



Small Group Discussion Questions

This week, Andy tackled two ways to wreck your life:

1. Isolate yourself. Cut yourself off from meaningful relationships and don't let anyone speak into your life
2. Reject wisdom: Prioritize money or fame or success or pleasure over wisdom.

Read Proverbs 13:20

Solomon was smart, rich, handsome, powerful and universally famous, a king's king, the envy of nations, and yet he was the poster child of loneliness. He had all kinds of parties, the adoration of millions of fans, 700 wives, and 300 mistresses. Yet he was lonely.

History has seen some great partnerships: Woody had Buzz, Fred had Barney, Batman had Robin, Zach had Screech. But when you think about Solomon, there's no one who comes to mind. It's lonely at the top; in reality, it doesn't even matter if you are at the top. At one time or another all of us think "No one gets what I deal with, it's lonely where I am."

The truth is, we flourish when we're connected with others. We languish when we are not.

- Have you ever intentionally or unintentionally isolated yourself? What was the result?
- Who speaks into your life? Who do you look to for advice? Whose opinion changes your decisions?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

What Solomon wrote thousands of years ago is confirmed by contemporary research. People with strong social ties live significantly longer than people who have great health habits but are isolated.

- What impact have those closest to you had on your life?
- Why does Solomon see the "business" in verse 8 as meaningless?

"Isolate Yourself and Reject Wisdom"

Andy Averill

Proverbs 13:20 "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but companion of fools will suffer harm."

Proverbs 18:1 "Whoever isolated himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment."

_____ is a very easy way to wreck your life.

_____ is the opposite of isolation.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with our God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

James 5:16 "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."

Three friends we all need:

- Someone who makes you _____
- Someone who _____
- Someone who _____

Read Proverbs 3:13-15, 4:5-8

Solomon is saying attaining wisdom is better than winning the lottery, discovering a buried treasure, or investing in Apple 20 years ago.

- What are the benefits from living wisely? How is God's wisdom different than the wisdom of the world?
- How does wisdom keep us grounded?
- What happens when wisdom is traded for folly?

So how do we get wisdom? It's not complicated. There are two things to do.

Read Proverbs 1:7

You walk with God. You decide to follow Jesus; you spend time in prayer, reading God's word and pursuing Christlikeness.

- What is one area of your life that you need to surrender to God? Schedule? Family? Work? Finances?

Read Proverbs 13:20

When you walk with people, you become like them. Spend time with foolish people, and you'll make bad decisions. Spend time with wise people and you will make wise decisions.

- Who is one person who is a positive influence who you need to spend more time with? Who is one person who you need to intentionally be a positive influence on?