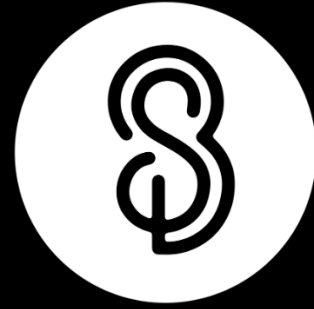


STONEBRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Note to the Host: *Thanks for leading your group, creating community, and caring for your people! Remember, this is your group, and you have the freedom to navigate the conversation that best fits your group's dynamic. People come first!*

ICEBREAKER:

King Solomon, the author of the book of Proverbs, was a man of great wealth and wisdom (1 Kings 3:7-13). More than Warren Buffett, more than Bill Gates, more than Jeff Bezos. Solomon searched for meaning throughout much of his life, but did not find meaning in his numerous wives, concubines, wealth, power, building projects, art or work (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11). Solomon declared “I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure” (Ecclesiastes 2:10). He possessed the wealth and authority to accomplish the breadth of this bold statement. Yet (spoiler alert!)—he wrote Proverbs 17:1.

TALK IT OVER:

These questions are based on the sermon that took place on Sunday. Feel free to revisit any of the scripture that was discussed in the message. Answer as many questions as your time allows; don't feel pressed to get through them all!

Introduction

1. Read the passages about Solomon in the “Icebreaker” summary above and summarize his circumstances and way of life.
2. What things are on your all time wish list?

Bible Text

3. After reading the passages above, read Solomon's statement in Proverbs 17:1. Explain how Solomon's wealth, authority and experiences validate the truth of his statement. How does Solomon's teaching emphasize the quality of a peaceful and fulfilled life over possessions and power?
4. Compare and contrast Solomon's teaching in Proverbs 17:1 with the popular view that possessions lead to happiness.
5. Living in peace, consistent with Proverbs 17:1, requires being at peace with God. We often believe we are at peace with God by being a good person and not living with an "anti-God" attitude. Explain how the following verses dispel the notion that we can make our own peace with God.
 - Colossians 1:21
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24-25
6. Based on the following verses, explain how we truly obtain peace with God.
 - Acts 2:38
 - Romans 10:9-10
7. Living at peace with others requires forgiving others as Jesus forgave us. Explain how the following verses show that Jesus forgives us quickly, without conditions, and forever.
 - Luke 23:39-43
 - Psalm 103:12

Application

8. We have all heard the verse, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). The world wants more "bread" (money), but Solomon instructs us to choose "toast" (faith). Solomon presents us with a choice, pursue selfishness and reap strife, or pursue faith and reap peace. What steps can you take to pursue faith over selfishness?

9. Explain how forgiveness is about leaving a burden behind, even if it does not lead to reconciliation.

PRAYER:

Please don't stress about the time of prayer, pray however your group feels comfortable. This can either be one person pray, or you can go in a circle and have each person pray a few sentences. Be sure to change it up so your prayer time stays fresh in your group!

- Make sure that everyone has a chance to share!
- Encourage all praise reports! Celebrate what God has done!
- Have someone record and distribute the requests to your group, to pray over throughout the week.

Week #6, 8 Keys to a Better Life, February 11, 2024