

## Message Discussion Guide

### WALKING IN WISDOM

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*June 6, 2010*

*Proverbs*

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This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

### **Connect . . .**

*Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.*

#### **Option 1**

Invite learners to share about someone in their lives that they feel were/are wise. Encourage them to share how this person has demonstrated wisdom. Explain that today we will discuss how we become wise.

#### **Option 2**

Encourage learners to name attributes or characteristics of a wise person. Allow a couple of minutes for learners to share their ideas. Explain that today we will discuss how a person becomes wise and what the most important characteristic is.

### **Review the Message . . .**

#### The Question We Anxiously Ask...

What is God's \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ for my life?

#### Creation...

- Man in complete harmony with the \_\_\_\_\_ Creator \_\_\_\_\_.
- Man in complete harmony with the \_\_\_\_\_ creation \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Fall...

- Man's relationship with the Creator \_\_\_\_\_ destroyed \_\_\_\_\_.
- Man's relationship with the creation \_\_\_\_\_ distorted \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Discussion**

- Looking at Genesis 2 and 3, contrast the relationships between the following parties: God and Adam and Eve; Adam and Eve; Adam, Eve, and the world around them.
- How did Adam and Eve's relationship with God affect their relationships with everything else?
- Looking specifically at Genesis 3:1-6, when did Eve and Adam begin to think about and carry out their unwise decision to eat of the tree? Emphasize that when they

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turned away from obeying God, they began to make decisions apart from His will and in contradiction to His Word. Point out the fact that the serpent offered council (“wisdom”) of a different sort.

- Enlist a learner to read Proverbs 1:1-7. How does this passage explain the purpose of the book?
- Read Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10. Who is the Creator and Giver of wisdom? Accordingly, how does a person become wise and make wise decisions in life?
- How is wisdom a direct result of a right relationship with God? Explain that Proverbs describes how a relationship with God plays into the daily lives of Christ-followers.

#### Application . . .

- From where/whom do we most often seek wisdom and guidance when we have decisions to make?
- When do we seek God’s guidance? Does it matter if the decision is a small or big one?
- What sources influence our decisions in matters of choosing what clothing to wear, what food to eat, what job to pursue, or where to live? What role should our relationship with God play in decisions such as those listed?
- Why is it so difficult to know how to follow God in every detail of our lives?

#### Redemption Anticipated in Solomon...

- God-centered \_\_\_\_\_ worship \_\_\_\_\_ at the temple.
  - Revere His \_\_\_\_\_ person \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The Lord is the almighty \_\_\_\_\_ creator \_\_\_\_\_ of all things.
    - The Lord is the sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ sustainer \_\_\_\_\_ of all things.
    - The Lord is the eternal \_\_\_\_\_ judge \_\_\_\_\_ of all peoples.
  - Rejoice in His \_\_\_\_\_ grace \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Receive His \_\_\_\_\_ Word \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Remember His \_\_\_\_\_ purpose \_\_\_\_\_.
- God-given \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom \_\_\_\_\_ for the king.
  - Proverbs are \_\_\_\_\_ guidelines \_\_\_\_\_ for living, not \_\_\_\_\_ guarantees \_\_\_\_\_ in life.
  - In the family...
    - \_\_\_\_\_ Love \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse loyally.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ Instruct \_\_\_\_\_ your children intentionally.
  - Among friends...
    - Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ evil \_\_\_\_\_ company.
    - Promote \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ companionship.
  - With words...
    - Guard what you \_\_\_\_\_ say \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Guard what you \_\_\_\_\_ hear \_\_\_\_\_.
  - With wealth...
    - Hard \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_ is valuable.

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- Helping the       needy       is vital.
- Extreme       wealth and extreme poverty both appear undesirable.

### Discussion

**(Note that David provided a quick overview of primary themes in Proverbs, not solely focusing on one particular passage.)**

- Enlist a learner to read 1 Kings 3:5-12 and 4:29-34. How did Solomon become so wise?
- Remind learners that at the time Proverbs was written by Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was at the pinnacle of right worship of God (Solomon was building His temple) and at the height of wisdom as a result (Solomon was leading in obedience and wisdom given by God).
- Enlist three learners to read Proverbs 3:19-20, 16:8-9, and 11:21. Who is the primary focus of attention in Proverbs? Why?
- Enlist three learners to read Proverbs 3:3-6, 28:12, and 13:13. How are God's people supposed to interact with Him as they seek His wisdom?
- Read Proverbs 5:15-19 and 23:13-14. How do these passages represent needed wisdom in family life?
- Enlist three learners to read Proverbs 24:1, 10:18-20, and 30:7-9. How do these passages represent needed wisdom in relationships and money?
- How do these truths in Proverbs serve as guidelines for God's people and not hard guarantees in life?

### Application . . .

- How does our worship of God affect how we seek and live out wisdom?
- How do we find godly wisdom and know how to act upon it?
- Why should we be concerned with acting wisely in the middle of a world that does not attribute wisdom or knowledge to God?
- Why would the nature of the family be one of the large focuses in Proverbs? Why is the family such a tremendous part of reflecting God's glory to the world?
- What does a marriage relationship look like when lived with wisdom? What does parenting children, teenagers, and adults look like when lived with wisdom?
- Why should so much attention be focused on our words, friends, and godly behavior in Proverbs? How do those areas affect our witness for Christ?
- Why should our handling of money in a wise way be a priority in our lives?
- What are some things that keep Christians from working hard to provide for their families?

### Redemption Achieved in Christ...

- He is the true       temple      .
  - Jesus       enables       the worship of God.
- He is the perfect       king      .

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- Jesus embodies the wisdom of God.

#### Redemption Applied in Us...

- In Christ, we live in continual worship.
  - Revere His person humbly.
  - Rejoice in His grace wholeheartedly.
  - Receive His Word consistently.
  - Remember His purposes daily.
- In Christ, we walk with continual wisdom.
  - He gives His wisdom to us whenever we ask.
  - He guides us in His wisdom wherever we go.

#### Discussion

- Enlist two learners to read John 2:18-22 and Matthew 12:38-42.
- How did Jesus provide a greater temple and source of wisdom than Solomon?
- If wisdom is the fruit of a relationship with God, what did Jesus' perfect relationship with God (The Father) indicate about the nature of His decisions and actions?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Why did Jesus' life and crucifixion appear to be foolishness but actually was the embodiment of wisdom?
- How do Christ-followers become wise, according to this passage? Is it something they can do in their own power?

#### Application . . .

- What does a worshipful relationship with Christ look like with regards to our affections toward Him, our attitude toward His work in our lives, our time in His Word, and our participation in His mission?
- What is the only way that we can act wisely in this world?
- How will our wisdom possibly look to the world?
- Why must we seek wisdom from God and not ourselves?
- How can we have confidence that God will not only give us wisdom but also lead us in following it?

#### The Answer We Gladly Receive...

God desires for me to know and follow His will so much that  
He lives in me and leads me to accomplish it.