



Sermon Discussion Questions

For small group leaders or for a whole small group to use

“How to Not Ruin Your Life: Live in Line with Reality” (Proverbs 4-7), September 14, 2025

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Sermon Overview

Main Idea

Proverbs is not just a collection of disconnected bits of advice for decision making; instead, it is a book that leads us to recognize righteous living, causes us to love and desire the righteous life, and teaches us how to live the righteous life. In displaying all three of those characteristics through a single passage, Proverbs 4-7 shows us that, ultimately, we only face two paths in life: the path of wisdom that moves us toward Christ and eternal life in him and the path of folly that moves us toward destruction and eternal death. In navigating these paths, this section of Proverbs explains how we can receive wisdom that is generationally preserved, how we can keep from deviating from the path of wisdom, how faithful marriage enriches our journey down the path of wisdom and how heeding the warnings given to us prevents us from being lured off the path of wisdom.

Sermon Outline

1. Receive the wisdom from behind (Proverbs 4:1-9)
2. Walk straight on the path ahead (Proverbs 4:10-27)
3. Enjoy your spouse at your side (Proverbs 5:1-23)
4. Heed the warnings all around (Proverbs 6:1-7:27)

Quotation(s)

John Owen, *On the Mortification of Sin*: “Sin aims always at the utmost.”

Samuel James, *How Great the Chasm That Lay Between*: “There are orientations toward the world—toward nature, toward societies, toward mothers and fathers, toward marriage and children and work and death—that either reject or accept reality. American progressivism, baptized into the religion of the Sexual Revolution and identity politics, rejects reality. It sanctifies the self, and builds little fortresses for unmoored desires. Including the desire to eliminate those who disagree...The truth is that it’s precisely the embarrassment over spirituality and unwillingness to submit to transcendent truths that has turned our civic life so gangrenous. What keeps people from shooting the necks of people they dislike? A commitment to individualism, free speech, or pluralism? No. In the end, it is only the fear of God that preserves the center. In losing God, we are burying ourselves.”

Ray Orlund, *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel*: “Conservative people love form and restraint and control. Progressive people love freedom and openness and choices. Both see part of the truth, but wisdom see more. Wisdom teaches us that God gives us our sexuality both to focus our romantic joy and to unleash our romantic joy. When our desires are both focused and unleashed – both form and freedom – our sexual experience becomes wonderfully intensified.”



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Discussion Questions

Read the Scripture Text (if the text is shorter, consider reading it together several times).

Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on? (See above to review the main point)
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why? (Encourage several people to share)

Deeper Reflection on the Meaning and Implications

1. In reflecting on the father-to-son delivery of wisdom in the Proverbs passage, Drew said the exchange godly wisdom is generational and, for it to flourish among us, we must recognize that we have a responsibility to receive that godly wisdom from older generations and a responsibility to give godly wisdom to younger generations. Do you have older Christians in your life from whom you humbly receive godly wisdom? If not, what steps can you take to seek out that kind of relationship? Do you have younger Christians in your life to whom you are actively and intentionally providing the same godly wisdom you acquired from others?
2. Drew said that, at all times and in all that we do, we are each moving along a path, which is either a path of destruction that leads to death or a path of wisdom that leads to life in Christ. Which path do you feel like you have been on coming into today and how far down that path are you?
3. John Owen said “sin aims always at the utmost,” which is a way of saying that each little sin that goes unchecked seeks to eventually consume all of you. Do you have an example from your life where you did not repent of a “little sin” and it eventually took you farther than you wanted to go and kept you longer than you wanted to stay? Do you have an example of a “little sin” that you did repent of and, because of that repentance, you believe you were spared from eventual ruin? Are there any areas of your life where God is currently calling you to repent? Practically, what steps should we be taking to make our repentance most effective and most lasting?
4. God’s view of sexuality is initially “yes” but, because of sin entering the world, He has had to add various “no’s” around sexuality in order to protect the good gift He intended it to be. Conservatives are prone to view sexuality as a bad thing that needs to be restrained, while progressives are prone to view it as a good thing that needs to be unleashed. But, through Proverbs, we see that God views sexuality as a wonderful gift that should be fully enjoyed in the specific context for which it was commissioned by God. How are you inclined to view sexuality? What vision of sexuality did your parents cast for you and how do you think that impacted you? How can you be sure to cast a clear, biblical vision of sexuality for your children or others who are not yet married?

Final Response

- What is one thing you want to remember or do in light of this sermon or discussion?