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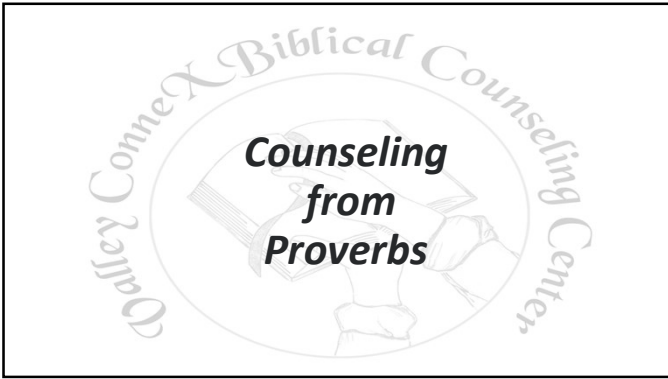
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Proverbs

- The Book of Proverbs gives us a view of life from the perspective of wisdom.
  - A strong theme is the contrast between acting wisely and acting foolishly.
- Wisdom is the appropriate application of knowledge.

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Proverbs

- Wisdom requires an accurate and appropriate knowledge of God and relationship with God.
  - *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7, ESV)*
  - *“The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.” (Proverbs 8:13, ESV)*

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Proverbs

- Wisdom requires an accurate and appropriate knowledge of God and relationship with God.
  - *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” (Proverbs 9:10, ESV)*
  - *“By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil.” (Proverbs 16:6, ESV)*

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5

Proverbs

- The emphasis of the Book of Proverbs is:
  - Knowing what is right, just, and fair.
  - To inform the uninformed
  - To sharpen the knowledge of the wise
  - To warn against departure from God’s wisdom
  - To highlight the blessings of obedience

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6

Proverbs

- The Book of Proverbs is most relevant in counseling for people who:
  - Need guidance on how to live
  - Need guidance on how to continue to live wisely especially in the face of challenging circumstances
  - Have come through a season of confession and repentance and are entering into a mentoring phase of counseling

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7

Proverbs

- The Book of Proverbs takes a raw and real but not a cynical look at life.
  - We live in a world where there are plenty of people and circumstances that will actively seek to lead you into sinful behavior.
    - For the counselee this could be used to challenge the naïve view that true believers are immune from these temptations.

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8

Proverbs

- Interpretation and application:
  - Give careful attention to the difference between a **condition with a resulting promise** and an observation.
  - *“My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.” (Proverbs 2:1–5, ESV)*

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9

Proverbs

- Interpretation and application:
  - Give careful attention to the difference between a condition with a resulting promise and an **observation**.
  - *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, ESV)*
  - *“Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.” (Proverbs 29:17, ESV)*

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10

An Example of counseling from Proverbs  
Putting the Challenging Times of Life in Perspective

- Hebrews 12:3-17
  - Challenging times of life often cause confusion.
  - Five negative ways reactions to these challenging times can bring people to us for counseling:
    - Become weary (I am tired of trying.)
    - Lose heart (I have lost the passion I once had.)
    - Resentment (What did I do to deserve this?!)
    - Become bitter (But what about them?)
    - Rebel (What’s the use? I am going to do what I please.)

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An Example of counseling from Proverbs  
Putting the Challenging Times of Life in Perspective

- Hebrews 12:3-17
  - Instruction from Proverbs
    - Do not react with resentment
    - Do not become weary
    - God loves us and is overseeing what comes into our lives

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12

An Example of counseling from Proverbs  
Putting the Challenging Times of Life in Perspective

- Hebrews 12:3-17
  - The application
    - God has a training program for us since we are his children.
    - A good father will do all that is necessary in order to help his child reach his or her potential.

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13

An Example of counseling from Proverbs  
Putting the Challenging Times of Life in Perspective

- Hebrews 12:3-17
  - The application
    - The purpose of the training program is for our good and to produce holiness expressed in acting according to God's standard of righteousness.
    - Any good training program will have elements that challenge our comfort.

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14

An Example of counseling from Proverbs  
Putting the Challenging Times of Life in Perspective

- Hebrews 12:3-17
  - Restoration
    - Enthusiastically reengage
    - Get back on safe and stable ground
    - Deal with resentment you have harbored toward others
    - Guard against rebellion

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