

DISCUSSION GUIDE (June 18, 2023)

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Message: *A Father's Wise Instruction* (series: *Wise Up*)

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Proverbs 1:2-8: *Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young... Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

Proverbs 4:14-16: *Don't do as the wicked do, and don't follow the path of evildoers. Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving. For evil people can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day. They can't rest until they've caused someone to stumble.*

Proverbs 3: 5-7: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*

Proverbs 4:20-23: *My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS: Four wise steps to help us stay on the right path

- **P**urpose of Proverbs (apply wisdom)
- **A**void the path of the wicked
- **T**rust in His plan
- **H**ear (Guard it above all else)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Proverbs 1:2-7.** The purpose of Proverbs is to understand and apply wisdom to our lives. What do you think it means when Solomon says "fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge?" Why would anyone choose to despise wisdom instead of walking in the fear of the Lord?
2. **Read Proverbs 4:14-16.** What are the paths and cliffs that you tend to tiptoe near? What is the temptation that keeps tripping you up over and over? What can you do to avoid that path and keep far away from the cliffs?
3. **Read Proverbs 3:5-7.** What leap of faith is God asking you to take? What area of your life is God asking you to trust Him for? Where in your life have you been leaning on your own understanding?
4. **Proverbs 4:20-23.** If you are honest, what are some ways you have not guarded your heart (what you see, listen to, talk about, gossip about, believe about yourself, who you date etc.)? What are some practical ways you can shield, defend and protect your heart?

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to trust in You with all of our hearts and not lean on our own understanding. Help us to fully trust in Your plan even when we can't see or understand it. Thank You for being a Heavenly Father who cares about all of the details of our lives. Amen.