



40 Days of Wisdom

Opening Prayer

God, you know us and love us. Help us to use our time today to grow more aware of ourselves, your love, and the next steps you have for us as individuals and as a group. Amen.

Talk It Over

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. This week we specifically looked at what the wisdom in the Bible has to teach us about work.

- This week we heard the idea that we spend one third of life working. What encompasses or defines your work life this season?
- Looking back to your childhood, for better or worse, who taught you about work?
- What lessons are you grateful you learned?
- Tell us about *how* a meaningful leader, teacher, parent, guide or mentor taught you about work.
- These days whose influential voice shapes how you approach your work life?

This week we looked at four ways to improve how we approach work. During our time together, we will be going through those four learnings together.

One — Don't be entitled. Be invested.

Read Proverbs 24:30-32 (TPT)

- Tell us about a time you wanted something but you didn't want to work for it.
- In what ways do you approach work from a place of feeling entitled?
- In what ways do you feel invested in your work this season?

Two — Make excellence your brand.

Read Proverbs 22:29 (Voice) and Luke 16:10 (Voice)

- Do you feel your work ethic matches what you want?
- In what ways are you intentionally honing and developing your skills this season?
- Tell us about someone you know who has an excellent work ethic. What do you observe this person doing that makes them stand out?
- Define what it means to have a poor work ethic. Without telling us names or too many details, feel free to use examples to help us develop a contrast with excellence.

(Content continued on the next page.)

- In what ways are you struggling with being faithful in your work this season? What is causing the struggle for you?

Three — Lead before you're a leader.

Read Proverbs 14:23 (NLT) and Psalm 90:17 (NIV)

- If someone were to look at your history of work, what would they see?
- On the topic of work specifically, what have you done with what God has already given you?

Four — It's not just work. It's worship.

While we often think of worship as a time of singing to God, worship is much more than that. Worship is about a posture of surrendering, seeking, and honoring God.

Read Colossians 3:23 (TPT) and Colossians 3:23 (VOICE). *This is the same verse but in different translations.*

- In your own words, describe what it means to serve God in all you do?
- Looking at your specific life, how can you see the ways your work is worship?
- In what ways can you shift your attitude, performance, or work ethic to better worship God with your work?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

Part of worshipping God with our work is not letting our work be our worship. This is often easier to walk out when we understand we cannot find our true identity in what we do. We don't work to be loved, we don't work for value, we don't work to be accepted by God, and on and on. When our work comes from a settled place in our heart, with an understanding of who we are in Christ, we right size our work and all our work to become an avenue in which we worship God.

- Have you ever struggled with worshipping your work? If so, tell us about that season.
- In what ways this season do you see the need for you to adjust how you are approaching work?

Closing Prayer

God, thank you for the opportunity you have given us to worship you through our work. Help us to approach our work from a place of freedom. May we spend our life honoring you in our work. 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.