IHL Devotionals 2025-26: Proverbs 3 & your own understanding

This year our devotionals focused on the book of Proverbs. This book contains advice to achieve wisdom and godly living. This week we read ***Proverbs 2 and 3.***

Participation in devotionals is encouraged but not mandatory. Feel free to speak up, ask questions, and share lessons from your own lives and faith journeys. This is a safe space. All are encouraged to ***follow along in your own bible*** *– bring your printed copy, use the app, whatever works best for you.*

Open your Bibles: Read Proverbs 3:1-12 out loud in the locker room. You can ask for volunteers.

Discussion

The beginning of this chapter should sound familiar to last week, as it starts off with the same reminder to Solomon's son (and future readers) that we saw in the previous chapters, emphasizing not to forget these commandments but instead to keep them stored in his heart because it will be beneficial to his life. It reiterates that cherishing these truths and valuing them in his life will be good for his relationship with God, and rightly glorifying God will bring him success in his relationships and dealings with others.

Verses 5-8 ("Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding…") are often recited in the Christian community because they remind the son not to trust his own wisdom and understanding, but he is instead – with his whole being – to trust in the **LORD** and **HIS** wisdom, and that if he humbles himself and acknowledges God (who God is, what God knows) and leans on God's wisdom, it will keep him on the path of right living and it will be restoring to his whole being.

The son is reminded to honor God and acknowledge God with all aspects of his life, including his physical blessings such as wealth. If he places God first, even in the most practical aspects of life like wealth, God will not allow him to lack and he will have more than he needs. He's reminded not to despise the correction that comes from God because correction is a sign of God's love for him.

Midway through this chapter we again see the focus and emphasis placed on the value of wisdom, the value of living rightly before God and how it should be cherished more than riches and treasures. Note the pattern: after the son is reminded of the value of wisdom he is then also reminded of the benefits that come from living a wisdom-filled life. We can easily see this pattern in verses 13-18 & 21-35.

Between those verses in 19-20 is a reminder to the son to have the right reverence for God and God's wisdom: He can trust God's plan and wisdom over his own <u>because</u> God is the creator of all things.

Questions & launching points

- Where are some areas in your life that you struggle to trust God with?
- What are some practical changes you can make in your life to live with more Godly wisdom?
- Would anyone share an example of a time they trusted God's will?

Closing prayer & prayer requests

(Next week: Devo is on our annual food drive. Read Proverbs 4-6.)