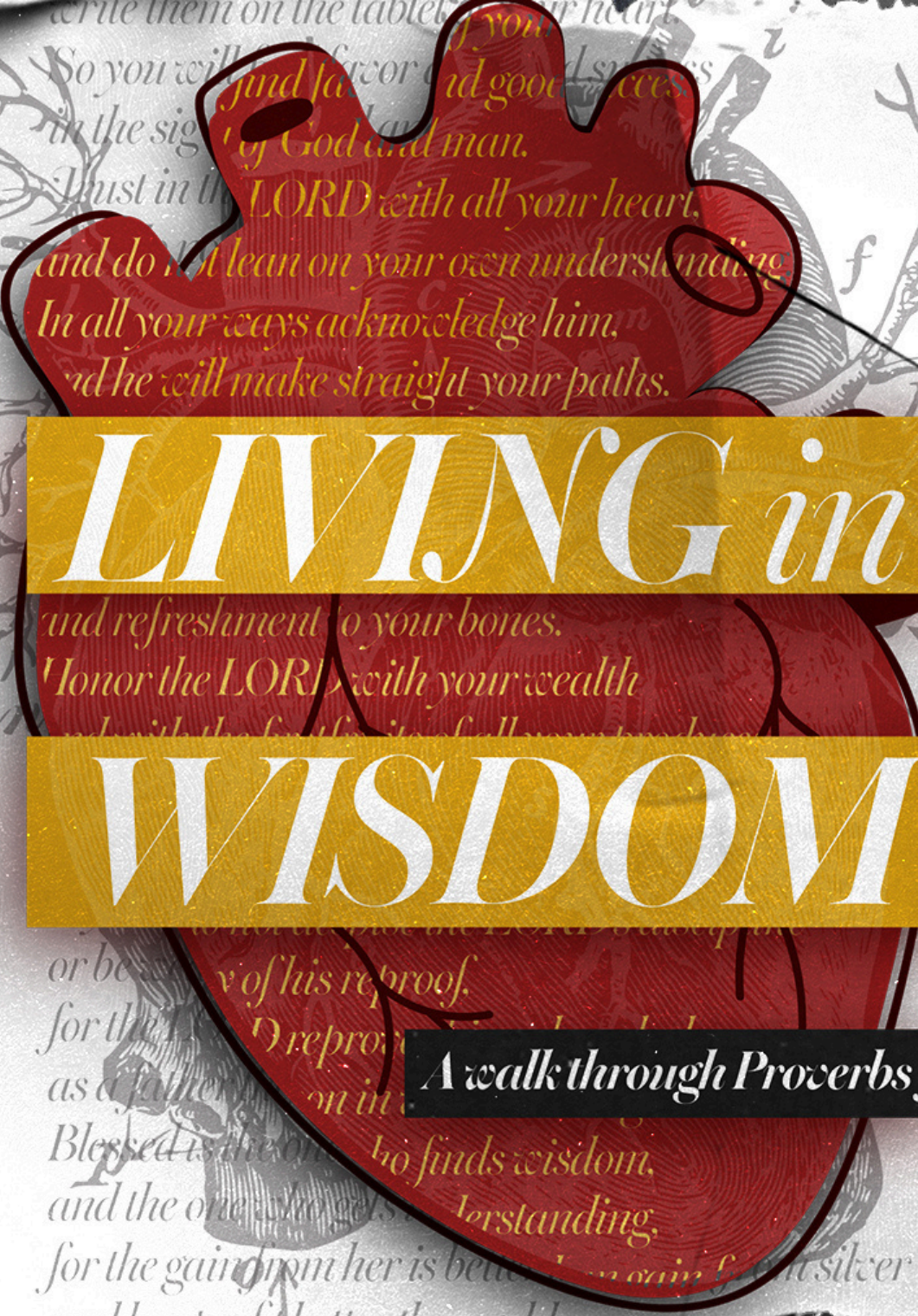
- In what ways have you tried to find fulfillment and completeness in things other than Christ, like career or possessions? What things do you need to surrender to Him?

- What things in your life right now help you to be more rooted and built up in Jesus, and what things tend to pull you away?

- How equipped do you feel to discern false doctrine from true doctrine?

- In what area of your life do you need to prioritize God's eternal wisdom over temporary earthly things?





*So you will find favor and goodness in the sight of God and man.*  
*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.*

**LIVING in**

*and refreshment to your bones.  
Honor the LORD with your wealth  
and with the first of your harvest.*

**WISDOM**

*or because of his reproof.  
for the LORD reproves as a father,  
as a father corrects his son in the LORD.*

**A walk through Proverbs 3**

## WEEK 5

### WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

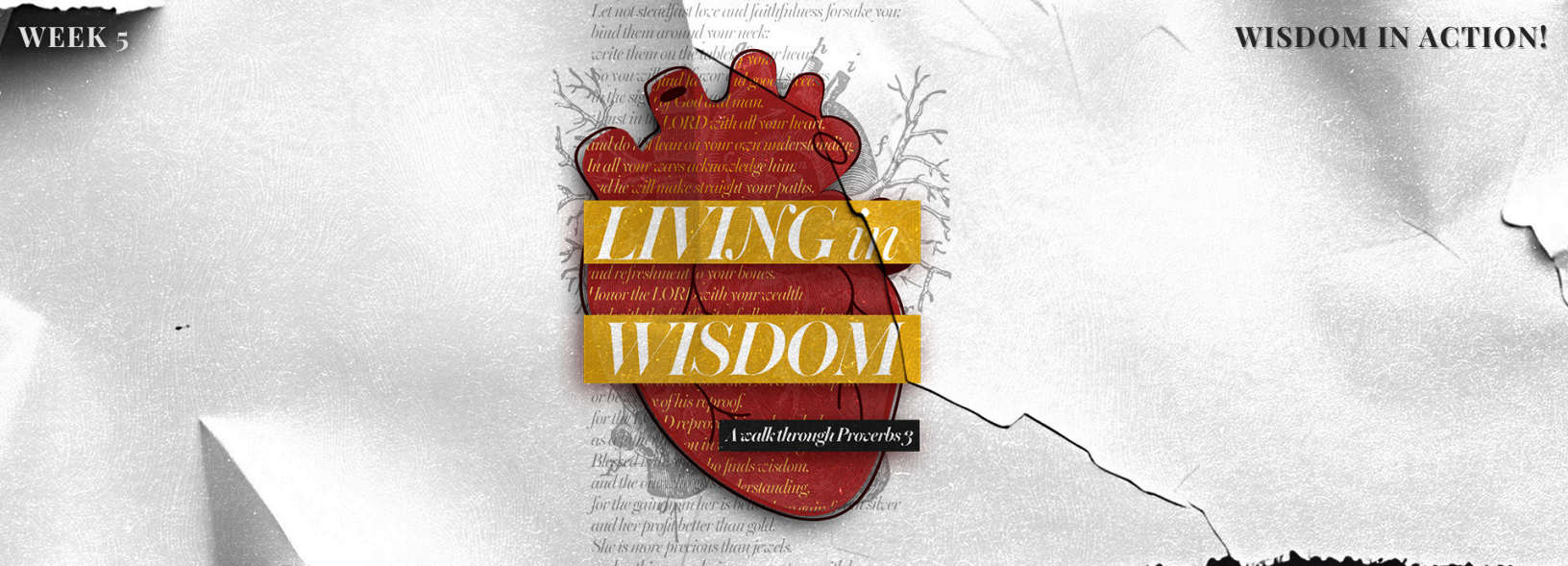
### READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

### DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.





## NOTES

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James 3:13-18; 1 Kings 3:16-28

## NOTES

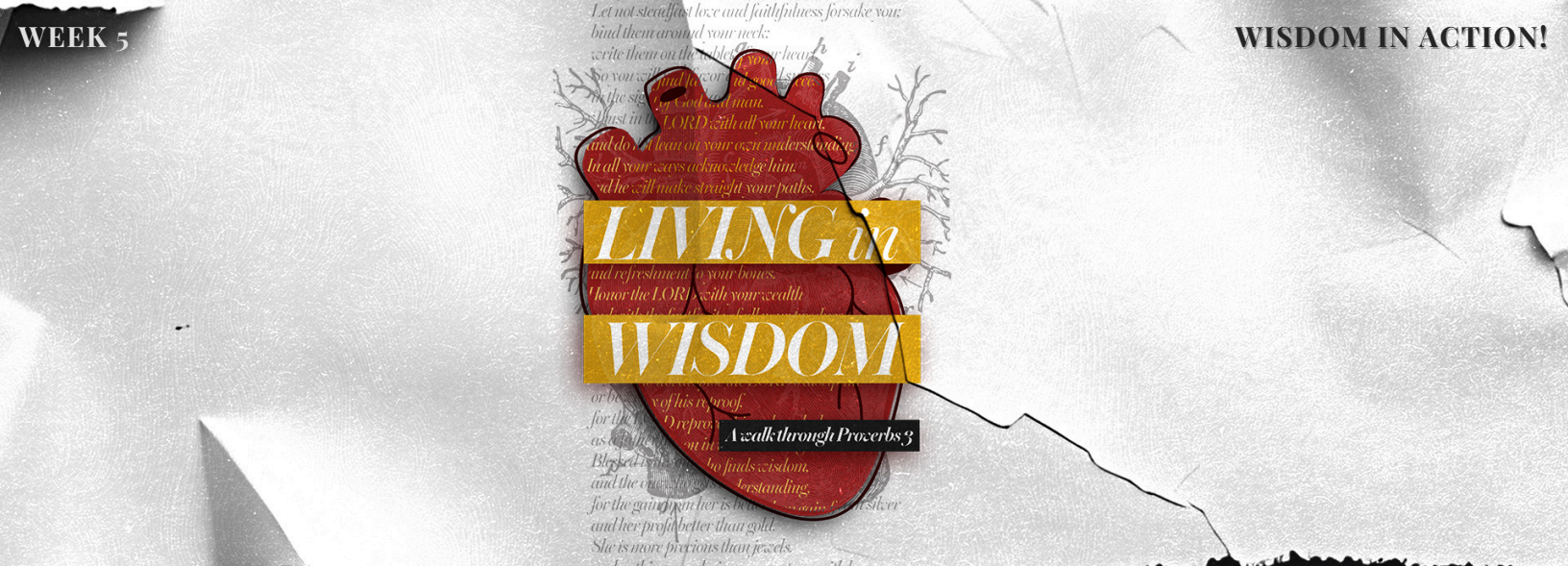
**What stood out to you from the message this week? What led you to really think? Did anything challenge you?**

Have you ever been willing to pursue something at all costs, even if it meant hurting others? Explain.

**What life experiences have increased your wisdom? How?**

**Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.**

**What jumped out at you from the video in this session? What are some of the key points that impacted you more than others?**



## NOTES

[illegible]

*(Open for discussion)*

**Read James 3:13-18**

**How does James define true wisdom in verse 13?**

*(True wisdom is exhibited in godly character. Wisdom produces works that are done in gentleness, or meekness, and goodness.)*





## NOTES

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*(Open for discussion)*

**In verse 17, James provides eight characteristics of “wisdom from above”. What are they and which one stands out most to you? Explain.**

*(Open for discussion. The 8 characteristics are: pure-holy, not self-seeking; peace-loving/peaceable-promotes peace; gentle-moderation without compromise; compliant/open to reason-willing to listen, think, pray, and obey God; full of mercy-compassion; good fruits-kind actions; without favoritism/impartial-single-minded/unwavering; without hypocrisy/sincere-open and genuine.)*





*(Open for discussion)*



## NOTES

## **Read 1 Kings 3:16-28**

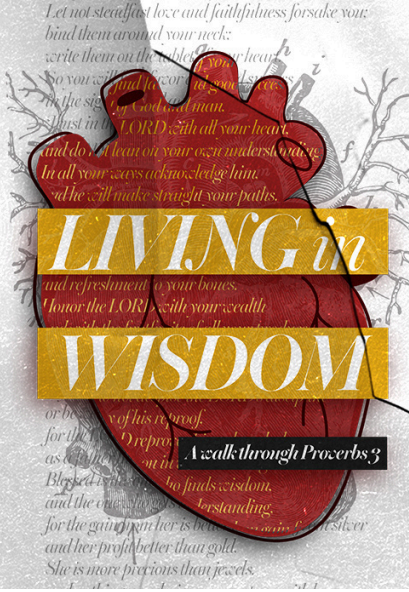
*(Open for discussion)*

*(Open for discussion)*





*(Open for discussion. Solomon's response to the conflict was extreme to most people, but in revealing the heart of each woman, he was able to discern the truth. He bypassed their "word" and went straight to the heart! The real mother was horrified by Solomon's ruling; the other was cold-hearted, willing to sacrifice the baby for the sake of fairness. Godly wisdom seeks to reveal the heart, not just outward actions. Only God is able to see the heart! Only by God's wisdom could Solomon have the discernment needed to settle the disagreement.)*



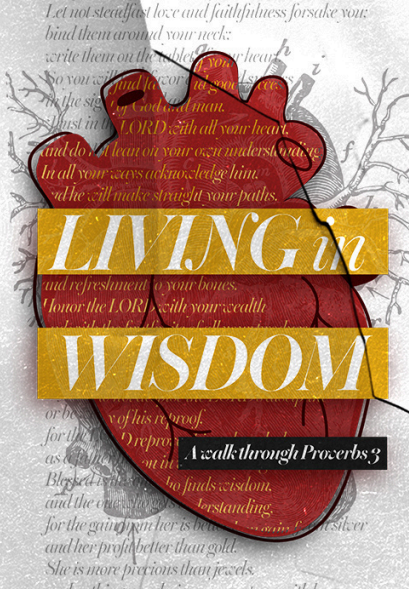
NOTES

**How is godly wisdom exhibited in modern leadership, and why is it still revered?**

*(Open for discussion. Wisdom is still exhibited in leadership today through ingenuity, wisdom, justice, fairness for the poor and needy, and equal treatment for everyone - not just the rich and powerful. In difficult situations, the decision is critical. Wisdom is both the ability to discern what is best and the strength of character to act upon that knowledge. Godly wisdom chooses what's right, even if it isn't easy.)*

**In a complex situation, how can we look beyond the surface-level facts to discern the underlying motives and character of those involved? How can we distinguish between our own self-interest and the greater good as Solomon did?**





NOTES

*(Open for discussion. We also have God’s wisdom available to us, but we must put it into action! We can use the truth of His Word to judge between right and wrong. We must put others above ourselves and not seek monetary gain or honor, but desire to do what is right.)*

**What are some modern-day situations that require Solomon-like wisdom to solve, even if the consequences are not life or death? How can we apply the principles from this story to those situations?**

*(Open for discussion)*



## NOTES

- Where in your life are you experiencing bitter jealousy or selfish ambition? What are you doing to combat it?

- Where in your life are you most tempted to rely on your own strength and ambition rather than seeking God's wisdom? In what area of your life do you need to grow in heavenly wisdom the most?

- Consider a current conflict or difficult relationship in your life. Based on James 3:17-18, what steps can you take to sow peace and pursue a harvest of righteousness?

- In what specific ways can you trust God's wisdom, even when His solutions to life's conflicts don't conform to your expectations?





## A walk through Proverbs 3

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