

Wise Guy

Small Group Questions: Part 1: The Best Day Ever

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Read

Proverbs 4:23–25; Ephesians 4:29–32; James 1:26 and 3:7–8; Psalm 141:3; Colossians 3:1–2; and Hebrews 3:1

Reflect

Solomon wrote most of the book of Proverbs. It is a compilation of wise sayings and advice on how to best handle life. Verses 4:23–25 describe how our hearts often dictate how we live, but that wisdom can be learned. How important do you think it is to guard your heart? How does that differ from the advice of the world?

Pastor Greg highlights how to have the best day of your life:

1. Guard your heart.
 - a. What should you let in?
 - i. The presence of God.
 1. How are you intentionally practicing getting closer to God? Number the following in the order of difficulty for you to do.
 - a. Do you give God the first part of your day? Show gratitude? Take 30-second mindful breaks with God? What other measures?
 - ii. The power of Christian community.
 1. Who makes up your supportive community?
 2. Consider sharing your highs and lows of the last week.
 - iii. The protection of a trusted community.
 1. When has confiding in and listening to someone helped you see things differently?
 - b. What should you keep out?
 - c. When have you felt bitter, and why?
 - d. When have you had reason to feel bitter, but decided not to give in to it?
2. Zip your lip.
 - a. Make a covenant with your friends.
 - i. Consider making an agreement with your friends to never speak badly of them.
 - ii. How does it make you feel for someone to do the same for you? How is this different from addressing an issue with a friend...holding them accountable?
 - b. Be willing to make people uncomfortable by what you don't say.
 - i. Are you willing to be that person?
 - ii. When have you gone along with someone talking trash about someone else?
 1. Did it have any repercussions?
 - c. Redefine loose talk as wicked deeds.
 - i. What is your definition of "wicked?"
3. Fix your gaze.
 - a. Do you believe what's ahead will be better than what's behind?
 - b. How has fear of what's behind you immobilized you? What (or who) *should* we fix our gaze on?
 - c. Why do we need to learn to be slow about labeling something "good" or "bad?"

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?