

USING WORDS WISELY



PROVERBS #2



Bible studies 2012

OUR NEED FOR WISDOM

Last week we started our new series on Proverbs. This amazing book is very practical, and is full of wise sayings from God to us. It covers many areas of daily life. In the rest of our series we are going to look at the following areas:

- Words
- Parents and Children
- Love and Marriage
- Work
- Justice
- Money

The sayings in Proverbs are general truths. They are not necessarily true in every situation. For example, look at the following verses:

^{26:4} Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.

⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.

This is not the Bible contradicting itself. Rather, each proverb is true at different times. Sometimes the best thing is to speak out. At other times it is best to remain silent. We need *wisdom* to know which situation is which.

Pray now that God will give your group wisdom as you study Proverbs together.

ICE-BREAKER

Take turns to think of a proverb or a saying from your home country. If you speak a different language, say it to the group in your language, and then translate it into English. The rest of the group has to guess what it means.

THE POWER OF WORDS

Read the following proverbs.

11:13

15:1

17:28

26:20

12:22

17:9

26:18–19

What advice does God give us about how we should speak?

Why are our words important?

GIVING AND RECEIVING ADVICE

Read the following proverbs.

13:18

19:20

27:6

What do these proverbs mean?

How do you respond if someone rebukes you? And how do you feel about rebuking other people?

What makes a good rebuke?

What could this look like in your culture?

How does this connect with Proverbs 3:11–12?

CONCLUSION

You have a classmate at university who is a friend, but not a very close friend. One day he says: “I am having a party on Saturday night, will you come?” You are free at that time, but you do not want to go to the party. What should you say? Why?

- “I can’t come because I am busy at that time.”
- “Yes.” (But actually you will not go.)
- “No. I do not want to come to your party.”
- “I will let you know.”

Two of your Christian friends are dating each other. Recently you discovered that they have been spending the night at each other’s house. You think this is wrong. What do you do?

- Nothing. You do not want to shame them.
- Nothing. You are worried that they will get angry with you.
- You decide to speak to them about it. You hope that they will realise that they are doing the wrong thing and change their behaviour.
- You decide to speak to the pastor about it. It will be better for him to speak to them.
- You tell your other friends at church ... so they can pray about it.

In what ways do you use words well? Are there things which God wants you to change?

Share this with the group, or in pairs, and then pray for one another.