

Small Group Discussion Questions



// Week of January 14, 2024

LEADER INFO

- Baptism
 - Sunday, February 11
 - To sign up, text "DUNK" to 604-670-3040

GROW This section is based on the sermon from Sunday. You can find it here: <https://www.southsidelife.com/>

ICE BREAKER What is one highlight and one lowlight of your week?

Jesus Loves You

10 years from now, you're going to be so happy that you were sitting here today, deciding "from now on."

Read

Proverbs 3:1-12

*¹⁻² Good friend, don't forget all I've taught you;
take to heart my commands.*

*They'll help you live a long, long time,
a long life lived full and well.*

*³⁻⁴ Don't lose your grip on Love and Loyalty.
Tie them around your neck; carve their initials on your heart.*

*Earn a reputation for living well
in God's eyes and the eyes of the people.*

*⁵⁻¹² Trust God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.*

*Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;
he's the one who will keep you on track.*

C.S. Lewis

*Imagine yourself as a living house.
God comes in to rebuild that house.*

At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised.

*But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense.
What on earth is He up to?*

The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but – He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.

The command Be ye perfect is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command.

*He said (in the Bible) that we were 'gods' and He is going to make good His words. If we let Him—for we can prevent Him, if we choose—
He will make the feeblest and filthiest of us into a god or goddess, a dazzling, radiant, immortal creature, pulsating all through with such energy and joy and wisdom and love as we cannot now imagine, a bright stainless mirror which reflects back to God perfectly (though, of course, on a smaller scale) His own boundless power and delight and goodness.*

The process will be long and in parts very painful, but that is what we are in for. Nothing less. He meant what He said.

Conviction vs. Condemnation

1. Conviction = "I was going the wrong way, but **from now on** I can make another choice"
2. Condemnation = "I was going the wrong way and now **all is lost**"
 - a. Condemnation is a lie from the devil - he will either say it to you through other people or whisper it to you, so you think it yourself.
 - b. Conviction is the voice of God - correcting us and inviting us to turn around and make a better choice
 - i. Discuss the difference
 - ii. Have you ever mistaken condemnation (guilt and shame) as the voice of God?

1. Wisdom is a long story, not a quick fix

- a. Pastor Mike used the example of a husband and wife for this point on Sunday. A wife says she's done with their marriage and only then does her husband start really trying to change/heal their marriage.
 - i. In this example, what does this convey to his wife?
 - ii. What does wisdom tell you will actually be necessary for their marriage to be restored?
 - iii. What is an example of something you hoped would be a quick fix in your life, but turned out to actually be a long story?

- c. Have you ever asked Jesus to show you that He loves you? If so, when was the last time?
 - i. Challenge: find a quiet moment this week to pray that simple prayer and keep your eyes/heart open this week to see how God responds

2. Wisdom is not knowing it all, it's looking to learn

- a. Pastor Mike shared on Sunday about how he shaved his head, despite his wife Corinne saying it wasn't a good idea.
 - i. Do you have an example (funny or not) of a time you decided to do something, even though people told you not to, and it went terribly?
- b. "If you think you're the smartest person in every room, you're actually the dumbest. Because you don't know what you don't know." SOMEBODY knows SOMETHING in that room that you don't. We have always got to be willing to learn.
 - i. Discuss.
 - ii. What is something you learned from someone else this week?

3. Wisdom comes through people, not preachers

- a. Who do you have in your life who will speak wisdom into your life?
- b. How can this small group encourage you to grow this year?

4. Wisdom is application, not just information

- a. Wisdom doesn't come from knowing stuff. What do you know, but you haven't applied?

5. Wisdom is an eternal perspective, not a narrow focus

- a. We grow in wisdom as we walk through adversity.
 - i. You want someone who has gone through the same thing in their life to lend their wisdom to yours. (ie. you want parenting advice from someone who actually has kids...)
 - 1. Do you have any funny examples of someone who has tried to give you advice but didn't have any experience?
- b. Go up and read the passage from C.S. Lewis again. What stands out to you?
- c. Calamity/tragedy is different from adversity. Like "I got tests back from the doctor and it's not good" or "my marriage is over" or "I lost someone I love and I had to say good bye way too soon."
 - i. There's a level of tragedy that doesn't make you stronger, until maybe years and years later.
 - ii. What peace does Jesus' promise to "make all things new" (Revelations 21:5) mean for you?

PRAY