



## **IHL Devotionals 2025-26: Proverbs 17-20 & giving back**

*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 17-20**.*

*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.*

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### **Discussion**

The themes in chapters 17-20 should be familiar. It feels like we have encountered nuggets of wisdom like these before – and that's a good thing! Each time you revisit a similar lesson it reinforces the idea in your brain and helps you remember it in ways that work for you.

That reinforcement gives me confidence to act when situations arise in real life – I know that the wisdom that pops into mind in a stressful situation isn't just something I think I remember hearing once, it was a lesson reiterated again and again in the Bible.

Lessons that have spoken to me so far in Proverbs have been reminders that I don't need to win every argument or settle every score. But this week, it was something different. Lessons about the poor were calling out. Here are a few examples:

**17:3:** Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished.

**18:23:** The poor plead for mercy; the rich answer with insults.

**19:1:** Better to be poor and honest than to be dishonest and a fool.

**19:17:** If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord – and he will repay you!

The last one, especially, calls to mind Jesus' teaching when discussing the final judgement in Matthew 25: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Helping those less fortunate than us is a clear biblical calling.

### **Questions & launching points**

- What are some ways you've seen people help the poor that made a true difference?
- Making donations of money or items (like the IHL food drive!) is a great way to provide assistance. What are some good non-monetary ways to give back?
- Does anyone have an example of a volunteer opportunity that made a profound impact on them? We'd love to hear about it.

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

Next week: No games until Jan. 21 – please read Proverbs 21-25.