

Proverbs Bible Study

The wise Husband

(For mixed groups you may like to split into Male and Female small groups for this study)

1. What do people think are typically characteristics of a 'good husband'?
2. Read through Proverbs 31:10-31 note the references that talk about 'husbands' and complete the following:
 - 31:11 - A husband should be someone who
 - 31:23 - A husband should be someone who
 - 31:28-29 - A husband should be someone who

Discuss how trust, respect and praise play a vital role in a marriage relationship. How might an absence of these things impact a marriage?

3. Read Prov 5:1-23
 - What does it mean to drink from your own cistern? (v15)
What are some ways that a husband might drink from another cistern?
 - How might being monogamous in one's thoughts & behavior be connected with being 'intoxicated' or 'rejoicing' in the wife of your youth'?
 - What does madam folly say about adultery and where does it end up leading to? (9:17-18, 2:16-19)
 - How might 'just taking a sip' lead to something greater down the track? What is the 'world's' advice (or madam folly's advice) when it comes to just dabbling in lust or sexual impurity?

- How is the 'fear of the Lord' connected with being faithful and monogamous? (5:21)
 - What is Jesus' advice when it comes to dealing with lust? (Matt 6:27-30)
4. Verses 31:10, 12:4a, show that wives are of great value. How does remembering their great worth help husbands to treat their wives?
5. In verses 7:10-23 we read of a husband who is not present. What are some ways that a husband can be absent or distant?
- Neglecting one's wife can come in various forms. This can be less obvious, though sometimes even more serious than other marriage issues. Discuss the marriage counselling advice that: '*your greatest temptation in marriage will be to take your spouse for granted*'
 - What practical things can be done so that you don't take your spouse for granted?
6. Read Ephesians 5:25-33
- How are husbands called to love their wives?
 - In the light of what we have read in Proverbs, how might this look like in everyday terms?
7. How does the fact that Christ is the 'Perfect Husband' help husbands from falling into either *pride* or *despair*?

Spend time praying for the husbands in your group and in our church. That they might rely on Christ and put into practice some of the challenges from the book of Proverbs.