

**OCF Small Groups:** *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

## **Proverbs**

(Sunday, July 5)

1.
  - a. What's one of the dumbest or most embarrassing things you've ever done?
  - b. What's something you wish you'd known ten years ago that you know today?
  - c. If you had 72 hours to spend with three people, past or present, whom you consider full of wisdom, who would those people be?
  
2. Read Proverbs 1: 7 and 9:10. Think about wisdom and folly. The contrast between the way of wisdom and the way of folly dominates the entire book. The way of wisdom, the fear of the Lord, is set against the way of folly, which in Proverbs is equated with evil.
  - a. What is wisdom?
  - b. Why does wisdom start with fearing God?
  - c. How are fearing God and gaining wisdom connected?
  - d. What heart attitude revealed here classifies someone as a fool?
  
3.
  - a. What is the difference between a "scoffer" and a "wise man" (9: 7-9)?
  - b. How open are you to being corrected by someone on a scale of 1 (no way) to 10 (absolutely)? Why is that?
  - c. If you are not at a 10, then what would make it easier for you to hear the input a critic has to offer?
  - d. When have you tried to correct someone else? What happened?

4.
  - a. In passing along wisdom from one generation to another (4: 1-5), what's involved? Setting a good example? Being good with words? Minding your "P's and Q's"? Long lists of "Dos and Don'ts"?
  - b. Of all the father-son or mother-daughter talks you've had, which one stands out as the most helpful in the long run?
  - c. What are some ways we can pass wisdom along to our younger generation?
  
5. Read Proverbs 8:10-11. Why are the gifts that Wisdom offers more valuable than material riches? Why can't material riches even compare to wisdom?
  
6. What building blocks of wisdom do you need for your "house" to flourish (14: 1)? What stumbling blocks of "folly" should you avoid for that same reason?
  
7. The moral wisdom of Proverbs not only permeates our inmost being, it directs us into the future (see chapter 20 vv. 4, 7, 10, 17, 20). How have you seen wisdom have an impact on the future of your own life and in the lives of others?
  
8.
  - a. What do these "words of the wise" (see chapter 22 vv. 17-21) sound like? Empathy? Game rules? Parent talk? Candid confessions? Why do they strike you in that way? Is it the tone? Context? Or what?
  - b. Toward what end is this instruction in wisdom given? How prepared are you to give "a true answer"? Explain

9. The “wise” man compares honey and wisdom (24: 13-14). They are both good and sweet.
- a. Why is wisdom good and “sweet” to our soul?
  - b. How does finding or discovering this sweetness provide “a future” for those who find and absorb it?
10. Think about your own road to wisdom.
- a. Are you (a) Stuck in traffic? (b) Backtracking? (c) In the fast lane? Or (d) In Fool’s alley? Why?
  - b. Where are you in need of wisdom right now?

## **SCRIPTURE MEDITATION**

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

## **PRAYER EXERCISE**

Loving Father, as the pressures of life are pressing down hard on me, I want to hold fast to the faith and patiently endure. Give me the wisdom I need to face the future with all joy, knowing my life is hidden with Christ in God. Help me to grow in grace and in wisdom as I rest in Your love and trust in Your word, in Jesus name I pray,  
AMEN.