

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 19 Soul Food, Chapter 3

The book of Proverbs is a great book about wisdom and knowledge. As Miles stated in the sermon this week, these proverbs help us on our quest of understanding the heart of the Lord's will for our lives. They also lead us into complete obedience of how respond to people and life circumstances around us. The study this week will focus on the introduction to this book in verses 1-7 of chapter one. A few things to narrow in on and discuss this week:

1. What do we suppose is the reason or heart behind King Solomon writing the book of Proverbs?
2. After examining verses 4-5, and verse 7, what is our understanding of wisdom, and how are we pursuing wisdom?

Though all of us have different backgrounds in study, whether it is education or biblical, we are trying to use our knowledge and wisdom for the better of our lives and communities. We also want to keep in mind that according to verse seven we want our knowledge and understanding to draw us closer to God.

The hope is that this week we can honestly examine ourselves and our motives behind our wisdom and understanding and knowledge.

Isn't it fun studying Scripture!!!!

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 18 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 18 Weekly Challenge

1. Recite **Psalm 35:27-28**.
2. Discuss experiences practicing them Worship.

Small Group Sermon Discussion

1. Review the rules of "Soul Food," or Poetic language as a group.
 - ▶ Poetic language, as Soul Food, reveals the attributes and actions of God for us to **contemplate**.
 - ▶ Poetic language, as Soul Food, empowers our hearts and minds to **communicate** to God and like God.
 - ▶ Poetic language, uses various forms of Parallelism, where two or more parts of one sentence refer to the same subject in complimentary ways.
 - ▶ **Emotions:** Joy, sorrow, successes, failures, hopes, regrets, thanksgiving, confession, complaining, praise, petition, etc.
 - ▶ **Proverbs and riddles:** Wise sayings related to practical decisions on life.
2. Go around and discuss some of the group's favorite poetic books, and some chapters or verses that stand out.
 - ▶ Ex. Proverbs 6-12 (devotions for this week), or if someone has their own favorites.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Proverbs 1:1-7

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

The word proverb means a similitude, or a representation. In 1 Kings 9:7, the Lord stated that Israel would be a "proverb" to other nations. In other words, their disobedience to His commands would be a testimony of what not to do. So as a contrast King Solomon, who was filled with wisdom as he asked it from the Lord (2 Chron. 1:10), wrote most of the proverbs in the book as a practical way for people in Israel, and all cultures for all times, to obey the will of Lord and do as He commands. Chapter one is the opening proverb of all proverbs. It is designed to set us up and guide us through the rest of the thirty one chapters. So as an introduction, we want to focus on the first seven verses only to give understanding of how to approach the rest of the proverbs:

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Proverbs 1

(continued)

Proverbs 1:1-6

This is the title to the book of Proverbs. These verses tell specifically the goal and design of the book:

- ▶ To know wisdom and instruction.
- ▶ To understand words of insight.
- ▶ To receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity.
- ▶ To give prudence to the simple.
- ▶ To give knowledge and discretion to the youth.
- ▶ Let the wise hear and increase in learning.
- ▶ Let the one who understands obtain guidance.
- ▶ To understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

Proverbs 1:7

This is the thesis of the book of Proverbs:

- ▶ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
- ▶ Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- ▶ Read Proverb 1:1-7 completely as a group.

Reflect Proverbs 1:1-7

1. What do you suppose was the reason for King Solomon to write all these proverbs? What is heart behind them when you read verse 1-7?

Respond Proverbs 1:1-7

1. Read verses 4 and 5 as a group again. In your season of life, are you still gaining more wisdom? Is your gaining of wisdom and knowledge to grow closer to God, for other reasons, or both?
2. Verse 7 states, “the **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge.” How does this contrast from our cultural understanding of what wisdom is?
 - ▶ Examples would be our understanding of science (creation vs. evolution), religious views, politics, education, etc.

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (September 6 – September 12)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” **Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.biblegateway.com and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a “spiritual discipline” that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Worship.**

Worship should never be limited to music only, but rather an expression of everything we put our hands and hearts to. The challenge this week is to worship our Lord in all you do. Constantly take time to pray and thank Him for His provision, grace, and never ending love for us. Hopefully while doing this you will experience the Lord in deeper ways than ever experienced before.