



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Proverbs: "Three Virtues of the Wise"

GETTING STARTED

How would you describe someone who is virtuous or someone who is not virtuous?
What is the wisest decision you ever made...what is the most foolish decision you ever made?
How does knowing Jesus is the only "virtuous one" help us better read and apply Proverbs?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
How can we "suffer" from moral overconfidence? How is this connected (or corrected) to understanding that wisdom is based in the "Fear of the Lord"?
Dave mentioned three (of which there are many in Proverbs) virtues of the wise... Honesty, Prudence and Honor...
How are these three virtues underappreciated today?
How can developing these virtues in our lives be beneficial to: our relationship with others, our relationship with God and our relationship to those who are in authority?
Which virtue is most difficult? Why?
Agree/Disagree: "Trust is built on truthfulness rather than truth". How does dishonesty or untruthfulness undermine trust?
What can you learn from how we ought to respond to a fool or foolishness? (Proverbs 26:4-11)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Proverbs 14:1-16]

(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.

What themes did Solomon develop throughout the proverbs in this chapter? (14:1-35)
How did Solomon illustrate the differences between the wise person and the foolish person? (14:1-35)
On what general areas of life do these verses touch? (14:1-35)
How does the fool's talk contrast with that of the wise? (14:3)
*What is the difference between a truthful witness and a false witness? (14:5, 25)
What does the mocker seek but not find? (14:6)
What is the wisdom of the prudent? (14:8)
Where is goodwill found? (14:9)
What does each heart know? (14:10)
Where does the way that seems right lead? (14:12)
What are the rewards of the good person and the faithless? (14:14)
To what does the prudent person give thought? (14:15)

What does the wise person do? (14:16)
What does a quick-tempered person do? (14:17)
How should a person treat those in need? (14:21, 31)
What do those who plan what is good find? (14:22)
What are the results of hard work? mere talk? (14:23)
What did Solomon say about the fear of the Lord? (14:26-27)
What do a heart at peace and envy do? (14:30)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How might a person's speech protect him or her?
When have loose lips gotten you into trouble?
Why would a mocker be unable to find wisdom?
What does it mean to give thought to one's steps?
Why is it that many people seem to live their life without giving much thought to what they are doing with their life?
How can we reflect on our steps in life?
Why is it hard to understand genuinely another person's heartache?
How might the way that leads to death seem like the right way to some people?
What are some of the "wrong ways" in life or "false philosophies" that people you know are following?
When is it hard for you to exercise prudence?
What sort of relationship do these verses suggest there is between mental and physical health?

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?