

Checking In

1. Take a few minutes to check in with everyone, see how they are doing, and open with prayer.

Learning

Knowing God

Key Doctrines

- *Wisdom* – The art of living well.
- *Scripture* – God’s inspired, inerrant and authoritative Word.

Key Observations

- *Read: Proverbs 15:1-4*
 - What are the key differences between wise and foolish speech according to this passage?
The distinctions are quite practical and straight-forward: soft and harsh, commending knowledge and pouring out folly, gentleness and perverseness.
 - How might a genuine belief in God’s omnipresence (“the eyes of the Lord are in every place”) inform the way in which we speak to others?
In verse 3 we discover that our words are not only heard by others, but by God himself. This belief that God sees and hears everything is connected to the beginning of wisdom, which Proverbs tells us over and over again is “the fear of the Lord.”

- In what ways might wise words give life and in what ways might foolish words lead to death?
Remember that life and death are not merely biological realities, but spiritual realities. The way of life is fellowship with God and the way of death is life apart from God. How do people practically see the life giving impact of embracing wisdom and how do people practically see the dark and decaying reality of foolishness? Have them consider their experience.

➤ *Read:* Proverbs 17:27-18:8

- When have you personally experienced the harmful effect of foolish words? In what ways did this foolish speech impact your relationships?
- Is there one particular proverb in this passage that you find most challenging or convicting? If so, why is that?

➤ *Read:* Proverbs 8:4-9, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- What words are you tempted to listen to the most in your life (news, social media, etc.)? How are these words shaping your own use of words?
- How might an investment in listening to God's Word begin to transform your heart and shape the way in which you use words?
The words we listen to are taken into our heart. God's Word must dwell in our hearts richly (Colossians 3) if we hope to become the kind of people who use words with wisdom.

- How can you practically make God's Word the Word you listen to most?

Listening

Responding to God

- In light of hearing this week's sermon, our study together, and listening to God's Word, how might God be inviting you to take a step of obedience?

Loving

Obeying God

- What is happening in my own life right now that I need to share and for which I need prayer?
- This week I am committed to praying for _____ about:

Checking Out

- What was most meaningful about this group session for you (*Give each person 1-2 sentences to share*)?
- Close in Prayer and Read Proverbs 15:4.