



PROVERBS CHAPTER 1 (FACILITATOR)

BACKDROP OF PROVERBS

- The book of Proverbs is part of the wisdom literature genre in the Bible that also includes the books of Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.
- The book of Proverbs is different than the other wisdom literature books in that it is presenting and giving real life and practical wisdom in short statements that are not necessarily organized by topic.
- The entire book of Proverbs is probably the work of several authors inspired by God and the Holy Spirit and not just King Solomon.

WHY PROVERBS?

- There are large differences between being intelligent and being wise and there are also large differences between having knowledge and applying that knowledge.
 - Proverbs is not only encouraging the reader to obtain knowledge and facts about God but is primarily challenging the reader to put the knowledge and facts that they have about God into daily and consistent action in their lives.
- The book of Proverbs is about the application of knowledge (wisdom) and how to pursue this wisdom as a lifestyle rather than just information to be digested and held onto.

Discussion Starter

- Do you consider yourself to be a better listener or talker? Why?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being better at either of those?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

Tell the Story

- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.

Read the Story (Proverbs 1:1-33)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Proverbs 1:1-7

- What are some of the purposes of Proverbs set forth in verses 1-7 and which one resonates most with you at this point in time?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Do you think that we live in a culture of information overload currently? What are the differences between a culture of information versus a culture of wisdom from God and His word?
 - The first question is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator. A culture of information typically revolves around what people think, believe, and feel is right and appropriate whereas a culture of wisdom from God and His word has everything to do with how people (we) are living out who God is and what He says in our everyday lives.
 - What is difficult for you about living out what God's word says?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Proverbs 1:8-19

- In what ways does 1 Corinthians 15:33 relate to this section of verses?
 - Proverbs 1:8-19 is a more detailed explanation of the principle found in 1 Corinthians 15:33, namely that the people I choose to closely associate myself with are going to be the people who have some of the strongest influence and impact on me both for the good and the bad. While this passage is calling us to pay close attention to whom we hang out with and build close relationships with, this passage is not calling us to only have friendships with individuals who know Jesus.
- How do you balance well building strong relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ and building strong relationships with those who don't yet know Jesus and/or who may be adamantly opposed to Jesus? How should these relationships look similar? How should these relationships look different?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Proverbs 1:19-33

- Why do you think that wisdom is characterized as a person?
 - This personification of wisdom allows the reader to see that God is earnest in His pursuit of us. He's not some distant God or Creator who doesn't care about us or the decisions that we make. Rather, His heart is for us, and He desires the best for us, and He is constantly and consistently pursuing us.
 - In what ways do you allow the noise from the world around you to drown out God's voice that is calling to you? How can God's voice be the voice that you pay the most attention to in your daily life?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?

- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week. (Proverbs chapter 2)

PROVERBS CHAPTER 1 (STUDENT)

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Proverbs 1:8-19

- In what ways does 1 Corinthians 15:33 relate to this section of verses?

- How do you balance well building strong relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ and building strong relationships with those who don't yet know Jesus and/or who may be adamantly opposed to Jesus? How should these relationships look similar? How should these relationships look different?

Proverbs 1:19-33

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 - In what ways do you allow the noise from the world around you to drown out God's voice that is calling to you? How can God's voice be the voice that you pay the most attention to in your daily life?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

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