

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Our Reputation"

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Discussion Points

Big Idea:

"Our reputation is the accumulation of how we relate."

Main Text:

Proverbs 11

- "Our reputation is the calling card we use to get in the door of the heart in order to live out the gospel."

If you embrace this definition, how will it make you more conscious of how you relate in order to make disciples? Give examples. How will you live this out this week?
- Reflect together on this verse: "The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight." Prov 11:1

In what ways or circumstances might you be tempted to be dishonest and why? What does it take for you to always choose to be a person of "accurate weights"? Give an example of when you had to make a tough choice to be honest.
- "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." Verse 2

How does pride prevent you from seeing how you use words in ungodly, self-promoting or self-protective ways?

How does humility and wisdom go together? Can you give an example from your own life experience?
- If our reputation is the accumulation of how we relate, how do you think others (neighbors, spouse, kids, co-workers, and friends) would describe your reputation?
- Give an example from your own life of how this is true: "The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires." Verse 6
- Read and reflect together on Prov. 11:9 and 12. In what ways have you derided your neighbor (or someone) in the past 6 months? What does it require for you to choose to hold your tongue when you want to engage in gossip?
- "We do things because we are respected and accepted (thru God's grace) not because we want to be respected and accepted."

Do you live from these truths? If so, how does this play out in your daily life? If not, what would help you embrace the truth of God's love and acceptance so you can live this way?