



Week 3: Various Proverbs

### **HIS RELATIONSHIPS**

The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings and teachings traditionally attributed to King Solomon. Imparting practical wisdom for living a righteous, disciplined, and prudent life, Proverbs teaches through vivid imagery and timeless principles. These passages selected capture elements of wisdom related to the value of stewarding

*Although not impossible, often these proverbs are not organized thematically, and so context is often of little help.*

#### **PROVERBS CONCERNING THE WISE STEWARDING OF OUR CHILDREN**

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. (Proverbs 3:11-12)

Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart. (Proverbs 29:17)

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

#### **PROVERBS CONCERNING THE WISE STEWARDING OF OUR FRIENDSHIPS**

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. (Proverbs 13:20)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy. (Proverbs 27:5-6)

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24)

---

<sup>1</sup>Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®. copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 3

### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Reflecting on your childhood, what three adjectives would you use to describe it, and why?
2. Who is your closest friend right now? What qualities make this person your best friend?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. Reflect on Proverbs 3:11. Why do you think people often 'despise' discipline? How does this manifest in your own life?
4. Does the idea that disciplining a child shows love make sense to you? How might this proverb be misused by parents?
5. Reflect on Proverbs 29:17. According to this verse, what benefits can come from raising a child with godly discipline? What might that look like in practice?
6. Proverbs 22:6 speak of intentional training of our children. What does/did that look like in your home?
7. Imagine a close friend has read these verses and feels overwhelmed by past parenting mistakes instead of feeling motivated to change. How could you encourage your friend to move forward with grace?

8. Moving now to friendships, rephrase Proverbs 13:20 in a way that makes sense to you. Have you ever experienced firsthand the truthfulness of this proverb?
  
9. Read Proverbs 17:17 and think of a friend who is currently facing a struggle. How could you support them today in their time of adversity?
  
10. What does "faithful are the wounds of a friend" mean? Do you see this applying to any of your current friendships? Would you be eager or hesitant to act on it? Why or why not?
  
11. Compare Proverbs 18:24 with John 15:12-17. How do these verses relate to Jesus' life and work for us? How might understanding what Christ has done for us influence how we view our friendships?