

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR PROVERBS

WARM UP

What was a primary takeaway for you from Sunday's sermon on Proverbs?

What type of person (or even a specific person) comes to mind when you consider wisdom? Why do you consider them wise? And how have you seen that wisdom displayed?

EXPLORATION

1. Proverbs 1:1-7 is a great summary of the purpose of Proverbs: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." Read and pray over these few verses together. What is the fear of the LORD, and why would that then be the beginning of wisdom?
2. Ancient Hebrew poetry does not typically rhyme like is common in poetry today, but hinges on parallelism. Within the book of Proverbs especially, the majority of the proverbs employ antithetical parallelism, which is where the second line of a verse negates or directly opposes the first line. Pick a few verses together and discuss how this type of parallelism helps illuminate the understanding of the proverbs by showing the dichotomy of the two lines. Hint: Look for verses where the second line starts with "but". Chapter 15 has a lot of them.
3. Proverbs is a host of relatively concise (and somewhat unrelated) sayings on how to live wisely in God's world, which is unlike many of the books that we have previously covered which are narrative accounts. How then does this book fit into the greater redemptive story of the bible? How do you see this book point to Jesus?
4. While Proverbs may be the most well-known "wisdom book" in the bible, there are a plethora of other canonical books that include great wisdom. What other books or verses come to mind when considering wisdom?

APPLICATION

When reading the Proverbs (especially as believers under the New Covenant) we must remember that the proverbs are not promises, but principles or probabilities. They are generalized understandings on the way that God has ordered the world.

Which proverbs stand out the most to you or have been the most meaningful in your life and walk with the Lord? Consider meditating this week over key proverbs that encouraged you in your walk, convicted you of sin in your life, or brought you to worship over our great and wise King.

