

Improving Your Lead – Biblical Wisdom for Christian Leaders from the Book of Proverbs

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OUR SESSIONS TODAY:

Morning

- Session 1: Toward Improving Your Planning Proverbs 16:1-9
Session 2: Toward Guarding Your Perspective Proverbs 24:23-34

Afternoon

- Session 3: Toward Deepening Your Resolve Proverbs 30:1-9

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide biblical insight for effective, godly leadership in the church by appropriating principles set forth in the book of Proverbs.
2. To encourage personal study of the Scriptures by exploring together three biblical texts, from which will be derived life-related principles for application to one's specific ministry situation.
3. To cultivate a renewed commitment to God-honoring ministry and effective congregational care as a result of immersing ourselves in his Word and being open to the work he desires to do in and through each of us.

INTRODUCTION: The Book of Proverbs at a Glance

Proverbs 1:1-7

Purpose

1:7 the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,

Proverbs 1:8-9:18

Parental Instructions

1:29 and they did not choose the fear of the Lord
2:5 then you will discern the fear of the Lord
8:13 the fear of the Lord is to hate evil
9:10 the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

Wisdom vs. Foolishness

Proverbs 10:1-15:33

EMPHASIS: *how things usually are/ought to be*

10:27 the fear of the Lord prolongs life
14:26 in the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence
14:27 the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life,
15:16 better is a little with the fear of the Lord than . . .
15:33 the fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom

First Solomonic Collection of Sayings

Proverbs 16:1-22:16

EMPHASIS: *how things do not always go as they should*

16:6 and by the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil
19:23 the fear of the Lord [leads] to life
22:4 the reward of humility, the fear of the Lord, is riches, honor and life

Righteous vs. Wicked

Proverbs 22:17-24:22

Sayings of the Wise: Collection of Admonitions

23:17 do not let your heart envy sinners, but [live] in the fear of the Lord always

Proverbs 24:23-34

More Sayings of the Wise

Proverbs 25:1-27:27

Second Solomonic Collection of Sayings

Proverbs 28:1-29:27

Antithetical Proverbs

Justice vs. Righteousness

Proverbs 30:1-33

Sayings of Agur

Proverbs 31:1-31

Sayings of King Lemuel

SESSION 1

Toward Improving Your Planning

Proverbs 16:1-9

BIG IDEA: Our plans must always be made with the desire that God’s plan will be accomplished.

TEXT (ESV)

PRINCIPLES

1a The plans of the heart belong to man,

1b but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

2a All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,

2b but the Lord weighs the spirit.

3a Commit your work to the Lord,

3b and your plans will be established.

4a The Lord has made everything for its purpose,

4b even the wicked for the day of trouble.

5a Everyone who is arrogant in heart
is an abomination to the Lord;

5b be assured, he will not go unpunished.

6a By steadfast love and faithfulness
iniquity is atoned for,

6b and by the fear of the Lord
one turns away from evil.

7a When a man's ways please the Lord,

7b he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

8a Better is a little with righteousness

8b than great revenues with injustice.

9a The heart of man plans his way,

9b but the Lord establishes his steps.

1. The success of our plans depends ultimately

on _____

(16:1-4).

2. The success of our plans depends ultimately

on _____

(16:5-7).

3. The success of our plans depends ultimately

on _____

(16:8-9).

SESSION 2

Toward Guarding Your Perspective

Proverbs 24:23-34

BIG IDEA: Wise living and godly decision-making require appropriating God's perspective.

TEXT (ESV)

PRINCIPLES

23a These also are sayings of the wise.

23b Partiality in judging is not good.

24a Whoever says to the wicked, "You are in the right,"

24b will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations,

25a but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight,

25b and a good blessing will come upon them.

26a Whoever gives an honest answer

26b kisses the lips.

27a Prepare your work outside;

27b get everything ready for yourself in the field,

27c and after that build your house.

28a Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause,

28b and do not deceive with your lips.

29a Do not say,

29b "I will do to him as he has done to me;

29c I will pay the man back for what he has done."

30a I passed by the field of a sluggard,

30b by the vineyard of a man lacking sense,

31a and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns;

31b the ground was covered with nettles,

31c and its stone wall was broken down.

32a-b Then I saw and considered it;

32c-d I looked and received instruction.

33a A little sleep, a little slumber,

33b a little folding of the hands to rest,

34a and poverty will come upon you like a robber,

34b and want like an armed man.

1. God's perspective on **justice** requires

(24:23b-26).

2. God's perspective on **priorities** requires

(24:27).

3. God's perspective on **retribution** requires

(24:28-29).

4. God's perspective on **work** requires

(24:30-34).

SESSION 3

Toward Deepening Your Resolve

Proverbs 30:1-9

BIG IDEA: _____ .

TEXT

PRINCIPLES

1a The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle.

1b The man declares, I am weary, O God;

1c I am weary, O God, and worn out.

2a Surely I am too stupid to be a man.

2b I have not the understanding of a man.

3a I have not learned wisdom,

3b nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

4a Who has ascended to heaven and come down?

4b Who has gathered the wind in his fists?

4c Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment?

4d Who has established all the ends of the earth?

4e What is his name, and what is his son's name?

4f Surely you know!

5a Every word of God proves true;

5b he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

6a Do not add to his words,

6b lest he rebuke you

6c and you be found a liar.

7a Two things I ask of you;

7b deny them not to me before I die:

8a Remove far from me falsehood and lying;

8b give me neither poverty nor riches;

8c feed me with the food that is needful for me,

9a lest I be full and deny you

9b and say, "Who is the LORD?"

9c or lest I be poor and steal

9d and profane the name of my God.

1. The _____ of God's
word will _____ you.
(30:1-6).

2. The _____ of God's
provision will _____ you
(30:7-9).

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