



Week Three

Opening Prayer God, thank you for your words of wisdom. Help us today as we take a closer look at how to apply them to our everyday life. Thank you for a safe community to help us process wisdom and its role in our life. Amen.

Talk It Over

This week we continued our series called *40 Days of Wisdom*. During this series, the hope is that we learn to lean into wisdom — specifically the wisdom offered through the book of Proverbs. Proverbs will serve as our primary resource for this series on wisdom because this book was written with the hope and goal of helping people live wisely.

- What is your relationship with wisdom? How has this week of reading proverbs gone for you? If you have not done any of the readings, that's okay, but if you feel led, talk about why with your group.

**Note to group leaders: Make sure you review the description of proverbs each week for anyone new.*

To help us engage with the book of Proverbs, let's review this simple overview of the Bible:

Part of engaging with the Bible means understanding that the Bible is not one book, it is the collection of 66 different books, written by 40 authors, and spanning over 1,500 years. While the Bible tells a unified story of God's love for all and his plan to redeem all things, it's important to understand there are various genres represented in the Bible. For example, in the Bible, we find historical narrative, laws, wisdom, psalms, prophecies, gospels, epistles, and three different kinds of statements in Scripture. Those three different statements fall under the category of law (commands to follow), promises (guarantees of what God will do or what will happen), or proverbs (a catchy description about the way things generally are).

- What are some of the proverbs you've heard? Think short little expressions and sayings meant to communicate some larger truth or wisdom. If you did this last week, have you thought of any more this week? Did you make up any of your own?

Read Proverbs 21:5 (NIV)

This week we looked at the wisdom found in Proverbs around the topic of money and the idea that every time you receive financial funds or a paycheck you have the opportunity to practice wisdom.

- What is your journey with finances? Were you taught how to manage money well or did you have to learn the hard way?
- What's one wise saying or phrase you have learned when it comes to money and personal finances?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10 (ESV); Genesis 4:2-7 (NIV); Proverbs 22:7 (NIV)

Creating a plan when it comes to finances is crucial in being able to experience health in this area. This week we looked at the story of Cain and Abel as an example of what can go wrong when we step out of the covering God provides and his blessing in our lives.

- How does the idea of thanking and honoring God with your finances land with you? Is that something you have considered before? How does that work for you in your everyday life?
- Discuss the difference between Give - Save - Spend and Spend - Save - Give. If you are a Christ follower why is this important?

Read Proverbs 27: 23-24; Proverbs 13:22 (NIV)

Creating a financial margin allows us to create our future as well as respond to the current moment. It relieves our stress and allows us to engage with more. We looked at three different types of givers: *Emerging Giver*, *Committed Giver*, and *Extravagant Giver*.

- If you currently give a portion of your income to an organization which one of these three would you describe as your current giving identity? Where do you want to be? Why?
- What do you notice about God when it comes to your finances? What is he leading you into? Is there a level of pride or shame as you consider the idea of money?
- God does not set your identity based on your giving. He is more focused on the heart behind your giving decisions. How does that truth land with you?

Read Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

- What does the idea of testing God with your finances evoke in you?
- Is God inviting you into changing something in your life around finances?
- How can you respond differently with the wisdom you have reflected on this week?

Closing Prayer

God, help us to surrender our desires and finances to you. Guide us in this important area of our lives. Speak to us this week as we continue to explore and contemplate your teaching and wisdom in this area. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.