



Wise Up! A Series in Proverbs Relationships

Date: Sunday 14th August

Speaker: Mike McMaster (City Centre), Jon Solway (South Site)

Key Verses: Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:5-6, Proverbs 17:9, Proverbs 18:24

Talk Summary:

Proverbs has lots of wisdom when it comes to relationships - too much to deeply explore in one talk or small group session! There is wisdom for neighbours, spouses, children, parents, friends and family. Three general principles that apply to all of our relationships are:

1. We must choose carefully (Prov. 13:20):

We shouldn't invite everybody to go deeper into friendship with. Some people (who Proverbs calls fools) will influence us with gossip, anger, judgement, pride and more. Instead we should choose friends who are wise, so that we can glean their wisdom.

2. We must be reliable (Prov. 17:17 & 27:5-6):

Reliable friends can help to relieve difficulty. We've probably all had times where our friends have helped us out. Reliable friends are there for each other in trouble, but they also speak the truth in love to help us when we're going in the wrong direction. But, of course, we also need to be willing to listen to them when they do speak the truth in love to us.

3. We must exercise grace (Prov. 17:9):

We're most probably going to be let down by people in all of our relationships. And we're probably going to let them all down too. While living in community is God's plan for us, we are all fallen and we all fail. Therefore, we must exercise grace to forgive each other, and move on from offence. If we've wronged someone else, we should approach them and apologise, change our behaviour, and ask for reconciliation

Proverbs 18:24 reminds us that there is a perfect friend that will never let us down. The gospels tell us that this is Jesus, who went to the cross for us to restore our relationship with God. He now calls us friends (John 15:15), and He is the example we should imitate in being a friend to others.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What do you find most difficult about relationships?
- How could you build an 'advisory board' of friends who can guide you?
- Do you find it easier to speak the truth in love, or listen to others speak truth to you? Why?
- What lessons can we learn from Jesus' life about how to be a good friend?
- Who in your world could you be a friend to?

Witness - How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)
 - Encounter Night – 27th August at 7.30pm, City Centre Site
 - All Church Picnic – 28th August from 12.30pm (after the usual Sunday services), Cannon Hill Park