



WISSE

PROVERBS | SONG OF SONGS

evchurch
solid hope - Jesus

Term 3, 2011

Daily Reading Notes

Proverbs & Song of Songs

(Wise)

Week	Passage
1	Proverbs 1:1-3:35
2	Proverbs 4-6
3	Proverbs 7-9
4	Proverbs 10-15
5	Proverbs 16:1-22:16
6	Proverbs 22:17-24:34
7	Proverbs 25:1-29:36
8	Proverbs 30:1-31:31
9	Song of Songs 1:1-5:1
10	Song of Songs 5:2-8:14

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for 3 friends, once a week, for 1 minute (3-1-1).

List the name of your family/friends here.

The word "life" is written in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with a different color from a rainbow spectrum: 'l' is yellow, 'i' is purple, 'f' is blue, and 'e' is red. The letters have a slight 3D effect with shadows.

looking into life with Jesus

1st series Wednesday 3rd August @ 7:15pm for coffee and dessert

2nd series Tuesday 9th August @ 7:15pm for 7:30 dinner

food + talk + discussion + coffee + questions

The letters "ev" are in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The 'e' is orange and the 'v' is yellow. They are surrounded by glowing, white, swirling lines that create a sense of motion and energy. The background is a dark brown gradient.

MOVING INTO THE LIFE OF THIS CHURCH

7:30pm Seminar Room, EV Church
4 Tuesday nights starting 9th August

Proverbs & Song of Songs guide

How to use this book:

1. Personal Reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your growth group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

digging deeper

GOD'S BOOK, GOD'S PLAN - the unfolding plan of God
APOLOGETICS - how to answer the big questions

5 Mondays starting 22nd August
7:30 - 9:30pm @ ev church

Introduction to the book of Proverbs

Proverbs is an enormously rewarding book to read. It is thoroughly practical, and comes in many bite-sized pieces. It is written in the form of parental instruction, like a father speaking to his son, the father urging his son to choose a life of wisdom and flee a life of folly, to choose lady wisdom and flee the adulteress madam folly.

On a big picture level there is a clear structure that suggests the story of a young man. It has three main sections: Proverbs 1-9, Proverbs 10:1-31:9 and Proverbs 31:10-31.

Chapters 1-9 are the Father encouraging the Son to choose wisdom, urging his son to see wisdom's great benefits, and folly's great dangers. Proverbs 1:1-7 is the introduction to the book, and 1:7 introduces the motto of the book – "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge". At the end of this first section of the book, in 9:10, it says "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10 form a frame grouping chapters 1-9 together as a whole, a section that prepares the son and us for Proverbs 10:1-31:9.

Having prepared us to pursue wisdom, Proverbs 10:1-31:9 contain the actual content of wisdom – how someone should actually live if they are to be wise. This section contains a lot of material written by Solomon, but also wisdom written by others. It is grouped in collections (see Proverbs 10:1; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1).

The sayings in this section range over a vast array of topics encompassing all sorts of issues. They focus on concrete issues, addressing the practicalities of life in the home, street, school etc.. The proverbs jump from subject to subject without any apparent logic, however there are chapters with particular themes. It's funny that a book so concerned with order seems to have so little discernable order, at least on the micro level. Perhaps this is because this is how life comes to us – just one thing after another – and so Proverbs reflects life in this way and helps us to deal with life in this way. It's probably also because this way of presenting builds a picture of a complete and multi-faceted life of wisdom.

The proverbs describe observations and patterns which exist in the world. It is helpful to notice the difference between the Law and

proverbs. Proverbs are based on observations of life, they assume a created orderliness to the world, and so point to a way of life which will generally (but not always) be profitable. While the Law will tell you not to commit adultery, proverbs will tell you how to avoid getting into a situation where you may be tempted to commit adultery.

Someone once said that Proverbs are boiled lollies – you don't bite them, you suck them around and around. This is helpful as we work at discerning how to apply the various sayings of this book in real life situations. We need to role them over and over in our mind and ponder what wisdom we might apply to what situation.

Finally the book closes with Proverbs 31:10-31, an acrostic poem about the ideal wife. Each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. So we see the A to Z of wisdom summed up and exemplified in the attitudes and behaviours of this truly wise woman. All the themes of the book are gathered up and illustrated. Her behaviour and attitudes encapsulate wisdom in all its dimensions. She lives for others and as she does so she is blessed. And what is her secret? Her secret is that she fears the Lord (verse 30). This is the beginning and end of wisdom (1:7). This theme of fearing God is crucial to a right understanding of Proverbs. To fear him is to trust in him completely, to seek to live his ways, and to at all times have him as your King who determines the course of your life. If someone does not fear the Lord, then irrespective of their cleverness, intelligence and 'wisdom', they are in fact fools.

Perhaps the imagery of the woman picks up the imagery of lady wisdom from earlier in the book, and shows the end of the young man's journey as he lives the blessed life of the man wed to wisdom.

Introduction to the book of Song of Songs

The book of Song of Songs is a love song. In fact, it seems to be a love story, detailing the unfolding relationship between a man and a woman from their courtship to their wedding and consummation to the security they experience in a committed and passionate marriage. It is a book which unashamedly celebrates their sexual relationship and committed love.

There are six main sections in the song: 1:1-2:7, detailing the passionate longings of the couple in courtship; 2:8-3:5, sharing the story of the couple anticipating their marriage and its consummation, and the excitement and fears that this anticipation brings; 3:6-5:1, picturing the couples' wedding and consummation; 5:2-6:3, describing the joy and disappointment that can occur in the complexity of marriage; 6:4-8:4, detailing the rekindling of love after disappointment through delighting in and enjoying each other; and 8:5-14, indicating the security of love that exists in a committed and passionate marriage.

The book of Song of Songs has some very beautiful and practical things to say about love, sex and marriage. It has some strong warnings against sexual immorality, it realistically highlight difficulties that can be faced in the marriage relationship, and it ultimate points us to the greater marriage and consummation that exists for Christ's people, that between Christ and His church.

Week 1: Proverbs 1-3

Day 1

Read Proverbs 1:1-7 & 9:10.

1. What are the purposes of “the proverbs of Solomon”?
2. Who is this book for, and how will it help them?
3. Where is true knowledge and wisdom to be found? Where have you been tempted to look for wisdom other than here?

Pray that through the study of the book of Proverbs the Lord might make you wiser, more discerning, disciplined and prudent. Pray that you might truly fear the Lord.

Day 2

Read Proverbs 1:8-19.

1. Who is giving these instructions to whom, and so what is its tone? (See also Proverbs 2:1 & 3:1)
2. What does verse 9 tell you about this teaching?
3. What pressures or enticements do people, especially the young, often experience, as seen in verses 10-16? Why is it foolish to be enticed by such things? (v17-19)
4. In what areas are you most easily enticed into foolishness and evil. Why these areas?

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Pray that you might see the beauty of wisdom, and that in the Lord's strength you would not give into enticement and pressure.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 1:20-33.

Wisdom is presented in this passage as a woman crying out and calling people to come to her.

1. What do we learn about wisdom from verses 20-23, and what is the result of rejecting wisdom as seen in verses 24-27?
2. By contrast, what is the result of listening to wisdom as seen in verse 33?
3. Verses 28-31 describe a frightening situation. What is it and how is this a sobering warning for you?

Pray that the Lord would protect you from turning away from wisdom, which has the risk of losing wisdom once and for all. Pray that you would experience the great benefits of heeding the call of wisdom.

Day 4

Read Proverbs 2:1-22.

1. List the verbs in verses 1-4. What do these show about us and wisdom?
2. How do verses 5-6 fit with Proverbs 1:7?

3. What is in store for those who seek wisdom? (v7-11)
4. There are two pictures of evil distractions in verses 15-19. What are they and how will wisdom help?

Pray that you would fear the Lord and so be wise, and that you might seek wisdom and so fear the Lord.

Day 5

Read Proverbs 3:1-35.

1. What sort of life is described in verses 1-10, and what will be the consequences of such a life?
2. How do verses 11-12 balance this?
3. What is one thing that strikes you about wisdom in each of the following sections:

Verses 13-18	Verses 19-26	Verses 27-32

4. Do you live as if wisdom is that great? Is it really something you deeply desire? If it was, how would your life look different?

Pray that you would see wisdom as more precious than rubies, and pursue it with all your might.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 2: Proverbs 4-6

Day 1

Read 1 Kings 3.

1. How does Solomon come to possess such great wisdom, and what does this teach you about both Solomon and God?
2. In verses 16-28, how does Solomon show his wisdom?
3. "Wisdom is both a gift from God and a responsibility we have." How was this true for Solomon? Is this true for us? Why?

Give thanks that in His grace God has opened your eyes to the gospel, God's secret wisdom. Pray that you would continue to live wisely by trusting Jesus and living all of life in light of the gospel.

Day 2

Read 1 Kings 4:29-34 and 10:1-29.

1. How does being wise impact the rule of King Solomon?
2. In what ways do you think Solomon might be a shadow pointing to the greater reality of Jesus?

Read 1 Kings 11:1-6

3. What is Solomon's big problem, and how is this a warning to you? What is your big danger?

Read Matthew 12:42 & 7:24-29

4. If Solomon was the great wise man of the old testament then who is Jesus, and what does He offer?

Pray that the Lord might guard you from being enticed into foolishness and sin by your evil desires. Give thanks that one greater than Solomon has come, the Lord Jesus, who is the perfectly wise teacher, whose words are perfect wisdom.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 4.

1. From this chapter, how valuable is wisdom? What is said that makes you think this?
2. If someone looked at your life would they be convinced that you valued wisdom like this?
3. Who is speaking to whom, and what does this teach us about wisdom (see especially Proverbs 4:1-4, 10-11 & 20-21)?
4. What does this teach us about the power of parenting, and the content of what is important to teach children?

Pray that you would value wisdom as supreme and live your life reflecting this. Pray for the parents of our church that they would pass God's wisdom down faithfully to the next generation and model it in their lives.

Day 4

Read Proverbs 5.

1. Why should you fear the adulteress (the woman or man who will lead you into sexual sin)? (verse 1-14)
2. How should you treat the adulteress (verse 8)? What does this teach you about how to respond to all manner of temptations?
3. What do verses 15-23 teach you about marriage? If you are married, how might you build your marriage in faithfulness?
4. It seems that in the book of Proverbs the passages about the adulteress have a dual point. They warn against physical adultery, but it also seems that the adulteress is a personification of folly (i.e. being seduced by the adulteress is a picture of embracing a foolish way of life and coming to ruin). If this is the case, how dangerous is forgetting wisdom and living foolishly, and how should we treat foolish living (verse 8)?

Pray that the Lord might enable you to flee temptation in it's various forms. Pray that those who are married would invest in the exclusive commitment and intimacy of marriage. Pray that you might flee folly like you should flee sexual immorality.

Day 5

Read Proverbs 6.

1. What three pitfalls is the wise person to avoid, and how are they to do it in each case? (verses 1-15)

2. Verse 16 uses a formulaic expression. What is this formula trying to convey? Are there any things in this list of what the LORD hates that you find striking? (verses 16-19)

3. How is the adulteress described, what is the result of adultery and what protection is there against the adulteress? (verses 20-35)

Thank Jesus that you are a new creation in Him. Pray that He might enable you to live as a new creation, with a radically new and wise life. Pray that the Lord might free you from any of the sinful attitudes, actions or lifestyles described in the passage.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 3: Proverbs 7-9

Day 1

Read Proverbs 7.

1. What does the father call the son to do in verses 1-5?
2. How does the father go about warning the son about the adulteress in verses 6-27?
3. How does the imagery of the simpleton and seductress work at two levels?
4. Are there ways that you are flirting with sexual immorality? Are there ways you are flirting with folly?

Give thanks that Jesus cleanses us from all sexual immorality and foolishness, and frees us to live a holy life. Pray that the Lord might protect you from flirting with sexual sin or folly.

Day 2

Read Proverbs 8:1-13.

1. How is wisdom presented here? What does this show us about how language can work in the Bible?
2. What does wisdom want in verses 1-5?

3. In verses 6-13, what 'moral' words are used, and what does this show you about wisdom? How does this reshape the way you think about wisdom?

Pray you would live a wise life, which is a truly practical, moral and godly life.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 8:12-36.

1. From verses 12-21, what rewards does wisdom bring?
2. Who is speaking in verses 22-36, and what are they saying?
3. In what sense can Jesus be described as God's wisdom (see Colossians 1:15-20 & 2:2-3)?

Give thanks that when God created this universe in all wisdom He created it through His Son, the Lord Jesus. Give thanks that in Jesus are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and that God has revealed Him to us so we might know Him.

Day 4

Read Proverbs 8:22-36.

1. In Proverbs 8 wisdom is speaking. What relationship does wisdom have with creation?

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2. From this passage, why is it that we can look at the world and learn from it so we can live wisely (see especially verse 30)?
3. Read Proverbs 1:7 and Proverbs 9:10. However, what is essential if we are to interpret our world correctly and live truly wisely?
4. Read Psalm 14:1. How do fools live, and what does this teach us about the nature of wisdom and foolishness?

Give thanks that the Lord has woven wisdom into the very fabric of creation allowing us to look at the world and learn how to live wisely from it. Pray that you would fear the Lord and listen to His word, so that you would interpret God's orderly world correctly and so be wise.

Day 5

Read Proverbs 9.

1. In this chapter two women are presented, lady wisdom and madam folly. In what way are they similar and what way are they different?
2. Why is folly so alluring and enticing? Why is it so dangerous?
3. What is the difference between being a wise man and a mocker? Which will you be?

Pray that you would always be open to correction and instruction. Pray that the Lord would protect you from the allure and seduction of folly, which promises so much but leads to destruction.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 4: Proverbs 10-15

Day 1

Read Proverbs 10.

1. What do you notice about how the proverbs are basically structured in this chapter?
2. As you read through chapter 10, what are the main contrasts that are dealt with? Is there a common general theme developing?
3. What things in this chapter are part of the wise/righteous/good life, and which are a challenge to you?

Pray that in response to God's grace you might live the wise life, which is a life that in all areas is righteous and good.

Day 2

Read Proverbs 11.

1. What does this chapter (and in fact the whole book of Proverbs) seem to suggest about what will happen to the righteous and the wicked in this life (see Proverbs 11:3, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27 & 31)?
2. Read 11:4, 7, 16 & 28. Is it that simple (see also Proverbs 3:11-12; 10:2; 13:23; 15:17; 22:1)?
3. What does this teach you about the nature of proverbial sayings?

4. There seems to be a tension in Proverbs. The book generally expects the righteous to prosper and the wicked to suffer in this life because this is the way God has designed His world, and yet this is not always the case – when we look around it appears that sometimes (perhaps even often) the righteous suffer and the wicked seem to prosper. This is only strengthened in Job, where the righteous man suffers through no fault of his own, and in Ecclesiastes, where the teacher observes that there is often injustice in this world. How does the New Testament solve this tension (see Roman 3:25-26; Romans 8:18-25 and Luke 13:1-5)?

Give thanks that God's way to live is the best way to live. Also give thanks that at the cross Jesus dealt with our wickedness, and that there will come a day when our world is liberated from suffering and frustration, and perfect justice will be done.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 12-13.

1. Which of these Proverbs do you find surprising or interesting? Why?
2. What are some common examples of chasing fantasies today (Proverbs 12:11)?
3. What good advice is there in Proverbs 13:20, and how might you put it into practice?
4. These chapters have quite a bit to say about the use of our words, as does the rest of the book of Proverbs. Which one made the biggest impression on you? Why?

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Pray that you would gather around you those who are wise so that you would grow wise.

Day 4

Read Proverbs 14.

1. What is the overall impression you get after reading a few chapters of these sayings?
2. Think back to chapters 1-9. What were some key things you learnt about wisdom and so how to study the rest of the book? How does this chapter confirm the approach to wisdom that Proverbs 1-9 has set up?
3. What does Proverbs 14:26 have to say about the way parents are to live, and the result it can bring? If you are a parent, in practical terms, how might you live and parent in this way?

Pray that in the everyday circumstances of life you would fear the Lord, pursue wisdom and flee folly.

Day 5

Read Proverbs 15.

1. What are some of the dominant themes raised in this passage?
2. What are the positive and negative contrasts in the use of our tongue?

3. From this passage, what are some of the results of our speech, and how might you work on changing your speech in response?

Ask for forgiveness for the ways in which you have used your tongue for evil. Pray that the Lord might change your heart and change your tongue.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 5: Proverbs 16:1-22:16

Day 1

Read Proverbs 16.

1. What main theme seems to be developing in verses 1-11?
2. What about in verses 10-15?
3. How might the themes developed here effect the way you view the world and live life?

Give thanks that the Lord is in control and working out all things for His own ends, and that His ends are good. Pray for the rulers and authorities of our country and our world, that they would rule in wisdom and righteousness.

Day 2

Read Proverbs 17.

1. From this chapter, list all the sins that we are warned against.
2. If you are going to avoid these sins what sort of choices will you need to make regarding how you will live?

Give thanks that Jesus gives us a new heart so that in His strength we are actually able to be obedient to Him. Pray that each day you would be aware of the choices you are faced with and their potential to lead you into sin or godliness.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 18.

1. Again, chapter 18 focuses in on our speech. What do we learn in this chapter concerning the use our tongues?

Read Luke 6:45 & James 3:1-12.

2. What important things do these two passages teach us about our speech?
3. What is one way that you would like to work on changing your speech to become more godly in this area?

Give thanks that the Lord has given you a new heart so that your speech can be pure. Pray that the Lord would continue to cleanse your heart and enable you to work at getting rid of hurtful, sinful and damaging speech.

Day 4

Read Proverbs 19:1-20:13.

1. Are there any particular sayings that challenge or strike you from these verses? What is so challenging or striking?
2. Among many other topics in this passage there are a number of sayings about parents and children (see Proverbs 19:13, 18, 26, 27; 20:7 & 11) and about laziness (see Proverbs 19:15, 24; 20:4 & 13). What do you learn here about relationships between parents and children? What do you learn here about laziness and work?

3. Throughout Proverbs there is much about the LORD. What is said about the LORD in this passage? What difference does an understanding of the LORD's presence make to life?

Pray that you would constantly be aware of the Lord's presence as you make decisions and live life.

Day 5

Read Proverbs 20:14-22:16.

1. In this passage, what instructions impress you the most?
2. What verses in this passage speak about man's responsibility and what verses speak about God's sovereignty (see especially Proverbs 20:22, 24; 21:1, 12, 30, 31; 22:2 & 12)?
3. What does this teach us about life, and how does a knowledge of both our responsibility and God's sovereignty help us to live as Christians?

Give thanks that the Lord is control of all things and so our future rests secure in His hands. Pray that you would live out your responsibility to fear and honour Him in your life.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 6: Proverbs 22:17-24:34

Day 1

Read Proverbs 22:17-23:35.

1. What will wisdom do for our relationship with God (see Proverbs 22:17-21)?
2. Many of the sayings throughout these chapters begin with “do not”. What are we not to do if we are wise?
3. In verses 19-36 the writer deals with some key temptations that require self control to resist. What temptations are mentioned here, what warnings are given against them, and how are we to deal with them?
4. Which temptation do you find most enticing, and how will you go about dealing with it?

Pray that you would trust the Lord by living wisely. Pray that as the grace of God teaches you to say “no” to ungodliness you would listen and put sin to death. Pray that the Lord would enable you to exercise self-control in the area of temptation that you find most enticing.

Day 2

Read Proverbs 24.

1. There is always a danger for us that we might envy the wicked (verse 1 & 19; see also Psalm 73). Knowing this, we see in this passage many reasons to pursue wisdom and fear of the LORD. How does the writer seek to motivate us in this?

2. What are some examples of times when people were being “led away to death” while others claimed that they “knew nothing about this” (see verses 11-12)? What threat is made against those who dishonestly claim ignorance?
3. How might this apply to our reluctance to share the gospel? How is this a challenge to you?

Pray that you would not envy those who don't love God, but would live a wise and godly life. Pray that you would care that people are going to eternal punishment without Jesus and openly share the gospel with them.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 24:23-34.

1. What do verses 26-34 teach us about work? In what areas of your life are you tempted to be lazy and how might you go about altering this?
2. What do the following verses from the new testament teach us about why and how we should work: 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:17; 1 Timothy 5:8; Romans 13:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Ephesians 4:28; Romans 15:23-26 and Philipians 4:14-19?
3. 1 Corinthians 15:58 teaches us that there is a greater and more important work. What is it and why is it so important?
4. How will you shape your life to reflect this reality?

Pray that you might be godly and work hard in your work (which includes

study or working as a mum), doing your work for the Lord. Also pray that you would give yourself as much as is possible to the Lord's work, the work of the gospel.

The new testament also teaches us a great deal about how to live a wise life.

Day 4

Read Ephesians 5:8-21 .

1. What sort of days do we live in? How can we make the most of this time?
2. How can we live the wise rather than the foolish life?
3. Verses 19-21 show how the Spirit-filled life will be lived out in practice. What marks out someone who is filled with the Spirit?
4. How does the image of being filled with the Spirit instead of alcohol help us to understand what it means to be filled with the Spirit?

Pray that you would live wisely, making the most of every opportunity as a child of the light (part of the new resurrection age) in the darkness of this present age, and live increasingly under the influence of the Spirit.

Day 5

Read James 1:2-8 & James 3:13-18

1. From James 1:2-8, where does wisdom come from, and how does this fit with James 3:13-18?

2. From James 3:13, what will a wise life look like?
3. What two types of wisdom are contrasted and how are they different?
4. What is one way that you would like to change your life so that it displays heavenly rather than earthly wisdom?

Pray that you would not be seduced by worldly ways of thinking and acting (earthly wisdom) but would display heavenly wisdom.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 7: Proverbs 25-29

Day 1

Read Proverbs 25.

1. Are there any particular sayings or themes that stand out for you in this chapter? How might this affect the way you live?
2. Jesus adapts the saying in Proverbs 25:6-7 in His parable in Luke 14:7-11. What is the point Jesus is making in this parable (see especially verse 11)?
3. Paul quotes Proverbs 25:21-22 in Romans 12:20. Read Romans 12:17-20. What does Paul teach us about seeking revenge, and how does the quote from Proverbs contribute to his exhortation?

Pray that you would not seek revenge but show love, leaving vengeance to the Lord.

Day 2

Read Proverbs 26.

1. In verses 1-12 there are some more strong warnings about being a fool. How does Solomon warn against being a fool? Which is your favorite of these sayings and why?
2. From verses 4 & 5, what should you do when a fool speaks foolishly? What does this teach us about the nature of these proverbial sayings?
3. In verses 18-28, Solomon speaks a great deal about how we use our tongues. What areas of speech does he deal with, and which is most

challenging to you?

Pray that the Lord would give you great discernment to know what particular bits of wisdom to apply to each particular situation.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 27.

1. Compare verse 1 with James 4:13-16. What do we learn from these verses about how we should make our plans?
2. In verses 5-17, what instructions are there about friendships and how we should conduct them (see also Proverbs 12:26; 13:20; 16:29; 17:9; 17:17; 18:24; 19:11; 20:3; 22:11; 22:24-25; 24:1-2; 25:19)?
3. Read Luke 14:25 & 1 Corinthians 7:29-31. In following Jesus, what is a greater priority than family and friendship?
4. Read John 15:9-17. What privileged position do those who trust Jesus hold?

Give thanks that Jesus is not ashamed to make us His friends and call us brothers, making peace with us through His blood shed on the cross. Pray that our allegiance to Jesus would be above our allegiance to any other human relationship we have.

Day 4

Read Proverbs 28.

1. Why does the wicked man flee though no one pursues him, and what is the solution to his problem (see verses 1, 13, 14 & 17)?

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2. What does this chapter have to say about proper and improper views of money and material possessions?
3. What does the new testament add (see Luke 16:1-9, 13-15; Matthew 6:19-24; 1 Timothy 6:6-10 & 17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Hebrews 13:5 and 2 Corinthians 8:9)?
4. Do you need to reshape your thinking or living in this area?

Pray that you would use your money wisely. Pray that you would work hard, not waste your money, not serve it or be controlled by it or trust it, but be generous to the poor and invest in eternity by giving sacrificially to the work of the gospel.

Day 5

Read Proverbs 28 & 29.

1. What do these chapters teach us about rule, law and justice?
2. If we hold a position of authority, how should we use it?
3. From these chapters, what should we pray for those in authority over us?
4. What does Romans 13:1-7 teach us about how to relate to those in authority over us?

Pray for those in authority over you and pray for yourself as you exercise authority over others.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 8: Proverbs 30:1-31:31

Day 1

Read Proverbs 30:1-14.

1. In verses 1-6, what attitude and understanding does Augur display?
2. Why does Agur ask God to give him neither poverty nor riches? Is this your attitude (also compare with Matthew 6:9-13)?
3. What types of people are mentioned in verses 11-14, and are they around today? Which are you most tempted to be like?

Pray that the Lord would give you great humility so that you would sit humbly under His Word.

Day 2

Read Proverbs 30:15-31:9

1. From this passage, what wisdom does Augur gather from what he observes in the world around him?
2. Is verse 20 a common attitude or statement in our world today? What does this show about our society?
3. What can we learn from the animals in verses 24-28?
4. What good advice did King Lemuel's mother give him about how to rule as a king? What does this teach us as we hold positions of authority?

Pray that you would have a sharp conscious that always recognizes and is willing to take responsibility for your sin.

Day 3

Read Proverbs 31:10-31.

This passage is an acrostic poem.

1. What are the qualities of the wife of noble character, and what is her most important attribute?
2. When this passage is combined with New Testament passages such as Titus 2:4-5; 1 Timothy 5:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:1-6, what picture emerges of the woman of noble character?
3. Considering the way women have functioned throughout chapters 1-9 of Proverbs (see 9:1-7 & 13-18; 4:7-9; 5:1-12; 7:1-21; 8:1-11), how might the woman be functioning here in the epilogue of the book (also compare 3:15 with 31:10)? What would be the result of such an ending?

Pray that the women of our church would continue to grow to be “women who fear the Lord”. Pray that you would embrace wisdom and experience the great benefits of a wise life.

Jesus is the fulfillment of wisdom in the Bible. Not only is He the perfectly wise man, greater than Solomon (Matthew 12:42), but He is actually wisdom from God for us.

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-30.

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1. What is God's great act of wisdom and how is it generally perceived by the world?
2. How does God regard the wisdom of the world and what is its outcome?
3. What does it mean in verse 30 when it says "...Christ Jesus, who has become for us the wisdom of God"?

Thank God for His wisdom in saving us through the cross. Pray that we would trust God to bring salvation to people through a 'foolish' message and 'weak' messengers, and so speak about Jesus.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

1. Paul reminds the Corinthians of his preaching whilst in Corinth. What does Paul say about his preaching in 2:1-5? Why did he preach and minister in the way that he did (see also 1 Corinthians 1:18)?
2. What is the message of wisdom which Paul speaks among the mature? What is at the core of all wisdom?
3. From 2:6-16, how is it that man can come to know God? How does this truth also stop any boasting?

Thank God that our salvation does not rest on our wisdom or on an eloquent presentation, but on the gospel revealed to us by the Spirit of God. Thank God for the cross of Jesus, the core of all wisdom, God's great wisdom that brings salvation so that we have nothing to boast in.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 9: Song of Songs 1:1-5:1

Day 1

Read Song of Songs 1:1-2:7.

1. Song of Songs 1:1-2:7 are the passionate longings of a couple prior to their wedding. What are they dreaming of?
2. The woman calls her husband “the king” in 1:4. This seems to be a way of praising his manliness. How else do the man and the woman compliment each other?
3. There is a refrain that appears three times in the book of Song of Songs. This shows it’s a central and important message of the book. Read Song of Songs 2:7, 3:5 and 8:4. What is the reader warned not to do, and what does this mean (see also 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 5:27-30 and Hebrews 13:4)? How does this apply to you in your life situation?

Pray that you would flee sexual immorality and keep the exercise of your sexual desires safely within the bounds of marriage.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20.

1. From verses 9-11, what hope is there for those of us who have sinned sexually?
2. “Everything is permissible for me” (verse 12) appears to be a quote from some Corinthians who perhaps felt that they were above moral rules and that what they did with their bodies had nothing to do with being a Christian. How does Paul correct this misunderstanding?

3. Verse 18 says, "Flee from sexual immorality." What does it mean to flee from sexual immorality and what reasons does the passage give us for doing this?
4. Is there any sexual immorality in your life? What practical steps must you take this week to change this?

Praise Jesus that by His death on the cross you have been cleansed of all sin, including sexual sin if you trust Him. Repent of any sexual sin in your life.

Day 3

Read Song of Songs 2:8-3:5.

1. As the couples' wedding draws near the woman (beloved) makes clear her desires. What is it she desires in 2:8-13 & 16-17?
2. In 2:15, what do the foxes represent, and what does this teach us about relationships? How might you work on your relationships in this regard?
3. It seems that in 3:3-5 the woman has a dream that projects her deepest fears. What fears emerge for the woman prior to her wedding, and how does it all turn out?

Give thanks for your God-given sexual desires. Pray for yourself or others you may know who have troubles or fears in their relationships with the opposite sex.

Day 4

Read Song of Songs 3:6-5:1.

1. In Song of Songs 3:6-11, it is the couples' wedding, and it seems that because she thinks of her husband as kingly she speaks of him as if he were Solomon even though she referred to him as a shepherd in 1:7. How does she view her husband on their wedding day?
2. In 4:1-7, the husband admires his wife's body, and goes on to speak of her virginal beauty. What sort of things does he say about his new wife in 4:1-15, and what does the imagery represent?
3. Song of Songs 4:16-5:1 pictures the consummation of the marriage in strong sexual imagery, her body spoken of as a garden. How does the Bible view sex within marriage?
4. In Ephesians 5, the church is spoken of as the bride of Christ, and in Revelation 19 & 21 we get a picture of the final union of Christ and His bride, the church. What is the greater wedding and consummation that earthly weddings and consummations look forward to? In light of this should we focus more on great marriages (see also Matthew 22:29-30) or more on our relationship with Christ and the work of His Kingdom? How do these truths help if you are single?

Give thanks that we are the bride of Christ through His sacrifice for us. Give thanks that one day there will be the final consummation of our relationship with Jesus: where Jesus brings in the new creation, deals with sin, and the eternal celebration begins as we enter an experience of perfect relationship with Christ.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 & 29-31.

1. Where the NIV has in verse 1 “It is good for a man not to marry” it is actually in the Greek “It is good for a man not to touch a woman”, and is probably something the Corinthians were saying. With this in mind, why is it good to marry (see 1 Corinthians 6:12-20)?
2. What instruction is given to husbands and wives in verses 3-5, and what more general principles of marriage are illustrated by these verses?
3. From verses 29-31 how should we live in this world and why should we live this way (see also Matthew 22:29-30)?
4. There is a greater priority in life than marriage or sex. What is it?

Pray that you would live in this present world by living for the next world. Pray that you would not be so engrossed in the things of this world, including things like marriage and sex, that they distract your focus from working for the world to come.

Prayer Points and Notes

Week 10: Song of Songs 5:2-8:14

Day 1

Read Song of Songs 5:2-6:3.

1. What do you think is being pictured in Song of Songs 5:2-6 (is it literal, or is it sexual metaphor)?
2. From 5:7-8, what has been the result for her (again, is it literal, or is it emotional metaphor)?
3. After the disappointment or trouble in relationship described in 5:2-8, what occurs in 5:10-6:3? What does all this teach us about the complexity of a committed marriage?
4. How does knowing Christ's love help us through the joys, disappointments and struggles of marriage?

Pray that you would respond in godly ways when you are hurt in relationships, especially for difficulties experienced in your marriage if you are married. Thank Jesus for the love we experience from Him that enables us to love others when we are hurting.

Day 2

Read Song of Songs 6:4-8:4.

1. Song of Songs 6:8 paints a negative picture of King Solomon. How did Solomon conduct his 'love life' (see 1 Kings 11:1-6), and how is this man different (see 6:8-9)?
2. How does the husband feel about his wife (7:1-9), and how does she feel about this (7:9-8:4)? What does this teach us about sexuality?

3. After the disagreement of 5:2-6 how do the husband and wife rekindle their love?
4. What can you do to rebuild relationships when they are damaged, and how does your relationship with Jesus help you?

Pray that the Lord would protect you from sexual immorality. Pray that you would work to build your relationships, especially when damaged.

Day 3

Read Ephesians 5:22-27.

1. What are husbands commanded to do in verse 25?
2. How does Christ show His love for the church? What amazing thing has He achieved for us (verses 25-27)?
3. Following Christ's example, what do you think it means for a husband to be "...the head of the wife...", and in practical terms, how could a husband go about doing this?

Pray that the husbands of our church would be men who lovingly and sacrificially lead their wives into all holiness.

Day 4

Read Song of Songs 8:5-14.

1. What do verses 6-7 teach us about the love and commitment that is to be present in the marriage relationship?

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2. In verses 8-9 the friends speak about their sister. What might the images of the tower and the door represent, and how would her brothers treat her in each case?
3. What does the woman say about herself in verses 10-14, and how does she feel about herself and her relationship at the end of Song of Songs?
4. A great deal of security can be found in a loving marriage, but where is ultimate relational security to be found? Why is that?

Thank God for the ultimate and total we security we have in Christ's love for us, a love from which nothing can separate us.

Day 5

Read Ephesians 5:28-33.

1. How do verses 28-30 go about spurring husbands on to love their wives? What does it show us about the relationship between Christ and the church (verses 28-30)?
2. How does the quote from Genesis help us to understand the "...profound mystery..." of Christ and the church (verses 31-32)?
3. If marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and His church, what strikes you about the relationship we have with Christ, and why?

Give thanks for the oneness and intimacy that we have with Christ, and for His ultimate act of sacrificial love that makes it possible for us to be pure and blameless before the Holy God.

Prayer Points and Notes



MISSION PARTNERS

EV is committed to the proclamation of the gospel all over the world. For you and your group's prayers, here are SaturdayEV's Mission Partners.

Chris and Sharon Ekins (Coast Evangelical Church, Forster)



Chris and Sharon moved up to Forster to begin a church there in early 2009. They were convicted of the great need up there for more Bible teaching churches, especially ones that are accessible to those with little or no church background.

Praise God that they now have about 60 adults and 30 kids who call Coast EC home. Pray

that God would continue to grow His church and save many, as they pray, invest in relationships, share the gospel and teach the Bible. Check out www.coastec.net.au/category/prayer/ for more.

Derek and Anna (Southeast Asia)

Derek and Anna (with baby Liam) have come from Crossroads, one of our sister churches in Canberra, where Anna did MTS. They are in Southeast Asia, engaged in initial language and culture learning. They are currently praying and deciding about what shape their ongoing ministry will take.

The Geneva Push

Geneva has been set up to provide a means by which we can pool our energies to fuel a whole new generation of church planting that might see thousands of Australians saved to know Jesus. Geneva is seeking to achieve this outcome by communicating the vision and need of planting so more and more young people think to give themselves to planting. It then has set in place a high quality assessment process to find the best guys, and provides ongoing support and training through coaching structures, mentoring and ongoing conferences to best ensure planters have the biggest impact they can as planters.

Investing financially in Geneva will serve to create a whole new generation of vibrant churches across the country.

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Matt and Cecily Greenwood

(Western Suburbs Community Bible Church- Perth)



Matt and Cec (along with 4 children) planted WSCBC in the Perth suburb of Mt Claremont during June of 2005. The 2 congregations (9am and 5pm) are enthusiastic but young in the faith with a need for good, solid, mature ministry support. They are not yet financially self sufficient. The Dingles, from EV, are a key family in the ministry of WSCBC. Pray for the recruitment of a good MTS apprentice and for the patience and passion to overcome their lack of visible presence in the community.

Jono and Amy Vink (Tanzania)



Jono and Amy, along with their children Lili, Isaac, Brie and Abe, are working in Musoma, Tanzania. Jono helps to train church leaders by grounding them in Biblical theology and in practical exegetical skills. The aim is to equip locals to teach the Bible and pastor God's people in Tanzania. Amy home schools and is involved in running various groups and Sunday School at the local church.

Paul and Sandra King (Strasbourg, France)



Paul and Sandra have been working in university ministry in France since the 1990s. They are currently in Strasbourg, working with the University Bible Group (GBU). Their ministry with university students involves evangelism, discipling, and training students. They coordinate a ministry apprenticeship program called RELAY, which gives people the opportunity to be equipped for full time Bible ministry. France is a very

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secular country, with less than 1% being Christian. Paul and Sandra long to see French students commit to full time Bible ministry in order to grow Christ's kingdom in France. Pray to this end.

Email: prayerpoints@cms.org.au for more info.

Colin and Jill Bakon (Loja, Ecuador)



Colin and Jill, with their sons Matthew and Nicholas, began ministry in Ecuador in July 1996. Ecuador is a South American country with a strong history of Roman Catholicism. Less than 0.1% of their city, Loja, is Christian, while evangelical groups are viewed with suspicion. Colin and Jill have undertaken teaching English as a second language and involvement in the running of a cafe as strategies to engage people with a view to introducing them to the Lord Jesus. They are also involved in discipleship and supporting local church leaders. Pray for them as they are on home assignment now. They will be staying in Australia for an extended time and are looking at what God would have them do in the future with a possibility of Latin American mission mobilisation. Pray for wisdom.

Email: colin.bakon@sim.org for more info.

Derek and Anna (Southeast Asia)

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Overseas Council Australia (OCA)

OCA is a mission agency that provides funds to theological colleges in developing countries so that more leaders are available for the church in those countries. OCA provides a unique way for Christians in Australia to contribute to the upcoming leaders of the church in the developing world.

These young men and women will lead churches, evangelise, and plant new churches in their own countries. Unlike Western missionaries they

already know the language and culture. Your investment in them will last for thirty or forty years as they minister through their work life.

Christian Leaders Training College, Papua New Guinea

Please pray for John (a former principal of CLTC) and Ann Hitchen who are in their final stages of preparations to come to the College. Please pray for John as he comes to teach subjects in the Masters Course, that God will use him to stimulate the students to grow both spiritually and intellectually. Please pray for their travel and in particular for Ann's health as she supports her husband in his ministry.

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Martin & Jen Shadwick (AFES Newcastle Uni)



Martin and Jen are both graduates of our EV MTS program. Martin is now working with AFES as a staff worker at Newcastle Uni, discipling, evangelising and training Christian students. Jen works half the week in the same Uni ministry with women on campus and half the week in children's ministry at the Hunter Bible Church.

Chris and Sharon Ekins (Coast Evangelical Church, Forster)



Chris and Sharon moved up to Forster to begin a church there in early 2009. They were convicted of the great need up there for more Bible teaching churches, especially ones that are accessible to those with little or no church background. Praise God that they now have about 60 adults and 30 kids who call Coast EC home. Pray that God would continue to grow His church and save many, as they pray, invest in relationships, share the gospel, and teach the Bible. Check out www.coastec.net.au/category/prayer/ for more.

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