

Canvas Life Groups: *TALK IT OVER*

HOST HELPS

Message Title: Wisdom is the Guardian of my Heart

Preparing to Lead Your Group

Pray:

- Thank God for the people you get to share life with. Ask for God's wisdom and discernment, Invite Jesus to lead tonight's group and that you will be His instrument to lead the group.

Enhancing Your Group Time:

- **DON'T BE A FIXER!** I am a fix it person by nature. I love fixing things around the house, but my favorite things to fix are people's prayer needs or the problems they share with our group. This is dysfunctional behavior! It is the Holy Spirit's role to "fix" people and their life challenges. It is our role as group members to **pray with** our fellow group members, come alongside to comfort and encourage, but not to give advice or offer our solutions for their challenges. So if you are a "fixer" or an advice giver like me, ask the Holy Spirit to **humble your heart and close your mouth** so He can do His job in and through your group. (See James 1:19; 5:15-16)
- **Speak words of affirmation**, What you appreciate about the group or individuals. (See Hebrews 10:24-25)
- **Moving Us Forward:** Encourage your group to share through the lens of moving forward. Past experiences are means to propel us forward towards healthy God honoring lives. **Instead of sharing what you have done in the past, express what you will do moving forward.** (See Phil. 3:13)

Being a Better Leader:

- **Share "Wins"&"Word" weekly!** This can be a powerful time of worship for your group as you declare what God is teaching you and doing in and through you. (See Psalm 103)
- **Let's Continue!** You really like these people, you pray for them and love on them. **Keep meeting**, the next series will be amazing.
- **Love 'em and Release 'em:** Let the group know that you love them and love doing life with them, but give them the choice to stop attending the group. I wouldn't ask for a reason why, just let them know you will continue to be friends and hope the best for them. Lastly, as a group, send them off in prayer asking for God's blessing on their lives.
- **Doing Life together:** Go to coffee, share a meal or a hike during the week with a couple of people from the group. Be intentional about building relationships with group folks.
- **Loving others together:** Pray about and plan **who you can bless** as a group. Who do you know needs the love of God expressed through His people. (A co-worker, neighbor, family member in need) (Genesis 12:2)
- **Better Together:** Encourage your group to attend a gathering or serve together.

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Wisdom as a Guardian

Communicator: Les Welk

Big idea of the message: The Value of Wisdom

Central text/s: Proverbs 4

Wins and Words of the Week: Take time to share **Wins**, what God did, and **Word**, what God shared with you from His word that moved you forward and closer to Jesus.

Ice Breaker: What was the best advice (wisdom) you have ever received or given?

Gather questions are more God (Upward) focused, moving us closer to Jesus

1. Read Proverbs 4:1-6. Why do you think God emphasizes the value of “paying attention to His instruction” gaining wisdom? What does it say about His love and desire to make us thrive in life?
2. Discuss ways we neglect or forsake God’s instruction or wisdom. What do you think we choose to live this way?
3. Discuss ways we individually and as a group can acquire more wisdom for our lives? How can gaining more of God’s wisdom bring glory to God?

Grow questions are more “one another” (Inward) focused, moving us closer to each other

4. Read Proverbs 4:7-13 As you read this passage, list the promises and the benefits of seeking wisdom. Which one speaks loudest to you?
5. How can we as a group help each other make better life choices?
6. Les made the statement: “Guard wisdom well, and it will guard you” What thoughts come to mind when you hear or read that? What does that look like in your life?

Go! questions are more missional and applicable (Outward) focused, moving us closer to our unsaved world

7. Les shared a story of how reading a chapter in Proverbs each day produced more wisdom in his life and ministry. Would this be a challenge you as a group would take on for a month? How will you encourage one another, keepo each other accountable?
8. Read Dueteronomy 30:11-16; 19-20. What are the challenges you read in this passage about living? What prevents you from choosing life, blessings over death and curses?
9. Read James 1:5-8 What is James saying about how God gives wisdom if we ask Him for it? If we ask, what is our part or responsibility?
10. Who do you know needs God’s wisdom? How will you help them make better life choices that are wise and full of life?

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Application: “Putting Feet on our Faith”

- What specific steps will I/We take to live out what we just discussed?
- Who can we share this message or truth with? What is their name?
- Who are you praying for to know Jesus? What is their name?
- Who will I partner with to keep me accountable so I/We can grow?

Group Prayer Time:

- **Ask if anyone has a need or knows of a need, you can also offer “unspoken” prayer requests.**
- **Pray for the person on your left, *it can be out loud or in silence*, if in silence nudge the person next to you letting them know you are done.**
- **Subgroup:** Groups of two or three (by gender) and share your week together. Pray together and for each other. Send them a text, or leave a message letting them know you have prayed for them this week.
- **Share answers to prayer as Wins!**