

Proverbs Study Week 12

Proverbs 8:1-21

Join us this week as we begin Proverbs 8 and learn to identify wisdom's call in our lives. With so much noise and so many distractions, we must become proficient at hearing wisdom. Let's go!

*****Read Proverbs 8:1-21*****

The end of chapter six and in chapter seven, wisdom's call in our lives is contrasted with the call of the adulteress. There is always a tension in our lives between wisdom and sinful desires. Both pull on our devotion and will fill the space in our hearts. If we are not careful the lusts and desires of this world will drown out the call of wisdom.

Who are you listening to?

- **Talk about a time in your life when you listened to wisdom and everything worked out. Talk about a time when you ignored wisdom and things did not go so well. What are the consequences of living with a lack of wisdom? Name three people in your life who are wise, and what makes them wise?**

- With Proverbs 8:1-12 in mind, read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - 1 Corinthians 1:24
 - Psalm 49:1-3
 - Matthew 11:15
 - In verses 5-12 Solomon talks directly to us... the simple and the foolish. We need wisdom, because without it we are in trouble. His call is to use good judgement and to show some understanding. It is interesting to note, the value of wisdom in our lives is far more important than money or anything else we could obtain.
 - Psalm 19:7
 - Psalm 37:30
 - Romans 15:8
 - John 8:14
 - Job 36:4
 - Proverbs 12:22
 - Philippians 2:15

- Deuteronomy 32:5
- Psalm 12:6
- Proverbs 3:13
- Proverbs 14:6
- Job 28:15-18
- Ecclesiastes 7:11
- Psalm 19:10
- Psalm 119:72
- Psalm 119:103

*****Read Proverbs 8:13-21*****

Did you know the more a person loves, respects and fears God, the more the person will hate sin and evil. Much like oil and water, love for God and love for sin cannot coexist. Our minds and bodies become a literal battleground if we harbor secret sin. We must repent of our sins, ask God for forgiveness and grow! We are called to live completely submitted and committed lives to God! So today, if you have sin in your life, pray and repent and receive His grace and forgiveness.

- **In your life, the closer you get to Jesus, how has your views on things of this world changed? Why can't love for God and love for sin coexist? Why are pride and arrogance so destructive? What does it look like to walk in righteousness and justice?**
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - 1 Samuel 2:3
 - Job 1:1
 - Psalm 97:10
 - Isaiah 13:11
 - Proverbs 16:18
 - Ecclesiastes 7:19
 - Ecclesiastes 9:16
 - Isaiah 28:29
 - Jeremiah 32:19
 - Matthew 28:19
 - Romans 13:1
 - 2 Chronicles 1:10
 - Psalm 2:10
 - Daniel 2:21
 - John 7:37

- John 14:21
- James 1:5
- 1 Samuel 2:30
- Matthew 6:33
- Psalm 112:3
- Psalm 23:3

The ultimate life of contentment is a life lived in wisdom allowing God our father and shepherd to guide us on the path of righteousness. We have a decision to make on which path we will follow the path of life, wisdom and righteousness or the path of sin and death. If and when we do follow our own path and forsake wisdom, we must not blame God for our circumstances but take responsibility for not hearing wisdom's call. God knows the best path and as our shepherd knows the "green pastures" and "still waters" that will restore us. Can you hear wisdom calling? Are you responding to her call? Are you on the path of righteousness? Are you obediently following God's word and instructions for your life?

Can you hear wisdom calling?