


Connection

In what area of your life do you need some wisdom?

Cheer and Challenge

- Were you able to live out your “I will...” statement from last week? Share your experience with the group.
- Talk about your experience following through on last week’s  challenge.

Content

Four Things We Gain from Living a True Life of Wisdom

A life of wisdom leads to ... Success

Read Proverbs 1:1-7 out loud or play a version from your Bible app (NLT, NIV, etc.).

1. What does the passage say about wisdom, discipline, knowledge, discernment?
2. How do you decide whether a choice or action is “right, just and fair”?
3. What is the foundation of true knowledge?

A life of wisdom leads to ... Direction

Read Proverbs 2:1-5, 9.

4. What does God promise in this passage when we seek His wisdom?
5. Most of us would not go to the dangerous and amusing lengths that the characters in the movie “National Treasure” went to secure a treasure that wasn’t even known to exist. What then does seeking wisdom “like treasure” look like in real life? What are you willing to actually do?
6. In what kind of circumstances might someone go to extremes to get answers for the direction they seek?

A life of wisdom leads to ... Satisfaction

Read Proverbs 3:13-18.

7. Make a list of all the things wisdom is from these verses.

8. Which, if any, of the descriptors from your list have you seen happen in your life?

A life of wisdom leads to ... Clarity

Read Proverbs 8:6-11

9. In what ways is wisdom calling out to us in these verses?

10. Since wisdom, according to God's word, brings clarity, why do you think people look to what the world has to offer as wisdom instead of looking to God's truth?

11. What is our part of gaining clarity according to verses 6, 9, and 10? What must we do?

12. Read Proverbs 3:21-22. What two actions must we do to have refreshment in our souls?

Commitment

I know that when life is chaotic, confusing or distracting, God wants me to experience His wisdom so based on these verses, "I will _____."



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve them. Share your story.

This week's challenge: As you encounter troubling or even fear-inspiring news, begin with prayer. Reflect on God's truth, the starting point for wisdom and for the situation.

Continue Digging Deeper

1. Write out Proverbs 1:7 and practice memorizing it.

2. As you begin your study of Proverbs, take some time to dig deeper into the book and how it fits into the story of the Bible. If you have a study Bible, read the beginning description about the book of Proverbs or use an online resource to answer the questions below.

- Who, inspired by God, wrote the book of Proverbs?
- What are some of the major themes of the book of Proverbs?
- When was the book written and what was happening in culture at this time?
- Who is Solomon and what details can you find out about him? Can you find anywhere else he is mentioned in the Bible?
- Where was the author when he wrote the book?
- What is a proverb and how are they able to span time, cultures, locations and still be relevant and speak truth?
- What makes it challenging when studying the book of Proverbs (specifically discussed in the Blue Letter Bible article)?
- Why should we study the book of Proverbs and what can you hope to learn? (Proverbs 1:1-7)

Online resources to consider:

- "Introduction to Proverbs" by John MacArthur on Blue Letter Bible. (https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/macarthur_john/bible-introductions/proverbs-intro.cfm)
- Summary of Proverbs from various commentaries on Bible Hub. (<https://biblehub.com/sum/proverbs/>)
- Search for Proverbs resources on the Gospel Coalition (www.gospelcoalition.org)
- Precept Austin: (https://www.preceptaustin.org/article_list)

3. Hunger and thirst are metaphors for the emptiness without God. Journal on what you fill the emptiness with. How do those choices "fill" you? Meditate on these questions the next time you complete a simple task like washing dishes, working out, or going for a walk.

4. These days, our culture likes to relativize everything by mixing truth with opinion. This can result in unfair judgments on many aspects of daily life. On the other hand, this same perspective allows people to avoid accountability for their behavior and leads to chaos. There is right and wrong, absolute truth. Biblical Proverbs share godly wisdom that we can apply to our lives. God calls us to wisdom because He is wise.

Read: **Psalm** 25:5; 51:6; 69:13; **John** 3:21; 4:23; 8:32; 14:6; 17:17; **Ephesians** 4:15.

What do these passages say about truth?

Where have you observed relativism?

How do current movies or books reflect relativism?

(Adapted from Paul Copan, True for You, But Not for Me Study Questions, see: http://www.paulcopan.com/books/pdf/True_for_You-Small_Group_Study-Questions.pdf)