

Small Group Discussion Guide

“The Core Course on Wisdom”

Louie

12-18-11



Big Idea:

It's black and white—if you fear
God you will turn from evil.

Main Text:

Proverbs 8

Discussion Points

- Wisdom's call is certain (8:1), public (2-3), and personal (4-5). Louie said you have to work to ignore Wisdom's call. Briefly ponder these verses and answer the following questions.

How does wisdom call out to you *publically and personally* on a daily basis? Do you take heed to her call? If so, how? If not, why not?

What are the dangers and risks of ignoring Wisdom's call to you? What are the benefits? How have you personally experienced both (dangers and benefits)?

- Read Proverbs 8:9-11. In 1 Kings 3, God asked Solomon to ask for anything he wanted. Solomon asked for a humble and discerning heart of wisdom in order to judge God's people properly. God was delighted. He gave him wisdom and prosperity.

If God would give you one thing, what would you ask for? Would humility/wisdom/discernment come to mind? Why are these things more precious than pure gold or sterling silver?

- C.S. Lewis once said, seek first things first and second things are thrown in. Seek second things first and you lose both.

What "second things" tend to push their way into the "first thing" category in your life and thinking? What causes the center of your life to shift away from God like that? What would it mean for you to seek first things first and make everything else a second thing?

- Louie said that Proverbs shows how "Wisdom's speech illustrates the intimate relationship between wisdom and rule."

Consider what this intimate relationship looks like (or should look like) for you at work, you're your friends, with your spouse, your children and your enemies.

- Talk about this vital truth: "To fear the LORD is to hate evil." David Hubbard said, "The tug of war between wisdom and folly for the heart is perpetual in Proverbs." (perpetual means we must make a continuous, daily decision to turn north to God instead going south to folly.)

Do you believe to fear God is to hate evil? If so, how do you live in the fear of the LORD on a daily basis as you interact with the temptations of life? If you tend to play with evil, will you face this honestly and turn from it now? Tell someone about your struggle in order to get help. Too much is at stake to ignore Wisdom's call. Will you surrender to God wholeheartedly now?

- Read Proverbs 8:17-19 aloud and embrace the hope that's there.