

life groups

Questions for the Week of May 21

1. What's the best advice you've received about advancing your career? How about the best relationship advice? How about the best advice on resolving conflict?
2. Read over Proverbs 17 and 18. What one or two verses stand out to you the most, or surprise you?
3. Read Proverbs 18:9. Why is a work effort such a valuable trait, especially in others' eyes?
4. Read Proverbs 17:9. Though crimes or serious wrongdoing need to be reported to authorities, give examples of some offenses you might experience that don't require anyone to report them to another person. These moderate or slight offenses can be resolved quickly with the individual involved, or simply overlooked and freely forgiven. Why is the concept of forgiveness so essential for a functioning society, a unified family, or a lasting marriage?
5. Read Proverbs 17:24. Give an example of a perceptive person, focusing on acquiring wisdom, while a foolish person, is distracted by shiny objects that appear, and never seems to grow and wisdom.
6. Some people are so far gone in their integrity, or mixed-up way of looking at the world that they get very defensive, and even quite violent if they are confronted by another. Give an example of a time where you consider the best judgment in a situation required you to simply avoid provoking the fool who was convinced of the rightness of his way.
7. Read Proverbs 17:17. There are two sides to every story. This simple concept is quickly forgotten when people get embroiled in a complicated and contentious situation. They quickly take sides and don't bother to ascertain the true facts or the concerns of the people involved. What can you do to avoid falling into the trap? How have you seen this trap cause problems or issues in relationships or with groups?
8. Read Proverbs 18:19. Pastor Quintin talked about the difference between forgiving an offender versus trusting an offender. Forgiveness is given freely to the offended person. Trust, on the other hand is built through consistent acts of integrity and righteousness demonstrated over a period of time. Why might a person readily forgive someone, but take their time in granting trust to that same individual? The book of Proverbs does not anchor its wisdom in clever human thinking, or human application of teaching. Instead, it anchors wisdom in a relationship with the living God. Describe practically how God makes us wise over time.

