



# Life Group Guide

A GUIDE FOR LIFE GROUPS, FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY



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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. 17

### "KNOWING OTHERS"

BASED ON THESE READINGS

Proverbs 11:13, 12:15, 13:3, 15:31-33, 16:24, 16:28, 17:9 18:2, 18:8, 18:13, 18:24, 20:6, 24:29, 26:18-19, 27:5-6, 27:17 | John 13:31-34

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

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### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are humbled by your desire and plan to establish a relationship with us. Jesus set the example for how to live in relationship with others. In John 13:34-35, Jesus commanded us to love one another. May we live our lives by Jesus' example, and may we remember that "death and life are in the power of the tongue." (Proverbs 18:21) Amen.

### CONNECTING QUESTION

Think about your closest relationships, either in childhood or adulthood. What has made them a fulfilling presence in your life?

### EXPLORE THE TEXT

### FRIENDSHIP

1. Read Proverbs 18:24. Friendship is intentional. What is the difference in your experience(s) with a "friend" on social media and someone you have a close, personal relationship with? How do you show intentional friendship to them?

2. A true friend is a gift from God. Read Proverbs 27:6. Describe what it means to experience the “wounds of a friend.” Is it difficult for you to show “tough love” or to receive “tough love” in your friendships? Why is it important to be transparent in our relationships with friends?

3. What does it mean to sharpen each other in our friendships, as “iron sharpens iron”?

### **WORDS**

1. Read Proverbs 12:14. When have the words of someone else filled you up? When have they crushed you?

2. What does it mean to have a “soothing tongue”? How can we intentionally speak truth to others to build them up? When might our words divide and stir conflict, as we read in Proverbs 16:28?

### **GOSSIP**

1. Read Proverbs 11:13. Why is gossip so alluring? What damage could be done in our Christian relationships by spreading information about another, whether or not it’s true?

2. What are some practical ways we can avoid gossip? How can we respond when we are on the receiving end of gossip?

### **LISTENING**

1. Read Proverbs 12:1,15. Why is it important to be teachable? In what ways have you observed personal growth or change due to listening to new ideas or the perspectives of others?

2. Do you struggle with receiving correction? Why or why not?

### **CONFLICT**

1. Read Proverbs 17:19. How does the sin of pride affect the way people might resolve conflict with others?

2. Read Matthew 18:15-17. What guidance does Jesus offer when it comes to handling conflict between fellow Christians?

3. Forgiveness is an essential component of resolving conflict. How does our faith in Christ inform our ability to forgive others?

### **FOLLOWING JESUS**

The words we speak hold significance in our relationships with others. What practical ways can you find to speak words of life over those close to you? How can you use your words to bring honor to God?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in cultivating the relationships in your life. Ask God to bless your life group and the relationships within it, that He would bind you together in Christian fellowship and friendship.

Our Father...