



## **IHL Devotionals 2025-26: Proverbs 26-28 and our circle**

*This year our devotionals focus on the book of Proverbs. This book contains advice to achieve wisdom and godly living. This week we read **Proverbs 26-28***

*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.*

---

### **Discussion**

Throughout our readings this year, we have heard countless warnings about avoiding foolish people and foolish ways. I had good laugh at how that advice was worded in this week's chapter:

**26:11:** As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.

We've had great discussions this season about internalizing these calls for wisdom and applying them to our own lives. This week's reading felt like a push to make sure we prioritize wisdom over foolishness in those we keep close, investing in our inner circles and not just taking the lessons for ourselves.

Think about this and be honest with yourself:

- Do you have people in your life who help guide you down the path of wisdom and right living?
- Do you need to reevaluate any relationships in your life that repeatedly bring you closer to what Proverbs describes as foolishness?

These are complex questions that may not have immediate, obvious answers. That is OK. Let's look at some verses from this week that can help us in that evaluation.

**27:17:** As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

**27:6:** Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

**27:21:** Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised.

**28:8:** Evil people don't understand justice, but those who follow the Lord understand completely.

Many of you may be familiar with the analogy of your inner circle being like a solar system. God is in the center; you will be frustrated if you keep trying to fit a human into a God-shaped hole. From there, we have relationships that orbit at different levels, like planets around the sun. The closer they are, the more access they have to your time, your energy, your emotions. Who do you let in your closest circle? Are there people (or types of people) you need to move out a level? How often do you revisit your 'solar system' and make sure you are aligning yourself in the way you want to go?

### **Questions & launching points**

1. The line about the dog returning to its own vomit is funny, but are there any areas in your life you've realized were foolish to keep returning to?
2. Can anyone share an experience about how they've worked to ensure those they keep closest are helping them stay on the right path?
3. What does it look like to be a good, wise friend to others?

### **Closing prayer & prayer requests**

Next week: We are planning to have a guest speaker; please read Proverbs by the following week.