



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE 5/9/18

BIBLE PASSAGE

Proverbs 12:26; 17:17; 27:6; 27:17



1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

The book of Proverbs is all about wisdom. It was written by Solomon who is said to be the wisest person who ever lived. The book itself is made up mostly of short sayings about how to live wisely and some longer passages that express wisdom in more detail. There is so much good stuff in Proverbs about all kind of topics, but it's also filled with great wisdom about relationships and so tonight we are going to read multiple passages that will help us "win" in our friendships. These passages are short, so I encourage you to read them all out loud together!

2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
Proverbs 12:26 focuses on advice. How do you choose who to go to for advice?	Have them dig into the question of what criteria they look for in choosing someone to go to for advice. They may not have ever thought about what they look for in someone who they seek advice from and it's an important thing to think about!
What do you think Proverbs 17:17 is trying to say about friendships?	Get them to try and summarize this in their own words so they are really getting what it means.
Why would Proverbs 27:6 say that wounds could be better than kisses?	This passage gets at the idea of listening to difficult truths from friends. An enemy might butter you up and tell you you're great, but someone who cares about you might need to tell you a difficult truth sometime and that is better!
What do you think it means to "sharpen" each other?	Encourage them to keep talking about this and come up with different things that this could mean!

5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

- What are some of your favorite things to do with your friends?
- When you think of the wisdom about friendships here, is there anything missing in your friendships? Are there any ways that this small group could step in and be loyal, provide good advice or challenge with truth?
- What kind of friend are you to others? What is hardest for you: giving good advice? sticking with friends during difficult times? Or challenging friends with difficult truth?
- How could you continue to grow as a friend?

6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: