

PARENTS & CHILDREN



PROVERBS #3



Bible studies 2012

OUR NEED FOR WISDOM

In the modern world parents often send their children to professionals to teach them and train them; school teachers, piano teachers, career advisors, even pastors.

But in the Bible the responsibility to raise children well belongs not to professionals but to parents. Most of the book of Proverbs is written as a father's advice to his son. That is, wisdom is to be taught at home from parents to children.

Today we are going to think more deeply about that most important parent–child relationship. Pray that God will give your group wisdom as you study Proverbs together.

ICE-BREAKER

Everyone in the group can take turns to share one piece of advice that their parents gave them, or something that they have learnt from them.

TITLE

Read through the following proverbs, and then answer the questions.

10:1

13:24

22:6

10:5

14:26

23:19–25

What do you learn about how parents should raise their children?

What do you learn about how children should treat their parents?

DISCUSSION

Mr Chan is a well-known businessman and community leader in Hong Kong. When his eldest son, Kai Seng, told him that he had become a Christian and would like his permission to be baptised, he replied with deep sadness in his voice, 'If I allow you to be baptised then who will offer sacrifices at the ancestral shrine when I die? Your sisters can't do it. Only you can. My soul will never be at rest. Our prosperity will be affected.'

Kai Seng loved his parents deeply, and wanted to show them respect and honour. He tried to explain that by becoming a Christian, his respect for his parents had not lessened at all. He went on to share about the eternal life that belongs to all who trust in Jesus. His great desire was that all the family would become Christians so that after death they would be reunited in heaven. But Kai Seng sensed that his father did not appreciate this direct sharing of his faith.

- Should Kai Seng get baptised next month?
- How can he show that he loves and respects his parents deeply?
- Is there a way that he can show a Christian (rather than a Confucian) respect for his ancestors?

CONCLUSION

What can you thank God for about your parents?

What can you do this week to be a godly daughter or son?

If God blesses you with children in the future, what is one thing you learnt tonight that may affect the way you raise them?

Share some of these things with the group, or in pairs, and then pray for one another.