

HOW TO BE SMART

A STUDY OF PROVERBS



Discussion Guide Week 10 “Wisdom and Wealth”

1. This week we’re talking about money and how a wise person uses theirs. **Do you think Christians talk too much about money or too little?** What has been your experience in how churches and Christians talk about money and wealth?
2. Proverbs 22:9 says, *whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.* **What do you think it takes for a person to feel wealthy in today’s world?**
3. Read Proverbs 3:13-15. Are the scriptures being idealistic here or **is there a change of heart that precedes a change in how we see and use our wealth?**
4. **If you were to substitute the words “silver” “gold” & “jewels” from the previous scripture passage (3:14,15) with three things from your life today what would they be?** (Hint: silver gold and jewels are things we are tempted to desire more than wisdom or even God himself.)
5. As usual it is Jesus who gives one of the most word changing teachings on wealth the world has ever known. Read His words in Matthew 6: 19-24 (or even on to 34 to get the entire picture). Upon reflection what does it mean to lay up treasures on earth? **What does it mean to lay up treasures in Heaven?**
6. Continuing with Jesus’ words, these verses talk about “moths and rust” as examples of time and nature destroying what we have gathered for ourselves. **Can you think of an example from your life in which you have given your heart to some form wealth only to lose it anyway?** In the end would you call this a wise investment?
7. Now for the hardest verse or all. Jesus says in verse 21 that you can tell where a person’s heart really is by looking at what they treasure most. **What do you treasure most?** How has this defined your life? How could it define the rest of your life?
8. Many Christians though have already experienced the joy that comes from holding earthly treasures loosely and learning to trust the Creator more. Can you think of a time you have experienced this? How can this time (or another’s story if this is a group) inspire us onward?

9. Proverbs 3:9 says *Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce...* What are our “firstfruits?” What do you think it means for a Christians to honor the Lord with our firstfruits?