

## Proverbs

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### **Bible Study at a Glance:**

This study is intended to expose participants to the book of Proverbs. It explores a few verses with reflection questions on each.

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(Explain to the Group) Let the group know this bible study is just to explore a sampling of verses from the book of Proverbs in order to give everyone a sense of the content of the book.

(Explain to the Group) = You don't have to read this word for word, but this is the general idea of what to explain before moving on.

- **Q: These are questions to ask the whole group**
  - *A: Hopefully the group arrives at most of the answers on their own, but if they don't, redirect the discussion towards these answers, and be sure to tell the group the answers if no one quite got it.*

CCC/Verses and quotes to read out loud are in boxes.

***Proverbs 1:7:** Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

- **Q: Why do you think fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (or wisdom in other translations)?**
  - *A: One point worth bringing out in the discussion is fearing God is acknowledging our creaturely status. It is the height of foolishness to think we were not created by God. That acknowledgment leads to all kinds of good things, namely a humble attitude toward God and the blessings that stem from that.*

***Proverbs 19:17:** Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord, who will pay back the sum in full.*

- **Q: Does Proverbs 19:17 change how you think about giving to the poor?**
  - *A: God identifies directly with the poor by saying lending to them is the same as lending to him. Instead of thinking we are solely doing the poor favors by giving to them, we should think that we are doing an even greater favor to ourselves.*

***Proverbs 10:19:** Where words are many, sin is not wanting; but those who restrain their lips do well.*

- **Q: Do you find it to be true in your life that it's easy to sin when "words are many"? Have you considered proactively "restraining your lips"?**
  - *A: A worthwhile point to highlight is the fact that this verse implies we have the ability, the agency, to control how much we're talking. We don't have to just hope that we don't sin with our words, we can take steps to control what we say and when.*

*Proverbs 3: 5-6: Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely;<sup>6</sup> In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.*

- **Q: This is a verse of encouragement. Does any particular part stand out for you?**
- **Q: Have you ever read the book of Proverbs or parts of it? If so, what was your impression? Did God speak to you through it in some way?**