



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Proverbs: "The Starting Point of Wisdom"

GETTING STARTED

What is the best advice you've ever been given? What is the worst advice? What was the difference?

What makes someone foolish or wise?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What kind of book is Proverbs?

Dave mentioned there are three assumptions we must make about the book to interpret the message of Proverbs accurately:

1. That wisdom comes from God and is woven into the world around us
2. Wisdom has been accumulated by wise people in past generations
3. Proverbs are not promises, but general truths

Why is this vital if we are to interpret and apply the meaning of Proverbs to our lives?

What does the writer in Proverbs 1:2-4 say the purpose of Proverbs are?

What is our role and response to in reading Proverbs (1:5-6 & 2:1-4)

Why is the "fear of the Lord" the beginning (foundation) of knowledge/wisdom?

"Fear" can be both Reverence/Awe that draws us to God and also healthy Respect (terrifying) that restrains us? How have you seen both aspects of fear be important to making wise, godly decisions?

What would it look like for you seek God's wisdom in your life? What benefits would there be?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Proverbs 1]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Who wrote this section of Proverbs? (1:1)

Why did Solomon write Proverbs? (1:1-7)

What three types of individuals are mentioned by Solomon? (1:1-7)

Where does wisdom come from? (1:7)

About what sort of enticements did Solomon warn us? (1:8-19)

What happens to those who pursue ill-gotten gain? (1:19)

How did Solomon describe wisdom? (1:20-21)

How did Solomon describe the simple person, the mocker, and the fool? (1:22)

How does wisdom treat those who reject her? (1:24-27)

What is the result of not accepting wisdom? (1:28-32)

What is the result of accepting wisdom? (1:33)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How is the fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge?

What does it mean to fear the Lord?

What type of knowledge and discipline do fools despise?

What are the benefits of living wisely?

What are the consequences of living foolishly?

How does your life-style reflect your acceptance or rejection of wisdom?

Why and how do people reject wisdom?

When and why have you been tempted to pursue ill-gotten gain?

Why do you agree or disagree with the principle that both the wise and the fool reap what they sow?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?