



WISDOM

LIFE



in this series

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

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**THE WISE CONTROL
THEIR TONGUE**

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THE WISE SEEK COUNSEL

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**THE WISE
ACCEPT CORRECTION**

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**THE WISE ARE HUMBLE &
THE FOOLISH ARE PROUD**



WISDOM



more LIFE resources available at
toolkit.salvos.org.au/youthandkids



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THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM



How do you think God and wisdom are related?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Proverbs 1:1-7
Proverbs 2:1-6
Proverbs 8:10-11

Proverbs 14:26-27
Psalm 25:4-5

What is something you will seek God's wisdom
on this week?

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THE WISE CONTROL THEIR TONGUE



What do your words reveal about you?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Proverbs 10:20
Proverbs 11:9

Proverbs 15:1-2
Proverbs 12:22

What is one way you are going to use your words
this week for good and not for evil?



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NOTES

What is something you are going to do to invite correction and rebuke from people you trust?

Proverbs 3:11
Proverbs 9:7-9
Proverbs 19:20-21

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

How do you respond when people correct you?



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THE WISE ACCEPT CORRECTION

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What things in your life do you need to change to have an attitude of humility rather than pride?

Proverbs 16:18-19
Proverbs 29:23
Jeremiah 9:23-24
Galatians 6:14

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

What are the differences between how the world and God view pride?



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THE WISE ARE HUMBLE & THE FOOLISH ARE PROUD

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Who is a wise person you will go to for counsel this week?

Proverbs 10:17
Proverbs 11:14
Proverbs 12:15
Proverbs 13:1
Proverbs 15:22

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

What is something you know you don't know everything about?



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THE WISE SEEK COUNSEL

3/5

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THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

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summary

Wisdom.

Hollywood sometimes portrays it as a quality reserved for old, mysterious, soft spoken characters like Yoda from Star Wars or Mr Miyagi from the Karate Kid.

But God wants all of his people to be wise.

This week we will look at the purpose of the book of Proverbs.



you will need

- *Appendix 1* printed and cut up

keep in mind

- Wisdom literature was a type of writing common in Old Testament times that asked (and answered) questions about God, creation, the world, good and evil, and human life (for more on 'wisdom literature' see the Leader Notes).
- Wisdom, as explained in Proverbs, is not a static knowledge, it is knowledge that helps us to live, it is about "knowing how" not just "knowing that" – it is practical, helpful wisdom that applies to our lives.
- Reading Proverbs takes wisdom, especially knowing when and how to apply the proverbs to our lives; otherwise the concepts are limp and useless (Proverbs 26:7-9). Ask God to grant you and the members of your LIFE Group wisdom.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend time discussing some or all of the following:

- » What is something you know now that you didn't know when you were 4 years old?
- » What is your greatest fear?
- » What is your favourite colour jelly bean?

INVOLVE



Read out the different 'proverbs' from the appendix. Work out which are from the Bible and which ones are made up or from other places.

DISCUSS



Choose one or two of these questions to start your discussion.

- » Would you describe yourself as wise? Why/why not?
- » What do you think makes someone wise?
- » Who is somebody you know who is wise?

"Discuss" continues on the next page



read the bible



Ask for a volunteer in your group to read the following passage from their Bible:

Proverbs 1:1-7

- » Which line stands out to you most? Why?
- » Why do you think God wants us to be wise?
- » Based on these verses, how would you summarise the overall purpose of the book of Proverbs?
- » Have a volunteer read Proverbs 1:7 aloud. What do you think this means?



Proverbs 1:1-7 is really the purpose statement for the book, we need to understand these verses if we are to understand the rest of the proverbs we read.



Proverbs is not about teaching everyday wisdom, even though it is sometimes included, it is more about teaching God's wisdom.



Proverbs uses the phrase "the fear of the Lord" a number of times. This attitude of fearing the Lord has a number of aspects that include recognising God and his character and responding by acknowledging this authority and lordship God has over our lives as well as an awareness of the consequences of not following Him.



These verses let us know that wisdom doesn't just happen – we need to seek it, to search for it. And we need to know where to look for it and to recognise it when we have found it.

"Discuss" continues on the next page



read the bible



Ask someone to read aloud:

Proverbs 2:1-6

Psalm 25:4-5



There are many examples in the Bible of people seeking the wisdom of God, Mary who sat at Jesus feet listening to him [Luke 10:39] or the Bereans who examine scripture eagerly for how to live as God's people [Acts 17:11]. There is urging to treasure God's teaching [Colossians 3:16, Matthew 13:44] and promises that we don't seek wisdom in vain [Job 32:8, Isaiah 48:17, 54:13, James 1:5, 17]).

- » Do you think you 'treasure', 'search for' and 'incline your ear towards' God's wisdom and teaching? If you do, share how you do this. If not, is there a reason?
- » Have you ever taken the wisdom of God and put it into practice? Share with the group what happened when you listened to and acted on the wisdom of God.
- » What do these verses say about how to look for and find wisdom?
- » What do you think are the benefits of seeking wisdom from God?
- » Apart from reading the Bible, how else do you think we can actively seek godly wisdom?

APPLY



What is ONE thing that you will do differently this week based on what we've learned?

AND/OR

What is one thing that you will seek God's wisdom on this week? How will you go about doing this? (Think specifically about practical steps to take).



LEADER NOTES

- There are many sayings (proverbs and parables) in the Bible that teach us about God and about virtue (holy living). This style of writing, called Wisdom Literature, was attributed to people called sages who provided guidance on how to live in God's world in the light of what God had revealed about himself and what he required of His people. Most of the book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon who asked God to give him a wise and discerning heart (1 Kings 3:5-12, 2 Chronicles 1:7-12).
- The purpose of the Book of Proverbs is to make us wise, and to help us understand the nature of wisdom. The practical notions and sayings are not meant as law or to be taken mechanically in every situation, but rather as being applicable to general circumstances. The sayings and discourse in the book refer to skills for living, how to avoid problems, ways to handle problems when they do arise, how to interpret people's speech and how to react correctly. The wisdom can be boiled down to 'purposeful knowledge'; useful for relationships with other people, our relationship with God and how to live in this world.
- Proverbs is addressed to 'people generally', to the wise and to the simple (meaning: those who are yet to be moulded), with the desire that the wise may become wiser still and that those who are yet to be moulded may learn how to live wisely.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group.

You could ask them:

How have you been recognising and seeking the wisdom of God in your world this week?



APPENDIX 1



The best time to make friends is before they are
needed in times of trouble.

As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

If you wake your friend in the early morning by shouting
"Rise and shine!"
It will sound to him more like a curse than a blessing.

There is more hope for a fool than for someone who
speaks without thinking

A penny saved is a penny earned for a later rainy day.

To thine own self be true and do not waver.

The wicked run away when no one is chasing them.

God helps those who help themselves.

Better to live in a desert than with a
quarrelsome and nagging wife.



How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it!

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman
who shows no discretion

Be wary as a close friend can become a close enemy.

When praises go up to God blessings
come down from Him.

A fool and his money are soon parted,
whereas the wise will multiply their money.



Proverbs from the Bible

- As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. Proverbs 31:6
- If you wake your friend in the early morning by shouting "Rise and shine!" It will sound to him more like a curse than a blessing." Proverbs 27:14
- There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking." Proverbs 29:20
- The wicked run away when no one is chasing them..." Proverbs 28:1
- Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife." Proverbs 21:19
- How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! Proverbs 1:17
- Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion." Proverbs 11:22

Proverbs NOT from the Bible

- The best time to make friends is before they are needed in times of trouble.
- A penny saved is a penny earned for a later rainy day.
- To thine own self be true and do not waver.
- Be wary as a close friend can become a close enemy.
- When praises go up to God blessings come down from Him.
- God helps those who help themselves.
- A fool and his money are soon parted, whereas the wise will multiply their money.



2/5

THE WISE CONTROL THEIR TONGUE

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summary

Words have incredible power.

How do you use yours?

Do we consider the power of our words – for good, for evil, to build up, to destroy, to wound, to heal, to give life or to give death?

Our words reveal the condition of our hearts.

What do your words say about you?



you will need

- *Appendix 1* printed and cut up

If you choose Option 1 in "Involve"

- One A4 piece of paper per person
- A packet of textas for the group to share
- Old magazines and newspapers
- Scissors and glue

If you choose Option 2 in "Involve"

- Access to internet and devices to create a word cloud on worditout.com

keep in mind

- Make sure LIFE Group is a safe space for sharing, encouraging and spurring each other on to be living lives that glorify Jesus. It is important that as a leader you continue to build this culture with prayer, genuineness and accountability.
- The heart is where our words spring from. If our words are not godly, ultimately it is our heart that needs to be transformed. This is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Pray for yourself and for your group that the Holy Spirit will be powerfully working to change hearts.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend time discussing some or all of the following:

- » Which possession would you be most sad to lose and why?
- » What is a happy memory you have from primary school?
- » Do you have a favourite board game or card game? What is it? Why is it your favourite?

recap

- » Last week we spoke about how the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and how fools despise it. How have you been treasuring God's wisdom this week?

DISCUSS



read the bible

Scatter the cut up verses from *appendix 1* on the floor and have individuals in your group take turns picking one up and reading it aloud.

- » Do any of these sayings help you to understand more the consequences and power of words?
- » Have you seen any of these negative or positive consequences in your life?
- » What do you think is the impact on people around you when you speak kind words?



Proverbs has a lot to say about words and often what it says comes in couplets, the negative and the positive, the wise choice and the foolish choice.



- » In what spaces do you want to be speaking with more truth, kindness and wisdom?
- » Proverbs draws a link between words and the heart. Do you think that this link exists? Why or why not?
- » What do you think your words tell you about the condition of your own heart?

extra optional bible passages and questions



This section is optional, but can help people in your group to think further about what God's word says regarding our words in their collage.

read the bible



Ask a volunteer to read

James 3:3-12

- » Can you spot any similarities between the themes in Proverbs and the New Testament letter of James?
- » Do you find the word pictures about the tongue helpful in understanding the power of the tongue? Which one(s) in particular?
- » Why do you think that the passage says we can't both praise God and curse men with our tongue?
Have you ever experienced this tension?
- » Why do you think that James says this should not be so?

"Discuss" continues on the next page



INVOLVE



Proverbs paints word-pictures to do with the things we say.



You could play some music in the background, or have some food to nibble on during this time.

option 1:

Give your group time to draw, write or create a collage of wise words and foolish words. Encourage them to include the consequences of words.

option 2:

If you group would like to use technology to create their collage of wise and foolish words, they can use worditout.com to create an electronic word cloud (it is free).

APPLY



When everyone has completed their page/cloud, have a time of sharing their pages and the reasons for what they have included.

What is ONE thing you can do differently this week based on what we've learned?

OR

Who is someone you are going to build up with your words this week?

OR

Individually meditate on a Proverb that stood out to you this week and also spend time praying to God.



FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group.
You could ask them:

How have you been going this week at using
your words for good and not for evil?



APPENDIX 1



Proverbs 10:20 (CEV)

The words of a good person are like pure silver, but the thoughts of an evil person are almost worthless.

Proverbs 11:9 (CEV)

Dishonest people use gossip to destroy their neighbours; good people are protected by their own good sense.

Proverbs 11:11 (CEV)

When God blesses his people, their city prospers, but deceitful liars can destroy a city.

Proverbs 11:13 (NIV)

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 12:19-20 (NIV)

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment. Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.



Proverbs 12:23 (NIV)

The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves,
but a fool's heart blurts out folly.

Proverbs 14:21 (CEV)

It's wrong to hate others, but God blesses
everyone who is kind to the poor.

Proverbs 14:25 (NIV)

A truthful witness saves lives,
but a false witness is deceitful.

Proverbs 15:1-2 (CEV)

A kind answer soothes angry feelings, but harsh words
stir them up. Words of wisdom come from the wise,
but fools speak foolishness.

Proverbs 15:28 (CEV)

Good people think before they answer, but the wicked
speak evil without ever thinking.

Proverbs 21:23 (CEV)

Watching what you say can save you a lot of trouble.



Proverbs 16:23-24 (CEV)

You can persuade others if you are wise and speak sensibly. Kind words are like honey— they cheer you up and make you feel strong.

Proverbs 12:22 (NIV)

The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.

Proverbs 18:13 (CEV)

It's stupid and embarrassing to give an answer before you listen.

Proverbs 12:6 (NIV)

The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them.

Proverbs 12:14 (NIV)

From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward.

Proverbs 26:23 (CEV)

Hiding hateful thoughts behind smooth talk is like coating a clay pot with a cheap glaze.



Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 18:6-8 (CEV)

Foolish talk will get you into a lot of trouble. Saying foolish things is like setting a trap to destroy yourself. There's nothing so delicious as the taste of gossip! It melts in your mouth.



3/5

THE WISE SEEK COUNSEL

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summary

The Bible has a lot of practical advice about how we are to live as Christians – the book of Proverbs emphasises time and time again that seeking the counsel of other people is wise and to ignore their advice is foolish.



you will need

A pad (or 2) of sticky post-it notes

- A texta for each member of your group

keep in mind

- This could be a difficult topic for your group if they feel like they know everything. The goal is for your group to be convinced that counsel is good and necessary – not that they should seek counsel just because someone told them to. Allow for genuine discussion around this concept.
- 'Counsel' might not be a word that your group is familiar with, it can also be translated as advice, information, instruction, suggestion or caution.
- This guide refers to counsel as good and wise counsel, whilst acknowledging that there is a lot of bad advice in this world too. Be aware that people in your group are likely to have received bad advice at some point.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend time discussing some or all of the following:

- » If you could have any question in the whole wide world answered, what question would you ask?
- » What is the most important advice you have ever received?
- » What is the most unhelpful advice you've received? Do you remember where that advice came from?

recap

- » Share the difference you saw last week as you used words specifically for good and to build others up.

DISCUSS



- » Share a time when you have been given advice from someone that saved you from being involved in a terrible situation?
- » What about the opposite way? Have you ever been in a tough situation after you ignored the good advice of someone else?
- » Have you ever seen a situation go badly after some ignored your advice? How did you feel?

"Discuss" continues on the next page



read the bible



Ask different volunteers to read out the following verses from their Bible:

Proverbs 10:17

Proverbs 12:15

Proverbs 15:22

Proverbs 11:14

Proverbs 13:1

- » Do you think the Bible's conclusion of what happens when you don't ask for counsel is reasonable? Why or why not?
- » There are many reasons why people choose not to ask for good advice. What do you think might be some of the reasons that people might not ask for counsel?



Sometimes people are offered foolish advice from "wise people", if your group brings this up allow for discussion on this topic and ensure you tell them that it is important to evaluate all advice. If they are in doubt, encourage them to seek a second opinion.

As each suggestion is made, ask the group to vote on whether it is:

- a) A good reason for not asking for counsel (e.g. the person is not trustworthy)
- b) A bad reason for not asking for counsel (e.g. pride, thinking that you know everything already)
- » Do you find yourself using any of the bad reasons (or excuses) for not accepting or asking for counsel?
- » These verses talk about advisors, even a father who gives counsel. God has given us Christian community, He doesn't leave us alone to work out everything in life. Name some of the wise people God has placed in your life.
- » How often do you go to the Christians around you for advice?



extra optional questions

- » If you receive conflicting advice from different people whom you trust, what do you think would be a wise thing to do? (Hint: Read James 1:5 – If you lack wisdom, ask God for He gives generously).
- » Who do you give advice to or who turns to you for counsel?
- » How much responsibility do you take for the advice you give to others?

INVOLVE



Choose ONE of the following activities to do with your group:

activity I - wise and foolish counsel

Give every member of your group a small stack of post-it notes.

Brainstorm places or people that might provide advice. Write one place/person per post-it note.

Remind your group that we want as many places as they can think of; they don't have to be "good" options. (Some examples are, your minister or a gossip magazine.)

Spend some time as a group categorising these places or people into "good/wise counsel" and "bad/foolish counsel". You might want to stick the post-in notes onto different walls.



Discernment is being able to decide between truth and error – specifically when referring to godly things.

Pray for each other that God would give us discernment to be able to work out if the counsel we receive is wise or foolish.

"Involve" continues on the next page



activity 2 – wise community

Paul wrote two letters to Timothy that were recorded for us in the New Testament (1 Timothy and 2 Timothy). Paul gave Timothy advice in these letters – some of it on matters regarding the running of church, and some about Timothy's personal life.

Give each group member an opportunity to share the following:

- » Is there someone in your life, who is a spiritual leader who you trust and go to for counsel?
- » What makes them trustworthy?
- » What kind of things do you ask or talk to them about?

If one or more group members don't have someone that they already go to – spend some time brainstorming some suggestions of trustworthy people. (Some examples might be: your LIFE Group leader, your corps officer, a trusted older friend, even a parent, a mentor or a Big Bud.)

Pray for one another that we will willingly seek out, wise Christians for advice and help and that we will value the Christian community God has given us.

APPLY



What is ONE thing you will commit to do differently this week based on what we've learned?

AND/OR

Who is someone who you will ask to be a wise counsel to you this week?



LEADER NOTES

- The "recap" section in the guide next week is likely to be much more productive if you, as the leader, provide a mid-week reminder.
- Remember to have elements of fun in LIFE group that help to build community. Some ideas are: time to play games or sport together, eat food or listen to music.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group.
You could ask them:

Has anything changed this week as you have sought wise counsel from others?



4/5

THE WISE ACCEPT CORRECTION

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summary

Correction and rebuke – these things are often hard for us to receive. It's easy for us to put walls up and get defensive.

How can we be humble enough to accept correction or rebuke? And when the shoe is on the other foot, how we can be loving as we offer correction and rebuke to others?



you will need

- A pen per person in your group
- An A4 piece of paper per person
- *Appendix 1* printed out and cut up for your group to read

If you choose activity 2 in "Involve":

- *Appendix 2* printed out and cut up

keep in mind

- Rebuking and correcting are things that happen in Christian community. If someone is not a Christian there is no point asking them to change their actions to be more godly as this is not a priority in their life. We want them to know the good news of Jesus first. Once we are Christians we want to strive for holiness and living God's way. This is where Christian community comes in, as others can help us see where we are falling down, point it out lovingly and help restore us to living God's way.
- Judging and rebuking are also differentiated between in the Bible. Jesus says we are not to judge but we are to rebuke in love. (See the Leader Notes for more on this topic.)



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend time discussing some or all of the following:

- » If you could be a professional sports person, which sport would you compete in?
- » When do you feel most relaxed (this could be a location, a situation, a particular person's influence)?
- » Are you a risk taker, or do you like to play it safe? Explain why?

recap

- » Did you ask for counsel from someone last week? How did it go? What did you do with the advice? Did it change the way you approached that situation?

DISCUSS



- » Have you ever had someone pull you up or correct you on your behaviour? How did you respond when this happened?



It is helpful to know that the Bible (and different translations) use a few different words to indicate the notion of pulling people up on their behaviour. Some of these words are: correction, rebuke and discipline.

"Discuss" continues on the next page



read the bible



Scatter the cut up verses from *appendix 1* on the table/floor and ask group members to pick them up one-by-one and read them aloud.

Proverbs 3:11-12

Proverbs 10:17

Proverbs 19:20-21

Proverbs 9:7-9

Proverbs 15:31

Proverbs 27:6

- » Give each member a piece of paper and a pen and ask them to summarise all these verses into a "one-sentence big idea" and write it down and then share it with the group.
- » Do you think these verses have a positive or negative view on correction and discipline? Is this how you see correction and rebuke?
- » What are the results of:
 - Accepting and listening to correction?
 - Not listening to correction?
- » These verses discuss how we should react when we receive good correction but because we are sinful sometimes the correction or rebuke we receive comes from a bad motive, is incorrect, or delivered unhelpfully. Even if you think someone is out of line when they give you correction you can still respond in a way that is godly and Christ-like. What might be some practical ways that we can respond to ill-given correction? (With love, grace, humility or taking some time to step away from the situation etc).



We want to drive people towards coming back to Biblical principles not just 'moralistic' ideals. Keep pushing people in your group back to Biblical foundations. Underlying all of these foundations is the love of Christ.

read the bible



Ask different volunteers to read out the following verses from their Bible:

Matthew 7:1-5

2 Timothy 4:2

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Galatians 6:1

"Discuss" continues on the next page



Do you think judging and correcting are the same or different? Why?



Check out the Leader Notes for a differentiation on judging and rebuking that can help you lead the conversation.

- » What do you think these verses are saying we need to be careful of?
- » What would be a situation when someone might need to receive correction or rebuke?
- » What could be some bad motivations for correcting or rebuking someone?
- » What do you think we should base our rebuking on? (The Bible, not our feelings).
- » What do you think our attitude should be as we rebuke someone? (We need to make sure we consider our heart, our motivation must be an attitude of love).

INVOLVE



activity I - brainstorm

Sometimes Christians don't correct each other. They might be afraid of damaging relationships or are personally closed off to correction.

As a group brainstorm ways that everyone can help to create a community within LIFE Group that invites correction and rebuke and receives it well.

If your group is struggling with your brainstorm, there are some suggested questions or conversation starters on the next page.



Remember in a brainstorm there are no wrong answers, but towards the end of the brainstorm make sure the discussion is getting practical and there are some real things that you can implement into your group's specific dynamics.

"Involve" continues on the next page



- » What conversations can you have that will create a space where people feel comfortable to offer you a rebuke or correction?
- » What are ways that you can work at responding well to correction?
- » How might prayer be involved in the process of correcting someone?
- » How can your group build healthy relationships of openness and genuine care for one another?
- » What are some practical ways to rebuke someone in love? (Consider the words we use, such as using "I" statements, not accusing "you" statements and the attitude we have when we approach others.)

activity 2 - scenarios

Break up into pairs and take turns at rebuking and correcting each other humbly and receiving the correction and rebuke.

Use the scenarios from *appendix 2*.

You could allow the pairs to choose their own scenarios or you could allocate scenarios to pairs. Each person should GIVE a rebuke and RECEIVE a rebuke

Depending on time, your pairs could do multiple scenarios.

Remind your group that correction and rebuke are activities that happen in Christian community, so all the scenarios occur between 2 Christian friends (those who profess to live for Jesus, not for those who don't claim to live a life in relationship with God).

Also remind you group as they practice rebuking it is to come from Biblical principles not from their own feelings or personal moral convictions.

Make sure you provide time to debrief as a group afterwards and allow opportunities for feedback and discussion. Ask:

- » How did you find the process of receiving a rebuke?
- » How did you feel as you were giving a rebuke to the other person in your pair?
- » What was difficult? What was easy?



APPLY



What is ONE thing you will commit to do differently this week based on what we've learned?

OR

Name ONE person who you will invite to correct and rebuke you when necessary?

LEADER NOTES

- When we rebuke others it should always come from Scripture and our rebukes should be about things that people can change (ie there is no point telling someone they are too short – this is silly and has nothing to do with godliness).
- This is a really helpful and clear video on the difference between rebuking and judging <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMFISfB74Ck>.

On the next page you'll find a brief summary of the points.



Judging

- Purpose: condemning someone because of their actions (excluding and pushing them away)
- How it is delivered: talking down to someone to accuse them, often impersonally and without care
- Speaking to someone without care for them and not caring that you will cause them hurt
- Coming from the 'higher moral ground' with a refusal to look at your own life and see your own need for change
- Judging tells someone what they are because of their actions
- Judging is about guilt, shame and condemnation

Rebuking

- Purpose: warning someone of the consequences of their actions (including or walking beside them in love)
- How it is delivered: talking at the same level to help them, with a desire to care and help correct
- Speaking to someone about their actions, wishing you didn't have to but knowing that it is better for them to help them change
- Battling first with your own sin and coming to someone from the same level of broken sinfulness
- Rebuking tells someone about how God has renewed them to live life for Him
- Rebuking is about love, forgiveness, restoration

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group.
You could ask them:

How have you gone this week at inviting rebuke and correction from others?



APPENDIX 1



Proverbs 3:11-12 (NIV)

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 9:7-9 (NIV)

Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse. Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you. Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

Proverbs 10:17 (NIV)

Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

Proverbs 15:31 (NIV)

Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise.

Proverbs 19:20-21 (NIV)

Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 27:6 (CEV)

You can trust a friend who corrects you, but kisses from an enemy are nothing but lies.



APPENDIX 2



You've found out your friend from church is shoplifting.

Your Christian friend is wearing clothing that you don't think is modest.

You have been in a few conversations where your Christian friend has shared confidential information about someone else that wasn't theirs to share.

Your Christian friend has been sharing about their sports team winning their grand final, but it has been more about them boasting rather than being excited for the whole team.

Your Christian friend is snapchatting selfies to people that are borderline inappropriate in a sexual manner.

You saw a Christian friend cheat in an exam and they didn't get caught.

Your underage Christian friend is drinking alcohol or smoking.

Your Christian friend is bad mouthing their teachers or their parents and not showing them the respect that is due.

You overheard a friend from church bullying someone at school.

You've noticed your Christian friend keeps lying about different things.

You saw a Christian friend posting messages on someone else's Facebook wall that were mean.



5/5

THE WISE ARE HUMBLE & THE FOOLISH ARE PROUD

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summary

Living a life that follows God's way is often counter-cultural. Our world tells us to promote ourselves and to be proud of our achievements and who we are.

Yet, God's Word challenges us not to be proud, but instead to be humble.

This can be hard to do, but it's worth it to live God's way to praise and glorify Him.



you will need

- 2 pieces of A4 paper for each individual in your group
- A packet of textas for the group to share (ensure there is at least 1 per member of your group)
- *Appendix 1* printed and cut up
- Enough print outs of *appendix 2* for your group to look on

keep in mind

- People bring a lot of assumptions to the words 'pride' and 'humility', check out the Leader Notes for a helpful distinction.
- Pride is a sin that takes deep root in our hearts. It can be a really tough topic to discuss, so be sensitive to this in your group, but don't shy away from the truth in God's Word.
- The verses in *appendix 1* have been selected from different versions as they best capture the main point of that passage.



CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend time discussing some or all of the following:

- » If you could choose a celebrity to appear with you in your Facebook profile picture, who would you choose and why?
- » What is the best birthday you can remember? What made it so good?
- » What would be your ideal place to live?

recap

- » Did you invite correction from anyone last week?
Did you humbly offer correction to anyone last week?
Share with your group your experiences.

DISCUSS



Have people in the group define what they think it means:

- » To be proud
- » To be humble

read the bible

Scatter the cut up verses from *appendix 1* on the floor or table. Ask individuals in your group to pick up a verse and read it out. Go around the circle until all the verses have been shared.

"Discuss" continues on the next page



- » Are there any common themes that you see in these verses?
- » What things cause people to be proud?
- » What are the negative effects of pride that these verses talk about or that you have seen occur in life?



Remember the genre of Proverbs, the sayings don't always state things that can be universally applied every second of every day, rather they are general truth principles.

- » Do you think the world views pride as a bad trait? What evidence have you seen of this?
- » What do you think is God's attitude to pride?
- » What ways can we outwardly seem humble but really be acting from a place of pride?
- » How can we guard against this type of false humility?
- » What are the benefits of genuine humility?

read the bible



Ask people in your group to read the following passages from *appendix 2*:

Jeremiah 9:23-24

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Galatians 6:14

- » What do you think it is about the Lord that we are to brag or boast in? Why do you think this boasting is allowed and is not considered wrong?
- » What things are you proud about? What things don't you give Jesus the credit for?
- » Why is it foolish to have our confidence in these things?
- » In practical ways, how can we use the things we are good at to show others how good God is?



INVOLVE



Give everyone 2 pieces of paper and the textas to share. Looking back at the verses from Proverbs (and any others Bible verses that your group can think of) spend some time depicting:

- » A proud individual and
- » A humble person

On your page include character traits as well as the outcomes of living these two ways.

- » Circle 2 characteristics that you would like to grow in and
- » Draw a line through 2 characteristics that you would like to ask God to help you put to death



Some other verse suggestions that you might like to look up for your portraits: 1 Peter 5:5, Ephesians 4:2, Philipppians 2:3, Colossians 3:12, James 4:6.



The phrase "put to death" is a New Testament Biblical phrase that refers to getting rid of our sinful desire (see Romans 8:13 or Colossians 3:5).

APPLY



What is ONE thing you will do differently this week based on what we've learned?

OR

Take home the two portraits and place them somewhere so that you can be reminded to ask God to help you put to death two proud characteristics and grow two humble characteristics.



LEADER NOTES

- Sometimes we might think that to be proud is to think we are awesome and to be humble is to think we are not good at anything. The reality is that both proud and humble people can be aware of the things they are good at, the gifts and talents they have, the positive characteristics they possess. The different is that proud people take the credit for things, but humble people realise all their greatness comes from God. They don't use these things to make themselves look good but to show how good God is.
- A great song about boasting only in the Lord is a hymn called "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." It was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), you can find it on YouTube. It might be helpful to play this while your group is doing the 'Involve' activity.

FOLLOW UP

About 3 days after your group has met, follow up all your group members and encourage them about what they learnt in LIFE group. You could ask them:

What do you need to change to have an attitude of humility rather than an attitude of pride?



APPENDIX 1



Proverbs 8:13 (CEV)

To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.

Proverbs 11:2 (NIV)

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 15:25 (CEV)

The LORD tears down the house of the proud, but he sets the widow's boundary stones in place.

Proverbs 16:18-19 (NIV)

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

Proverbs 21:24 (NIV)

The proud and arrogant person—"Mocker" is his name—behaves with insolent fury.

Proverbs 22:4 (NIV)

Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honour and life.

Proverbs 29:23 (CEV)

Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honour.



APPENDIX2



Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV)

This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (CEV)

You are God's children. He sent Christ Jesus to save us and to make us wise, acceptable, and holy. So if you want to brag, do what the Scriptures say and brag about the Lord.

Galatians 6:14 (CEV)

But I will never brag about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his cross, the world is dead as far as I am concerned, and I am dead as far as the world is concerned.





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