



LIFE GROUP STUDY WISDOM ON WEALTH

Proverbs is a wonderful book of practical advice for living God's definition of a successful life which will result in joy and contentment for those who follow His ways. It has a great deal to say about the things that our culture is preoccupied with; namely, finances, wealth and the accumulation of material stuff, as well as important issues like giving to the poor, working hard and honoring God with our wealth. Proverbs is full of priceless nuggets of wisdom we can teach and model to others on a daily basis.

Read Proverbs 15:27, 28:8 and 30:8

What do these verses say about greed and its consequences? How has this impacted you or someone you know? What are some ways that people try to find happiness in the world? What does Solomon say about those things in Ecclesiastes 1:14? Have you experienced this in your own life? Explain. What are some ways we can overcome the false promises of the world and enjoy true contentment?

Read Proverbs 3:9, 3:10, 11:25 and 13:21

How can we honor God with our wealth? Do you reserve a portion of your earnings for God before using it for other things (first fruits)? How have you experienced blessings when you gave generously with a cheerful heart? How did you learn how to handle finances? If you have children, how do you teach them to handle money? Have you taught and modeled the importance of generous giving?

The Financial Peace class here at Oak Pointe Church teaches very practical, scriptural ways on how to handle your finances to provide for yourself, your family, and to support the advance of the gospel. Below is a list from this class of 7 ways we are to honor God by giving. Read these and ask God to reveal 1 or 2 areas you need to improve:

- 1). Generously... Christ has given all to us, and we know Christ owns all we have. As we are able, we want to go beyond giving to our own church and contribute to the cause of Christ regionally, nationally, and globally. Reflect God's graciousness and kindness by helping those in need.
- 2). Proportionally... Try to give as high a percentage of your income as possible, recognizing the tithe (10%) as a long established benchmark which our goal is to exceed if, when, and as we prosper.

- 3). Regularly...as resources flow in, we offer the “first fruits” back to God, honoring Him before any others. Give even when you are in debt.
- 4). Locally... Knowing that we have a responsibility to financially support the local church that we identify as our spiritual home, make regular donations to your church a priority.
- 5). Cheerfully... Knowing that God sees the heart, we don't just give begrudgingly to an organization-we give our offering as unto God Himself; we do so willingly, and not under compulsion, but with joyful worship as our resources flow out to serve others.
- 6). Humbly... We don't call attention ourselves when we give or expect our offerings to produce an advantage in the church.
- 7). Worshipfully... With a deep personal belief and conviction that giving is an act of worship. Honor and worship God in your giving!

What does Proverbs say about work and work ethics?

Read Proverbs 12:11, 12:24, 13:4, 14:23 and 6:10-12.

What constitutes a healthy work ethic? What are the blessings of working hard? What are the consequences of laziness? What is your current work ethic? Who or what were/are the main influences that govern your work habits? How does having a good, healthy work ethic honor God?

Challenge:

Proverbs has 31 chapters which makes it a very easy daily devotional. Take the challenge of reading a chapter a day and ask God to reveal to you some areas of your life in which you could improve and mature. Encourage your children (if age appropriate) or ask a friend to do the same and discuss at a meal how God is working in your life. Share your experiences with your life group. There should be some encouraging testimonies out there!