



Series Overview and Guides

2018-2019 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 2

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

That we build lives of sustainable impact according to God's wisdom.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"The one who lives with integrity will be helped, but one who distorts right and wrong will suddenly fall."

—Proverbs 28:18 HCSB

"Without revelation people run wild, but one who listens to instruction will be happy."

—Proverbs 29:18 HCSB

"God calls us to receive His wisdom and be skillful, so that we can make a life that will glorify Him. The important thing isn't how long we live but how we live, not the length but the depth of life. Fools wade in the shallows, but wise people launch out into the deep and let God give them His very best."

—Warren Wiersbe

Be Skillful: God's Guidebook to Wise Living

Premise

why we are studying this

By God's grace, we must create in such a fashion that everything we craft – material or immaterial – has lasting impact. Our Lord is worth it, our culture needs it, and those who follow us are blessed by it. This is especially hard in a culture that values disposability and devalues the nuclear family stability that teaches the practice that makes for a positive legacy.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"The one who works his land will have plenty of food, but whoever chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty."

A faithful man will have many blessings, but one in a hurry to get rich will not go unpunished."

—Proverbs 28:19-20 HCSB

"[This] is a sickness of our time...a culture in which truth is less important than appearance and in which [fantastic lying] is the best (and perhaps the only) way of being and living."

— Mario Vargas Llosa

The Man Who Wasn't There

Wall Street Journal 25-26 August 2018

Theme

what the study is about

Most of us think like children, assuming that we can live half-heartedly, performing somewhat shoddily in many areas – only to "turn on" a magical switch when important issues are at stake. As high-performing athletes know, this is not realistic. How we practice determines how we perform. Hezekiah's collection of Solomon's greatest hits takes a mature approach to life, anticipating great legacies achieved through regular wisdom.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"A wise correction to a receptive ear is like a gold ring or an ornament of gold."

—Proverbs 25:12 HCSB

"The Bible was written primarily to show sinful man how he can be transformed and restored to fellowship with God. That doctrine of salvation pervades all of scripture and is especially prominent in certain books (e.g., Romans). The Bible was also written to show the transformed sinner how to live a life pleasing to God, now that he is saved. Such practical instruction is found throughout Scripture, but it is the *main* theme of...Proverbs."

—Irving L. Jensen

Proverbs: Everyman's Bible Commentary



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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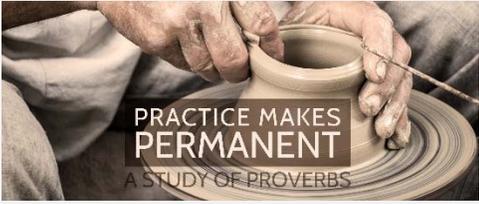
You are welcome to copy and distribute this study guide for your personal or group study.

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SERIES 2 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 26:1-16 • 27:3, 22

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Foolishness is a default terminus for humankind. Far from a *tabula rasa*, Proverbs teaches that the human is simple – a setting that naturally evolves into foolishness. In the larger biblical context we learn that without divine intervention provided in Messiah Jesus, no person can avoid descending into foolishness and its attendant suffering. Even for those changed by faith in Messiah, practical scripture must be applied regularly so the believer can be transformed by wisdom.

OBJECTIVE

We apply wisdom.

THE FOOL'S PROBLEM

Everyone who does not know Christ is hopelessly lost apart from divine intervention. The reason why Proverbs teaches us not to try to reform a fool is that he must be transformed. The fool's problem is one of the heart.

—Bob Deffinbaugh

The Way of the Wise: Studies in Proverbs

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we seek and learn and apply the wisdom of God found in Scripture to our lives.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 1: "I Pity Da Fool"

1. Have you ever known someone you considered a fool?
 - If so—and if the person is not present!—share an example of why you thought so.
 - Can a person be *foolish* and yet not be a *fool*? Discuss why you do, or don't, make a distinction between the two.

2. Using Proverbs 26:1-12, discuss which verse or verses teach the following guidelines about relating to fools. What is an application of each, or possibly a consequence of ignoring the teaching?
 - A fool will not understand or use wisdom.
 - Fools should be trained, not reacted to.
 - A fool should not be trusted with an important communication or task.
 - Discretion must be used when responding, or not responding, to a fool.
 - Honoring a fool is itself foolish.
 - A fool does not learn from personal mistakes.

3. Read Proverbs 12:13-16. Here we meet a specific type of fool: the slacker.
 - Read and discuss Proverbs 18:9. Trace the inference from "slack" to "destroy."
 - As Christians, how can we avoid being slack in our work? Read Ephesians 6:5-8 and Colossians 3:22-24.

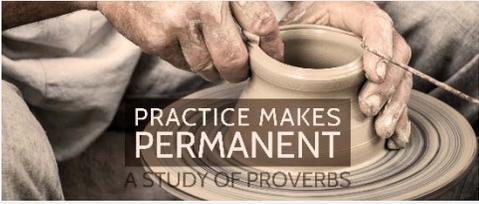
4. Given all of these proverbs about fools and their foolishness, read and discuss 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Was Paul calling God foolish in the sense of Proverbs 26? What point was Paul making by talking about "the foolishness of God"?
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5. Review together the Objective, Premise, and Theme of this series found on page 1. Think about and discuss what you hope to learn, or how you hope to grow in your Christian walk, through this study.



SERIES 2 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 25:6-10 • 27:1-2 •
28:26 • 29:13, 23

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Humility is critical for human prosperity. Yet we remain proud, something we reveal in many ways including insecure bragging; assumptions, and hasty actions. In fact, our current culture exalts each of these to a strong degree. Thankfully, the Lord has provided through Solomon's proverbs antidotes that guide us to true humility.

OBJECTIVE

We find freedom in humility.

BRAGGING

Every human deals with insecurity and thus everyone struggles with some form of bragging. What is your go-to form of bragging?

- A. Are you a name dropper?
- B. Do you tout your achievements?
- C. Reminisce about "good old days"?
- D. Talk up greatness of your family?
- E. Do you put others down?
- F. Do you compare?
- G. Extol how hard your life is?
- H. Show off your power, ability, vocabulary, wealth, or possession?
- I. Pad your résumé?
- J. Are you a self-deprecator – putting yourself down so others will disagree and praise you?

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we walk in humility before God and with each other.

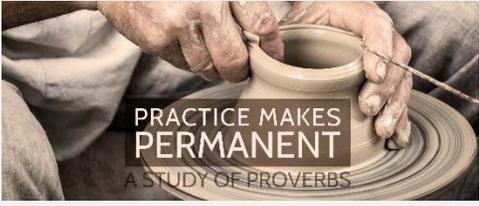
Session 2: Freedom at Point Zero

1. Read Proverbs 25:6-7, and compare Luke 14:7-11.
 - What are some modern social situations that are similar to the ones in these verses?
 - Why should you not assert yourself when you feel you deserve to be honored by others? What is the wise course of action?
2. Read Proverbs 27:1, and compare James 4:13-17.
 - What is important to remember when you are making plans for your future?
 - How is this an exercise in humility?
3. Read Proverbs 27:2, and compare Matthew 6:1-4.
 - Why is it hard to humbly do good deeds even when no one notices?
 - Why should we keep our mouths shut and let others praise our work (or not)?
4. According to Proverbs 28:26, we shouldn't trust our own natural insights, but we should seek to walk in wisdom.
 - Where should we turn for wisdom? What are some sources of wisdom Christians should use?
 - How will making this a habit help to build a strong legacy, one which lasts?
5. Read Proverbs 29:23.
 - Why does pride often trip us up? What is the end result of walking in pride?
 - What is the opposite of walking in pride, and what is the opposite result?
6. Read Philippians 2:1-8.
 - Define humility.
 - What can we do to keep an attitude of humility?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 27:7, 23-27 •
28:19-22, 24-25, 27 • 29:7, 14

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Proverbs has a great deal to say about husbandry, prefiguring Jesus' pithy summary that use of mammon displays one's values (or heart) and the epistles' encouragement to work by God's grace. The main issue in this book 4 of Proverbs is husbandry – how well one develops the resources one has been granted.

OBJECTIVE

We practice great husbandry.

FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The *majority* of full-time Christian workers are in the *secular* workplace. That's right! As a committed believer, if you are serving the Lord as a... insurance salesman, hair stylist, teacher, realtor, gymnastics instructor, engineer, CEO of a corporation, manager of a department store, or in any other occupation, you are in full-time Christian service. The only difference between you and an employee of a church is the source of your respective incomes.

—R. Larry Moyer, *31 Days to Walking with God in the Workplace*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we manage well what God has given us, for the glory of His name.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 3: Good Husbandry

1. Read Proverbs 27:23-27. An important biblical principle is that we should manage well the resources we have been given.
 - Describe the various resources you have under your control.
 - How does God expect you to manage these resources?
 - According to verse 24, what is a common error we could make about our resources? What is the danger in making such an assumption?

2. Read Proverbs 28:21-22 and 24-25.
 - How does greed ruin proper resource management?
 - How does greed ruin relationships?

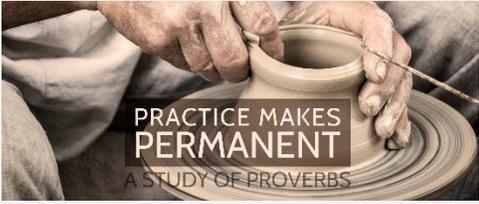
3. Another principle is that we open our eyes to what others might need. Read Proverbs 28:27 and 27:7.
 - What are some practical ways to help the needy people near you?
 - Why is it important that we do these things?

4. Read Proverbs 28:19-20.
 - What are the benefits of a faithful work ethic?
 - How would you describe your work ethic? Consider these questions:
 - Do you feel you are serving the Lord in what you do?
 - Do you seek to honor God by what you accomplish?
 - Do you apply the Golden Rule in all areas of your life?
 - Does knowing that God is the ultimate authority impact your work?
 - Do you seek resolution or revenge?
 - Are you always excelling in the Lord?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 25:2-5, 21-24 • 26:17 •
27:4-6, 15-16, 18 • 28:2-3 • 29:4, 12, 25-26

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Leadership and authority are among the most vexing aspects of life this side of heaven. Living in the remarkable scriptural combination of being servants and leaders, we must learn to heed and practice God's wisdom so that we truly build to last. This wisdom endures even through the worst conflict and hardest situations.

OBJECTIVE

We serve and lead wisely.

HEAVY IS THE HEAD

No soul knows his trouble
High upon his throne
Loved by few and judged by many
He bares that weight alone
It's a lifelong expedition
Second-guessing your decisions
Trying to find out what's been missing
And the pages keep on filling

—Zac Brown and Chris Cornell
Zac Brown Band: Heavy is the Head

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we will lead wisely, resolve conflict gracefully, and serve faithfully.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests

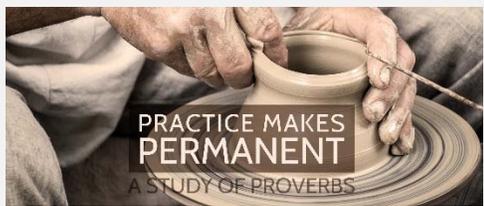
Session 4: Heavy is the Head

1. This message covered three aspects of servant-leadership: Leading wisely, resolving conflict gracefully, and serving faithfully. Which of these three areas is easiest for you? Which is the most challenging?
 - What are three principles of wise leadership given in these verses?
 - Why is it important for leaders to always be learning? How does it impact those being led?
 - How do godly employees strengthen the leaders over them? (See also 29:12.)
2. Read Proverbs 25:2-5 together.
 - Does your company have a "suggestion box," either physical or by email? What are some typical suggestions? If you are a supervisor or leader, what kind of suggestions would you hope to receive?
 - What is the danger of not asking for and welcoming honest feedback, both positive and negative?
3. Read Proverbs 27:4-6.
 - When conflicts arise, what behavior is suggested in Proverbs 25:21-22?
 - If you have ever tried this, explain to your group what happened? Did the Lord reward you?
 - Compare Romans 12:14, 17-18; and 1 Peter 3:9. How hard is this to do? How can we do it?
4. Read Proverbs 27:18
 - What should a person who has any role under leadership do to honor the Lord and help the company succeed?
 - How does this apply to servant roles within the local church?
5. Read Proverbs 29:25-26. Why is it vital to keep your focus on the Lord Jesus when things are not going well in church or in your place of business?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 28:1, 4-18, 28 •
29:6, 10, 16, 24, 27

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The pervasive spread of wickedness is disheartening, as is the seeming oddity that God's righteous ones are hated. Further, God's people can be and often are specifically persecuted when the wicked rule. Thankfully, God shows His people what to do, not do, and remember.

OBJECTIVE

We respond wisely to wickedness.

SHARE IN THE SUFFERINGS

Christians must remember that our Master secured our salvation through suffering and crucifixion. The path that we are called to walk as we work out that salvation in our own lives is no different. As servants, we are not above our Master. By the grace that comes from our Lord, we can learn to live by faith in him so that we do not respond to opposition and persecution in the same way as those who do not know his grace.

—Tom Ascol

Responding to Opposition and Persecution

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we walk with the Holy Spirit even in the midst of a wicked world.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests

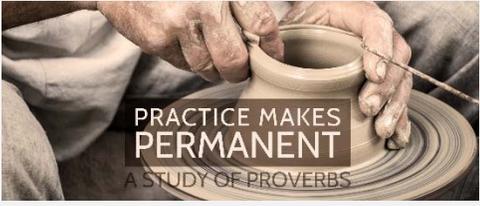
Session 5: Wicked (not in a Good Sense)

1. What are some examples of wickedness in today's world? Think locally, nationally, and globally.
2. Read Proverbs 29:6, 10, and 27.
 - What reasons do these verses give for wicked people intensely disliking righteous people?
 - What actions do the wicked take based on this dislike?
 - What are some other reasons?
 - Do the righteous have the same dislike of the wicked? How should their resulting actions be different?
3. What is the wise response when we are under attack for believing and doing what is right? See Proverbs 28:18 and 28.
4. When wickedness continues to spread, what should our reaction be? See Proverbs 28:4-6 and 29:24.
5. How do Proverbs 28:10 and 29:16 describe the ultimate outcome, the "end of the story"?
6. Of all the texts from this session, which stands out the most to you? Explain why.
7. Are you more often encouraged or discouraged to live a righteous life in your world? Why?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 25:11-16, 25 • 26:20-28 •
27:21 • 28:23 • 29:5

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Hezekiah's collection of Solomon's wisdom has much to say about saying; that is, words are massively important.

OBJECTIVE

We speak life.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

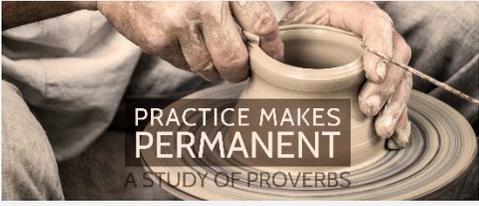
Session 6: Speak Life

This lesson was not available at the time of publication. Please check back for updates.



SERIES 2 | SESSION 7

GROUP DISCUSSION



Session 7: Life Together

ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 25:17-20 • 26:18-19 •
27:10-11, 14, 17

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Community is neither smooth nor easy. Yet it is among the most important aspects of a life that is built to last. Community doesn't just materialize on its own, nor does it continue without hard work. It is truly something that must be practiced.

OBJECTIVE

We practice community.

PRAYER

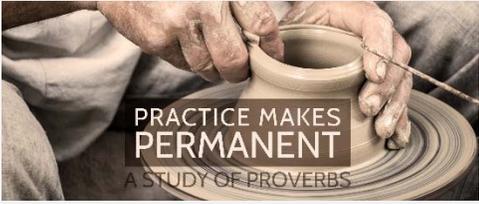
Pray for each other this week. Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

This lesson was not available at the time of publication. Please check back for updates.



SERIES 2 | SESSION 8

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2018-2019

BUILD TO LAST

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 25:26-28 • 27:8, 19-20 •
29:1, 3, 8-9, 11, 15, 17, 20

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Self-control is critical. However, just saying, "Pull yourself together!" doesn't cut it. The human heart is inherently flawed. It is only through reliance upon God that we can really find self-control. Doing so transforms one's life.

OBJECTIVE

We exercise self-control.

MORE THAN A KING

"He who reigns within himself, and rules passions, desires, and fears, is more than a king."

—John Milton

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

—Galatians 5:22-23

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we control ourselves by the power of the Holy Spirit within us and exhibit His fruit in our lives for the glory of God.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 8: Pull Yourself Together

1. There are many aspects of self-control. In what areas do you excel at self-control? In what areas do you struggle?
2. Referencing the listed verses from Proverbs 25 and 27, how do our words and deeds display what is in our hearts?
3. Discuss Proverbs 25:28. Why is it important to control one's temper? What inferences can you make from the metaphor used in this verse?
4. Self-control is learned through submission. We cannot pull ourselves together unaided. We need training in practices that make permanent.
 - Read Proverbs 29: 1, 15, and 17. What do these verses teach to support the above assertion?
 - Why do children need discipline?
5. Read Hebrews 12:5-11 together.
 - What does this teach us about God's discipline of His children?
 - What have you learned in your life as a believer through God's discipline?
6. What should we ask the Holy Spirit to do *in* us to "pull ourselves together"? See Galatians 5:22-24.

SERIES WRAP UP

What have you learned from the *Practice Makes Permanent* series? Discuss how this has, or will continue to, impact your life.

