

3: Start in the Scriptures

Connected to NEBC 1/24/2021 Sermon

BIG IDEA

The Scripture's call to *Live for Christ* is not a call to figure it out on your own, but a call to come to the Scriptures daily to receive wisdom for living life rightly. In our coming to the Scriptures and in our reading and listening we will find truth, righteousness, justice, and life.

GETTING STARTED

Use the following questions to break the ice and begin your group discussion together:

- *Have you ever heard someone say something like, "You need to just listen to your heart." Or, "You will figure it out on your own!" When you have sought advice from them, because you are having a hard time figure something out (maybe in parenting, work, or dealing with a difficult neighbor or family member). How are these statements encouraging us to live in relationship to our own thoughts and feelings?*

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpacking its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **Proverbs 8: 1-11, 14-19, 32-36**.

- What do you know about the book of Proverbs? Who was it written to and why was it written?

LEADERS NOTE:

Be prepared for this question to stump your group! That said, even though your group may not be able to answer this question, we believe it is important that they hear it asked. Every time we study a passage we must consider its context (who it was written to and why it was written) so that we don't take a passage out of context and wrongly apply it to our lives. A big part of our job as leaders is modelling proper Bible study... so **do** ask this question but be prepared to answer it for your group using the material provided below.

i The CONTEXT of Proverbs:

Proverbs is a collection of short pithy observations, reprimands, warnings and statements of wisdom. It was written by a couple of authors (mainly Solomon, but also Agur, Lemuel, etc... as stated in the superscript before said Proverbs). The Proverbs are written in such a way as to bring wisdom and insight into particular situations and not always to be used universally for all circumstances (immediate context makes this evident).

- What is Solomons's main point in Proverb 8:1-11, 14-19, and 32-36? Summarize his big idea in your own words.

- Solomon personifies Wisdom as a woman, what are some of her traits/attributes in Proverbs 8:1-11, 14-19, and 32-36?

- How does this text inform us of where and when we can find wisdom? What does this text call us to do as followers of God?

GETTING PRACTICAL

Discuss the following questions together as a group, giving particular thought to how we are called to live based on what the Scriptures have said.

1. When you think about finding wisdom where does the world call us to find wisdom versus where God calls us to find wisdom?

2. As Christians we know that we *should* find wisdom from God in the Scriptures... but so often we struggle to do so. Why do we struggle to start every day in the Scriptures?

3. What could we do this week to help us remember to "Live for Christ"? How might we encourage each other this week to follow through on living for Christ?