

The following study guide is to enhance your own personal study of Proverbs as well as to engage in discussion with others (including your small group) about Proverbs. Please feel free to adapt this guide to fit your needs.

As you dig deeper into Proverbs, you will assuredly come to questions you will wrestle to answer! That's okay! Ask God to direct you as you study His Word. Additionally, it may be helpful to use a commentary from our Resource Center to gain more insight on particular proverbs.

Two commentaries worth using are:

Proverbs, by Charles Bridges (Crossway Classic Commentary Series)

Proverbs, by Derek Kidner (IVP Commentary Series)

Friendship

Family

Attitude

Money

Guidance

Ice breaker:

If Solomon was the wisest man to ever live; to whom would you give the title: Wisest Living Person?

Study Guide:

1. Why is a rebuke or correction, better than hidden love? (17:17)
2. What does it mean to not "forsake the friend of your father"? (27:10)
3. "Better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away, when disaster strikes" means what? (27:10)
 - b. Are we to go to our friends and neighbors before asking for help from family?
 - c. Is it better to cultivate friendship relationships over family relationships?
4. How does one friend sharpen another? (27:17)
 - b. Who are you sharpening?
 - c. Who is sharpening you?
 - d. What changes do you need to make in your friendships if you are not improving one another?
5. Re-write 29:5 in your own words
6. Is 22:6 a principle or simply good advice?
 - b. If it is a principle, what does this Proverb mean?
7. In what ways has God shown His love for you by disciplining you?
8. What are holidays like in your family? What does it mean that the "wise servant" (slave) would share in the inheritance as a brother? (17:1-2)

9. How do you “buy the truth, get wisdom, discipline and understanding?” (22:22-24)
10. Give a definition of Pride as it is used in Proverbs. Does it have a different meaning in our culture today?
11. Is being a type “A” personality the same as being Proud?
12. In today’s culture, the plunder of the proud could be what? (16:18-19)
13. Re-write 27: 1 & 2 in your own words
14. In what ways can you “prosper” from trusting in the Lord? (28:25)
15. 3: 9-10 First encourages us to Honor God with our wealth, then 3:13-14 shows us something of much greater value, a blessing from God. What is this blessing?
16. Which is motivating you more, money or wisdom? Why?
17. A poor man has no threat of paying ransom while some with great wealth live like paupers and a good man leaves an inheritance for his children. Which of the three are you today? Which do you want to become? Why? (13:7-8,11,22)
18. What is the Benjamin Franklin saying that is based on 21:5?
19. Compare the Lord’s prayer (Mathew 6:9-13, Luke 11:1-4) to 30:8-9. What similarities do you see?
20. 3:5-6 uses the words “trust,” “understanding,” “acknowledge,” and “straight.” Rewrite the proverb using different key words.
21. List the promises you find in 4:11-15.
22. Have you ever failed for lack of counsel?

Wealth: which is it? Sermon Questions:

1. Proverbs are truisms, not promises. How do we come to this conclusion? Can you relate an example?
2. Read Proverbs 15:16
 - a) In your own words this Proverb means what?
 - b) What was meant by money is morally neutral?
 - c) Why is wealth a poor source of happiness? (3:13-14)
 - d) Why is wealth described as a “rich source of temptation?” (28:6)
 - e) How are we to acquire wealth? (13:11)

f) How are we to use wealth? (Proverbs 3:9-10)

3. The three principles of wealth:

Responsibility: the greater the blessing; the greater the responsibility before God.

Opportunity: the challenge to focus your resources on building God's kingdom.

Potentiality: the potential for even greater blessings both on earth as well as heavenly blessings.

How do these principles affect your actions and attitudes around money and wealth?