



A.P. 05-20-2018

HIGHLIGHT: Proverbs 3:5-12

H

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding;
⁶think about Him in all your ways,
and He will guide you on the right paths.
⁷Don't consider yourself to be wise;
fear the Lord and turn away from evil.
⁸This will be healing for your body
and strengthening for your bones.
⁹Honor the Lord with your possessions
and with the first produce of your entire harvest;
¹⁰then your barns will be completely filled,
and your vats will overflow with new wine.
¹¹Do not despise the Lord's instruction, my son,
and do not loathe His discipline;
¹²for the Lord disciplines the one He loves,
just as a father, the son he delights in.

E

EXPLAIN

Just as Solomon grew up receiving instruction from his father, he is turning around and instructing his son in the ways of the Lord. In this passage, Solomon shows the importance of obeying the Lord rather than the desires of the heart, and what kind of a fulfilled, abundant life walking with the Lord produces.

- v. 5 "Trust" is the Hebrew word *batah*, which relays the sense of being completely confident and safe in something. Trusting in God means a twofold recognition: who God is and who we are. When we see that we are not the ones in control and that everything we do should be for the purpose of bringing God glory, we find that trusting God becomes easier—though it remains a daily process that begins again each time we wake up.
- v. 6 This has been traditionally translated "acknowledge Him," rather than "think about Him" (HCSB). The latter is, perhaps, more faithful to the Hebrew, which is closer to the meaning of "know Him." It points to the intimate experience of a personal relationship with Him. Notice that the sequence of verse 5 and 6 points to a remarkable truth: by trusting in Him, you will fully know Him, and He will make your paths straight.



v.11-12 Contrary to what Job's friends said to him, suffering is not just punishment. Joseph suffered at the hands of countless forces he could not control, but they were all molding him into the man he would eventually be—the one who saved both his family and his nation. Hebrews 12:5-6 says that suffering is a sign of being a child of God, which this verse says as well. God is the perfect father, and will discipline those whom He loves, precisely because He loves them.

A

APPLY

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you read in the text?
2. Share about a time you trusted someone or something only to have that trust broken. What does it look like to put your trust in something?
3. What does it look like to honor God with all of your possessions? How would that affect what you buy? How would it affect the things that you want? What does Scripture say will be the outcome of you honoring God with your possessions and your wealth?
4. Reference verses 11 and 12. What does it mean to you when you hear, “the Lord’s discipline”? Share a story about a time you were corrected and how you responded to it, good or bad. What should our reaction be to being told, in Scriptural terms, that we are out of line?
5. Would you consider your life abundant and prosperous? Why or why not? How do you define an abundant or prosperous life? What can you do to get to that point?

R

RESPOND

Based on the dynamic of your group and how discussion has progressed, challenge your group to respond. Responses could include:

Are any of your “ways” not devoted to the Lord? How can you take steps toward changing that this week?

Do you honor the Lord with the things you have? What is one thing you can do with something that you have this week in order to honor Him with it?

Encourage one another through email, text messages, or coffee dates throughout the week to build up and encourage each other.

