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Sometimes being “street smart” isn’t enough, especially when we are talking about how we relate to God. Street Smarts is a series that will take us through the book of Proverbs. Over the course of this series we will find practical wisdom for real living. Join us over the next several weeks as we look to the Proverbs to shed light on topics like: marriage, educating our children, wealth, compassion, and friendships.

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**Icebreaker:** Name one celebrity that you would enjoy having as a friend? Why?

1. Name your best friend in elementary school. What made them such a good friend?
2. Share with the group some insight that you have gotten recently from the book of Proverbs.
3. What are three characteristics that you think every good friend should demonstrate?
4. Read Proverbs 27:5-6; These two verses show us that a good friend isn’t afraid to say the hard thing. Why do you think true friends are willing to say the hard thing when necessary?
  - a. Why are wounds from a friend better than kisses from an enemy? Have you ever found that hard to accept? Why?
  - b. Read Proverbs 11:12, How do we look at the truth of this verse in light of the verses we just read?
  - c. Why is it so hard to accept a rebuke graciously? Have you found something to help you deal with criticism better in your life?
5. Read Proverbs 27:9-10; These two verses show us that good friends are refreshing and available. Why is the counsel of a friend sweetening to the soul?
  - a. Share a time where you experienced the refreshment of a friends advice.
6. Read Proverbs 27:14 and 17 and then answer the questions below:
  - a. Good friends are considerate. In other words, they understand the power of how, when, and why some things need to be said or not said. Why do you think this is an important quality of a friend?
  - b. Old Testament Rabbis took verse 17 to mean one student should look to sharpen another student in their understanding of the Law or the Scriptures. Why is this important?
    - i. Is this an easy thing to do? Why or why not?
    - ii. What steps can you take to allow someone to grow you in your understanding of the Scriptures? How can you help others grow in their understanding?

Close in Prayer: (If in a group close by taking time to pray for the needs of those in the group.)

Challenge: Join others in the church in the Proverbial Challenge (read through Proverbs 2 times by Easter). This week read the Proverbs looking at the value of having wealth.