



Proverbs

WEEK 2 ♦ JULY 30

The Way of Wisdom

Introduction

Welcome to week two of our *Proverbs* series! Last week, Pastor Jesse taught us two principles for reading the book of Proverbs:

- Proverbs are probable principles, not promised outcomes.
- Proverbs are caught more than taught.

This week, Pastor Chip unpacked the central theme running through Proverbs: wisdom. Together, we'll apply Jesse's principles from last week as we dig into the biblical concept of wisdom and its practical application for our lives.

Discussion

1. Who's the wisest person you've known? How would you describe them? What about them communicated or conveyed wisdom to you?
2. Pastor Chip defined wisdom for us as "living in a relationship with God in a way that enables your character and decisions to be informed by and conformed to God's desired pathway." How does this definition align with your pre-existing perception of wisdom? What does this affirm or challenge for you, personally?
3. When it comes to our character and decisions, there are two paths we can follow: God's (wisdom) and any other paths (folly). What are some practical examples from your own life that, looking back, were aligned with the path of wisdom or the path of folly. Did you have a sense of what path you may have been on at the time? What informed or motivated those decisions and what was their impact?
4. Pastor Chip dug into three common themes that emerge throughout Proverbs. Take time to rate your health in each of these as "Red" (unhealthy), "Yellow" (increasing/decreasing in health), or "Green" (healthy) for you, personally. Share the "why" behind your ratings and any themes you notice with your group.
 - **Humility:** The path of wisdom is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less (the opposite of pride).
 - **Helping the Powerless:** The path of wisdom includes helping the poor, victims, and marginalized.
 - **Speaking & Silence:** The path of wisdom includes gaining skill in the use of words and silence.

Application

- If you have been following the path of wisdom with God but feel weary, take encouragement knowing God's with you and His strength sustains you. Take some time this week to rest and recharge with Him to keep following faithfully.
- If you recognize you've been following the path of folly, it's never too late to change course. God is loving, present, and will lead you well. Confess your current path to God and invite Him to help you change.
- If you're working to follow the path of wisdom but are struggling in a particular area, invite God into your vulnerability. Reach out to a trusted individual, maybe even someone in your small group, to help navigate this area or topic with you. God designed us for community to love and help each other follow the path of wisdom.