

1 – DIRECTIONS:

Over the next few weeks, we will discuss "4 Proverbs for the People." Each week, we will cover a different proverb and then look at how this wisdom literature should make a difference in the life of a Christian.

Take time each week to discuss the proverb, as well as pray for one another, and look to see how applying the proverb will make a difference in your obedience to God through Christ.

Please utilize The Moody Bible Commentary to help with any of the passages listed to the right. Any additional resources that you have that might make your discussion more lively, please use those as well. Your prayers and preparation for facilitating the discussion will help others learn and grow as Christians.

To grow as Christians, the emphasis should be faith in Christ and obedience to Him, not **only** on knowing Bible passages. Help one another in your group grow in faithful obedience to what you discuss in group time. Pray for each other as you meet.

2 – BIBLICAL TEXTS:

Proverbs 3:3-6 [ESV]

3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

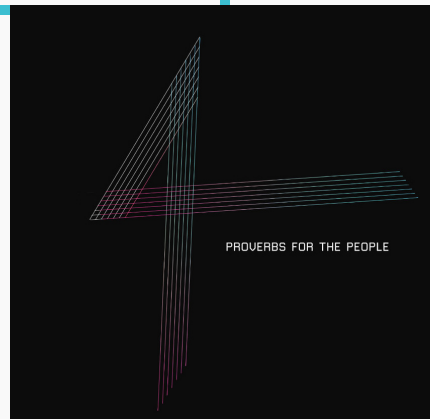
Ephesians 5:22-33 [ESV]

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

3 – QUESTIONS:

- What is the best piece of marriage advice you have ever received? Who gave you that advice? Why do you consider it the best advice? How often do, *or should you*, consult the Bible for marriage advice?
- Pastor Patrick utilized both Proverbs 3 and Ephesians 5 for his teaching regarding marriage. What is the correlation between the two passages? And what did you learn about godly marriage from his sermon?
- Why is it important to make steadfast love and faithfulness a vital part of your character? How does God first exhibit these characteristics in His own being?
- What does it mean to trust the Lord with all your heart? Who has modeled that well for you? How would you assess your own life in terms of trusting Jesus with your whole heart?
- What does it mean to acknowledge God in all of your ways? How does that apply to your marriage? And how does it apply to your relationships (friends, coworkers, etc.)?
- What practical steps can you take to encourage and help your spouse grow in their love and obedience for Christ? If you are not married, what friend would you choose to help you grow?



4 – GOING FROM HERE:

As you conclude, take time to pray for your group members marriages. If you have single adults in your group, pray for their relationships with others. Pray that your group members would trust in Christ, that they would look to His guidance, and that they would be transformed in character to look like Him. The Christian faith is more than knowledge, it is about faithful obedience that results in the transformation of the person and seeing that person living on mission for the gospel of Jesus.

During the discussion, a group member may have recognized the need for deeper study or help in working on their marriage. Encourage them to talk with a pastor or a licensed professional counselor. The opportunity to talk with an impartial third party, such as a pastor or counselor, can help a couple strengthen their marriage as they look to Christ.

In fact, if you or a couple in your group would like to explore the SYMBIS+ marriage assessment, please reach out to Pastor Justin. You can reach him at jfoster@legacychurch.org.