



6-WEEK GROUPS LEADER GUIDE

SUMMER IN THE PROVERBS

Thanks so much for leading a 6-week Summer in the Proverbs group! Instead of creating a different Leader Guide for each week your group meets, we've created one template that you can use for all six weeks. This guide includes a handful of questions and ideas you can use to lead your group and create space for women to connect with one another, as well as to discuss what you're reading and learning in the book of Proverbs.

>>>Suggested ideas and structure for group meetings

Welcome + Getting to Know You (Suggested time: 10 Minutes)

During your first meeting, we encourage you to lengthen the welcome time to allow women to introduce themselves and get to know each other. Consider giving each woman three minutes to answer the following questions:

1. Share your name.
2. Share three facts about yourself to help us get to know you (ie I'm a nurse, I love to play the guitar, and I speak three languages).
3. Why did you decide to join a Summer in the Proverbs group?

In the following weeks, you can begin by setting aside a few minutes to welcome women and catch up. Consider starting with an icebreaker question like, "If you could go on vacation anywhere in the world this summer, where would it be and why?" Or consider starting with this prompt: "Tell me something good" and ask women to share something good from their week.

Thank the women for joining your group, and let them know the reason why you're meeting is to connect with one another and discuss what you're learning from the daily Proverbs readings.

Pray (Suggested time: 3 Minutes)

Pray for the group and your meeting. Invite God to move and speak.

Read Proverbs (Suggested time: 5-10 Minutes)

Although a lot of group members will have already read the Proverbs readings for the week, there is something powerful about reading God's Word aloud and with others. We encourage you to take a few minutes to read aloud a passage(s) of Proverbs that you read that week. You

might choose a passage that stood out to you or a few verses that really resonated with you. Consider reading them over the women and then sharing why that passage or those verses stood out to you personally. You can also consider reading the verses as part of the prayer time above. As the group continues, you might also consider inviting a couple women in your group to share and read a verse(s) from Proverbs during this time.

Discuss Proverbs + Application Questions (Suggested time: 30 Minutes)

We encourage you to spend the majority of your group time discussing what you're all learning from the book of Proverbs and how to apply God's Word to your life. Here is a list of questions you can consider asking. Don't feel like you have to get through all these questions. You might consider mixing up which questions you ask each week, or you might find a few questions that work well and use them each week. We also encourage you to come up with some of your own questions as you are reading Proverbs.

1. How was your time in the book of Proverbs this week? What were some methods you used in reading Proverbs (ie Lectio Divina, journaling, SOAP, etc.) and what was helpful about those methods?
2. What stood out to you from your reading in Proverbs this week, and why? Where were you encouraged or challenged?
3. What questions arose for you as you read Proverbs this week?
4. How can the verses from Proverbs that we read this week build or strengthen your faith today?
5. What is one truth you need to cling to from your reading in the book of Proverbs this week, and why?

One helpful way to discuss the Scripture you're reading is to choose a verse(s) from Proverbs that stood out to you personally, read it aloud to the group, and then ask a question or two to discuss and apply that verse(s). For example:

1. Proverbs 1:7 says:
*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

What do you think it means to fear the Lord? How are you doing personally when it comes to living with the fear of the Lord? Are there any ways you find yourself despising God's wisdom, or in what area(s) of your life do you need God's wisdom?

2. Proverbs 18:21 says:
*The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

What does it mean that the tongue has the power of life and death? When you look at the words you've been using this past week, where have you seen the

power of life and death? Are there any ways you need to repent when it comes to words you've spoken? How can you be more intentional about using your words for good and for life?

Also, consider choosing a Proverb for your group to memorize each week. Pick a verse and encourage the women in your group to commit it to memory. There is something so powerful about memorizing God's Word!

Closing Prayer (Suggested time: 5-10 Minutes)

Set aside time at the end of group to pray together. Here are a few ways you can consider praying together as a group:

- Share prayer requests and assign each person to pray for the person on their left. Pray aloud for one another, or commit to praying for that person for the week. You can also consider having each woman pray aloud for each other at the same time rather than taking turns.
- If you are meeting in person, write prayer requests on an index card, mix them up, and have each woman take a card and commit to praying for that person in the coming week.
- Ask a specific prayer request related to what you've been reading in Proverbs. Invite each woman to share their answer, and then say a prayer covering all those requests.
- Pray one of the verses from Proverbs that you read this week as a prayer over each woman.

>>>Thank You!

Thank you so much for leading a 6-Week Summer in the Proverbs group! We are excited for all that God will do in and through your group as you read and study the book of Proverbs together.

>>>Questions?

If you have any questions or if there is any way we can support you as you lead your group, please email one of our women's pastors, Jill Rhodes, at jillr@cachurch.com.