



Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



The Wealth of Wisdom

Introduction: . Americans often have issues with finances. The god of America is truly the dollar bill. We spend money we don't have, buy things we don't need, to impress people we don't like. We forget that we are blessed to be a blessing; we have so that we can give. Proverbs declares that we use our money to either honor or dishonor the Lord.

Text: Proverbs 3:1-10

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever been given a gift that overwhelmed you? What was it and why was the gift so meaningful?
2. Read Proverbs 3:1-10 What does it mean to trust in the Lord with all your heart? What does it mean to not lean on your own understanding?
3. We are to acknowledge God in all our ways. What does that look like? discuss/write
4. Proverbs 3:9 says to honor the Lord. How can we honor the Lord?
5. Why do you think that most people have a hard time honoring the Lord with their wealth?
6. First fruits means the best, choicest, the first tenth. We are to give the Lord the first tenth of our income. We are to give him the best part. How does this honor God?
7. The law of first fruits was before the Mosaic law. Read the following scripture that shows the law of first fruits before the days of Moses. Gen. 4, Gen. 14:20, Gen. 28:22.
8. Read 1 Sam. 2:30. God will honor those who honor him. How does this connect with Prov. 3:9?
9. Read the following: Prov. 25:14, 11:24-26 What do these verses speak about giving?
10. The Bible also declares that not only does our giving of our "tithe" first fruits honor the Lord, but our generous giving to the poor honors him. Read Prov. 14:21, 14:31, 19:17 How have or can you help the poor?
11. There is a difference between the righteous poor and the unrighteous poor. Some are poor and needy because they can't. Some are poor and needy because they won't. Some are a victim of their circumstances, while others are the cause of their circumstances. Read the following to see examples of the unrighteous poor—Prov. 26:13-16.
12. Read Prov. 11:28. The goal in life is not to be rich. The goal is to not see how much we can possess, but rather how much we can release. Why is it dangerous to set riches as your main goal in life? How does God want us to use our wealth?

Think About it:

2 Cor. 9:6 tells us that the one who sows sparingly, will reap sparingly. The one who sows bountifully, will reap bountifully. You can read throughout all the pages in the scripture and you will see that God urges his children to live a generous life of giving. We are called to not hold on to our riches, but to richly honor the Lord through our wealth. The first, best, choicest—the first part of our income belongs to God. Would you take Jesus to dinner and offer him your leftovers? Surely not. So why give less than your best? We are also called to be a blessing to those in need. When we see a need and we can meet it, we are to meet that need. Generous living will never happen if you have a stingy heart. Trust in the Lord with all your heart! Don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him . . . that includes your wealth.

Moving Forward:

Take time this week to look at your giving of your first fruits to the Lord through your local church. Are you bringing him your best, or the leftover scraps? Make it your aim to begin bringing your best—the first tenth. Also, be aware of those around you this week. Notice if there is anyone who you might bless. When you see an opportunity to help someone—do it.

