



Life Group Guide

A GUIDE FOR LIFE GROUPS, FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY



SCAN TO
ACCESS LG
VIDEOS

THOUGHTS WHEN READING PROVERBS

1. *No one saying in Proverbs gives a complete picture. "Only all together do the proverbs bring us a wise, nuanced, theologically-rich, many-faceted view of the world." (Tim Keller)*
2. *Read Proverbs in light of Christ and His character.*
3. *Questions to ask yourself:*
 - ▶ *Where in my life or the life of another have I seen this illustrated?*
 - ▶ *How can I put what I've read into practice – in thought, attitude, word or deed?*
4. *How can this passage shape my prayer back to God?*

PROVERBS SERMON SERIES | SUNDAY, OCT. 31

KNOWING THE "SPHERES" - MARRIAGE/PARENTING/MONEY & WORK/SEX/POWER/ JUSTICE

BASED ON THESE READINGS

Proverbs 1:8-9, 3:9-10, 5:15-18, 8:15-16, 11:1, 11:4, 13:24, 14:31, 16:8, 16:16, 18:22, 19, 19:22, 20:17, 22:6, 23:4-5, 23:22, 23:24-25, 28:15, 28:19, 29:4, 29:7, 31:8-9, 31:10-12 | Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10*

WATCH VIDEO

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our relationship with you is the basis for every other relationship we have. Jesus commanded us, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). We praise and thank you for your care, concern, and personal involvement in the entirety of our lives. Please keep us mindful that all we have comes from you. May we place you at the center of everything as you lovingly direct and guide us. It is in your Son's name we pray. Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

What is required for a juggler to keep objects moving through the air without dropping one? What happens if the objects are different – a ball, a bowling pin, a knife?! In what ways does your life feel like a juggling act?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. According to Tim Keller: "Marriage is a covenant ; it requires life-long endurance, strengthened by our vows." How can you still show love whether or not you feel it at the time? How can loving one another be applied in all relationships? (For clarification, what is the definition of a covenant, and how is it different than a contract?)

2. "Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you" (1 Corinthians 7:17). Discuss Paul's teaching as it relates to marriage and other close relationships.
3. Why did God give us the gift of sex to be celebrated within the covenant of marriage? What happens when it is not?
4. "The ultimate goal of parenting is neither mere control nor affirmation, but to teach their children to become wise and righteous" (Tim Keller). How have you experienced this or seen it in the lives of others?
5. Read Proverbs 23:4-5, 27:23-24, 28:19 and Colossians 3:23-25. Proverbs and the New Testament provide important guidelines and encouragement for work, whether paid or unpaid. What do you glean from these verses?
6. God made all in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). Every human life is sacred and valuable (Genesis 9:6), and every person has dignity and worth that must be respected (James 2:1-9; 3:9). How do you speak for those who cannot speak for themselves – in your class, workplace, community, home, church, or other location?
7. Read Proverbs 8:12-14. In the Lord's eyes, what is the relationship between wisdom and power?

FOLLOWING JESUS

Is there a sphere or an area of life that you need to focus on or give more attention to right now? How can your relationship with Jesus enhance and support your ability to focus and therefore follow his leading?

Note: This week we celebrate the Reformation when Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses which propelled the reformation of the church. During this season it is appropriate to consider how God might reform our thoughts and actions to strengthen our faith. As Luther wrote, "From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion."

CLOSING PRAYER

Praise God for the work of Luther and other reformers in returning to the focus of God's Word for guidance in daily living. Ask the Lord to begin a "reformation" in you where your following Jesus will be Bible-based and Gospel-living centered.

Our Father...