

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of June 14, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Introduction to Proverbs

**This Week's Text:** Proverbs 1:1-9

*If we have love but not wisdom, we will harm people with the best intentions. If we have courage but not wisdom we will blunder boldly. If we have a truth but not wisdom we will make the gospel ugly to other people. If we have technology but not with wisdom we will use the best communications ever invented to broadcast stupidity. **Ray-Ortlund***

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. **James 1:5-8***

**Related Texts:** James 1:5-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, 8:1; Philipians 1:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:15-16; 1 Kings 3:1-15, 4:29-34; Matthew 12:38-42

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What was most inspiring about this week's text/sermon?
- What are the five main divisions of the Old Testament? To which does Proverbs belong?
- Why is it important to know the literary genre of a book of the Bible?
- Proverbs is mainly composed of a Hebrew style of poetry called Parallelism. Why is it necessary to understand parallelism when studying the book of Proverbs or other book of poetic wisdom literature?
- Discuss the following three types of Parallelism: Synonymous Parallelism (restating the idea of the first line in a different way), Antithetical Parallelism (the second line stating the opposite of the first line), and Synthetic Parallelism (using the second/third line to advance or complete the meaning of the first line).

- What is the main purpose of the book of Proverbs? Reference verses 1-9.
  - What is wisdom?
  - How is it related to yet different from knowledge? Reference James 3:13-17 and 1 Corinthians 8:1-3.
  - How does wisdom help us transition biblical knowledge into love for God and others?
- How is it that we live in a cultural with an unprecedented influx of knowledge yet sorely lacking in wisdom?
- Biblical, godly wisdom is meant to help us in our daily lives. How does it help us work out biblical, godly principles in the areas of our lives where there are no clear scriptural commands?
- Discuss the following 5 guidelines that should be used when reading and studying Proverbs:
  - Seek God's will and wisdom through prayer.
  - Use common sense.
  - Keep in mind that proverbs may not be true all the time (but are true ultimately) nor are they strict cause and effect statements.
  - Remember the cultural context and that poetic imagery may be used.
  - Proverbs are not cute, pithy, self-help statements. They are inextricably connected to Christ-centered theology.
- How is Jesus the better and greater Solomon? Reference Matthew 12:38-42.
- What does it mean that Jesus is the personification of wisdom? Reference 1 Corinthians 1:18-24?
- How does this passage point to the Gospel and the mission of God's Church?

**Next Week's Text:** Proverbs 1:1-9