
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.

Icebreaker: What was the greatest vacation you got to go on as a child? What made it so special?

1. What do you think the best movie that has been made that shows the true reality of what it is like to be a parent? Why did you pick this movie?
2. Read Proverbs 22:6: Why do you think the author starts off using the word “train?”
 - a. Why is it necessary to train a child? (Read Proverbs 22:15 and Psalm 51:5 for help)
 - b. What is the hope outcome of the training?
3. Proverbs 22:6 seems to be written as a riddle. As a result, there seem to be 3 different ways to interpret this verse. Each interpretation gives us a great insight into current methods of parenting. Discuss the strengths and weakness to each of the interpretations.
 - a. Alone Method - Leave them alone and let them do as they want
 - b. Personal Method - Bring up a child in his/her particular way
 - c. Objective Method - Bring up a child in the way he or she should go
4. Read Proverbs 17:1: What insight can this verse provide to parents on child-rearing?
5. Proverbs 23:22 gives us an example of a parent and child having a good emotional bond. Why might this be important to the relationship? How could this affect the relationship years to come?
6. Read Proverbs 3:11-12: How can discipline be an act of love? Do you consider God’s discipline of you as an act of His love? Why might that be difficult?
7. What advice might you give to a parent that is feeling overwhelmed by the responsibility of child-rearing?

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)

Prep for next week: Study the truths in Proverbs on what it means to be a friend.