

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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Chris Figaretti

Message #1

April 7, 2024

HOW TO GET BETTER AT LIFE AND MAKE LIFE BETTER

1. When you think of a proverb, what do you think of?
2. When you think of wisdom, what do you think of? How does God's Word relate to wisdom?
3. Is there someone who you view as wise? What makes them wise, in your opinion?
4. What's the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
5. Chris said it's important that we "internalize" what we learn from Proverbs. What does that mean to internalize God's Word? Read Hebrews 5:11-14. What does this passage say about getting God's Word in relation to getting His Word in us (or internalizing it)?
6. Chris said that if you want to improve at a variety of things - relationships, parenting, business, money, leading, following, our purpose in life, etc.- then the Book of Proverbs is for you. What do you want to improve in life? How will understanding and applying God's Word (specifically Proverbs) help you accomplish that?
7. A proverb is a true statement about how life generally works, but it's not a promise. Can you think of any Proverbs that you have applied to your life and that have held true? Can you think of any Proverbs that you see to be true for others but haven't proven to be true in your life?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and 1 Corinthians 3:18-19. What does that say about the wisdom of our culture? What does that mean about where you should seek wisdom that lasts and will lead to lasting rewards?
9. Chris said there are two ways to get wisdom. Read James 1:5-8. According to this passage, what is the first way we can gain wisdom? How have you seen this prove to be true in your experience? How specifically do you go about asking God for wisdom? Do you do this daily? How has God responded? Share in your group to learn from one another and encourage one another.
10. Chris said the second way to gain wisdom is to learn from mistakes (ours and others). How can you/ do you learn from your own mistakes? How can you/do you learn from others?

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11. Chris shared some of King Solomon's story. In Chris' recounting, it is evident that Solomon was far from perfect, but he was also the wisest man of his day and the greatest king of ancient Israel. What can you learn from Solomon's story? Even with his mistakes, what did Solomon do that gave him so much wisdom? What can you learn from that?
12. The "why" of Proverbs is to gain (and pass on) wisdom, instruction, and understanding words of insight. What does this mean? Why is this important? Why do you think wisdom is important to God? If gaining and passing on wisdom is so important to God, what are you doing in your life to gain and pass on wisdom?
13. Wisdom can be said to be composed of three parts: insight (encapsulated truths that help us see below the surface), prudence (knowing the right thing to do or say at the right time), and discretion (the ability to act on your own judgment). How can you see these three parts playing out in your own life? How can you see them playing out in our culture? How do God's Word and the Holy Spirit help sharpen each of these three parts in you to make you a more effective ambassador of Christ?
14. According to Proverbs 1:4, you can have all the wisdom you need regardless of how educated, intelligent, or established you are by the world's standard. Do you find this to be encouraging? How have you found this to be true? Can you think of anyone who isn't necessarily well educated but whose wisdom you admire? Would you be willing to ask that person how they are so wise? Can you see the benefit of learning their secret to wisdom?
15. Read Proverbs 1:7, 8:13, 14:27, Job 28:28, Matthew 10:28, Psalm 111:10, Ecclesiastes 12:13, and Psalm 33:8. What does "the fear of the Lord" mean? Consider reading these verses in the Amplified translation of the Bible. Do they help explain what it means to fear the Lord? What is the relationship between the fear of God, knowledge, and wisdom?
16. Seriously consider this question: Do you fear God? Does the way you think, talk, and live reflect that you fear God? How can you walk out the all-important tension that God is your Lord, who is just and is to be reverently feared, and at the same time He is your Father and friend, who is full of love and grace?
17. Chris detailed the S.O.A.P. method - Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer - see the included sheet for how to do this. Will you accept Chris' daily S.O.A.P. challenge?