



August 10, 2014 | Marriage, Family & Friends | Various Scriptures

Reading one chapter of Proverbs a day is a great way to grow in wisdom. We're encouraging everyone at Valley to do so this summer. (See the plan at valleycommunity.cc/resources/proverbs.)

[Q] This past week, as you read through Proverbs, did you find something that you can apply to your life? Please share with the group. (We're asking this question each week this summer.)

Proverbs has a lot of wisdom for our foundational relationships.

Wisdom in Marriage

Read these job descriptions from the weekend message:

A Godly Wife

Respects her husband - *Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among elders of the land.* Proverbs 31:23 (also Ephesians 5:33)

Encourages her husband - *She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.* Proverbs 31:12

Loves her husband - *I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine.* Song of Songs 6:3 NASV

A Godly Husband

Trusts his wife - *The heart of her husband trusts in her.* Proverbs 31:11 ESV

Leads his wife - *Arise, come my darling; my beautiful one, come with me!* Song of Songs 2:13b

Protects his wife - *Each man has his sword at his side, guarding against the terrors of the night.* Song of Songs 3:8 NASV

Loves his wife - *His banner over me is love.* Song of Songs 2:4 (also Ephesians 5:25)

[Q] As you were reading these job descriptions, which one were you evaluating more closely – the one for the wife or the one for the husband? Explain.

[Q] How does the wisdom from Proverbs contrast with the wisdom from our culture regarding marriage?

Wisdom for Families

[Q] Based on the following passages, what wisdom would you give to a family, parents and children alike?

Proverbs 14:26

Proverbs 1:8

Wisdom with Friends and Neighbors

[Q] What qualities of a true friend do you find in the following verses? Discuss the ones you appreciate most.

1. Proverbs 11:13
2. Proverbs 11:12 (More on this next week!)
3. Proverbs 27:6
4. Proverbs 27:9
5. Proverbs 25:20
6. Proverbs 18:24
7. Proverbs 17:17

[Q] Have you ever experienced this kind of friendship? Please explain.

[Q] What did Jesus say about friendship? Read John 15:12-15 and pull out at least three qualities of being friends with Him.

Jesus' command in John 15:12 is quite demanding! In fact, we can't obey it on our own. Read Romans 5:6-11 in the Message version, if possible. [Q] What makes Jesus the Best Friend?

Apply:

[Q] In what relationship do you need Christ's help to love like Him this week? Be specific about steps to take.

Pray

Now that we have actually received this amazing friendship with God, we are no longer content to simply say it in plodding prose. We sing and shout our praises to God through Jesus, the Messiah! Romans 5:11 MSG
