



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, March 25, 2012

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Series: Live Well: God's Wisdom for Everyday Living

Sermon: Fear of God

Passage: Various verses from Proverbs

Introduce it: Begin thinking about the sermon

I took a group of my guy neighbors on a golf trip a couple of years ago. As we drove through the back areas of South Carolina, we saw sign after sign in front of churches saying, "Get right with God or go to hell." While driving, we saw on the side of a large barn, a sign that said, "Turn or Burn" and there was a police car sitting right beside it, waiting for speeders. True story!

Share as a group images you had of God growing up. Were you afraid of him? If so, why? What gave you that image?

Revisit it: Look back at the passages taught.

As we have discussed the proverbs up to this point, what has stood out to you about them? What have you appreciated about being in the proverbs?

Read Proverbs 1:7. Give practical examples of how you see "fearing God" being the beginning of knowledge.

*Leaders: if we don't have a proper fear of God, we will not think through things of this world beginning with him and why he created this world. If we don't "fear the creator" then we start to take over the role of creator and think that we are God.

Give practical examples of what it means to "fear God" in these ways. Also give examples of what it doesn't mean to "fear God" in these ways:

1) Fear God in a manner that orients your life toward God.

*Leader: (good example) I do things that bring glory to him first and not myself. (bad example) I fret over every decision I make scared that God will smack me if I choose wrong.

2) Fear God in a manner that God is at center and not cherry on top.

*Leader: (good example) My children hear me talk about God in every area of our lives. (bad example) I can't make any decision without fasting, taking days to pray, etc...

3) Fear God in a manner that takes God seriously.

*Leader: (good example) I am obedient to fleeing sin that God calls me to stay away from and do this immediately. (bad example) I live in fear of doing anything wrong otherwise God will punish me and cause horrible things to happen to all that I love.

Proverbs 3:5-6 sums up these examples. Read this verse and ask if any other thoughts after hearing this verse?

Read Proverbs 1:7 again but this time focus on the later part: "but fools despise wisdom and instruction".

Give practical examples again of what it means to to "fear God" instead of being a "fool" in these ways:

1) Fear God in a manner that trust God in every situation

*Leader: have people share places where they have a hard time trusting God and think practically about how they can trust God and how a proper fear of God enables that trust.

2) Fear God in a manner that avoids total confidence in your own thinking.

*Leader: lack of prayer is best example. Trusting what you see instead of trusting God's word is another bad example. Good example: read Scripture, search Scriptures.

3) Fear God in a manner that invites God into every area of your life.

*Leaders: Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9 to illustrate this as well.

If time: Have the group read all of Deuteronomy 6 and note all the places the words, "Fear the Lord" are used and why.

Use It: Don't just learn the passage-apply it.

Apply this lesson by doing the application that was shared in the sermon today as a group:

Take out a piece of blank paper. On one side of the page, draw a picture that would describe the life you dream about. Draw a line at the bottom of the page representing a signature line for God to sign off on your plans for your life. Once that is done, on the other side of the piece of paper, just draw a line at the bottom of the page. This side of the page is God's dream for your life. If you want to make the decision to follow Proverbs 1:7, sign the line on that page agreeing to follow God's plan, even though you have no idea of what it is. On that page, write, "I want to trust you God with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding."

Keep this paper hung up somewhere to remind you for the next month. After the end of the month, draw on the blank side a picture of what God has done in the past month in your life. A picture of his plan over this past month.

Remember It: Memorize Proverbs 1:7

TEACH THESE PROVERBS TO YOUR CHILDREN!!! As parents, we owe it to our children to help them learn what it means to have a healthy fear of God. Help them to memorize Proverbs 1:7 and do the "use it" assignment with them.