

How Do I Start?

Welcome to **day 17** of our 21 days of prayer and fasting! I love some good solid down-home practical advice! Those nuggets of wisdom from the voice of the experienced often prove to be valuable resources as we navigate life. Proverbs is a book full of simple, memorable statements that can really pack a punch. Some chapters flow together with a common theme and others are simply collections of short sayings designed to teach deep truths. All of it is discipleship. Read the beginning of chapter 1 and you will find Solomon's whole purpose for collecting this wisdom into one book was to invest in future generations. This should come as no surprise to us because we are consistently seeing God's plan for cross-generational discipleship in our readings. You will also notice Solomon's teachings derive not only from his successes but also from his failures. Chapter 5's wisdom comes from a lifetime of failure to follow God's simple instructions about marriage and relationships. The dude had 700 wives and 300 concubines! Chapter 31 is written by King Lemuel's mother who saw the tremendous benefits of trusting God enough to submit to those same instructions. Your failures do not disqualify you in the Kingdom of God. Those failures, submitted to God, can become your greatest assets. If... and only if... you trust God enough to follow Him in obedience and let Him use you.

Things to pray about today:

1. God, give us the wisdom that can only come from You.
2. Lord, redeem our failures and use our successes as powerful tools for discipleship and investment in others.
3. Father, give us a heart for discipleship and lead us to think beyond ourselves and invest in the future of Your kingdom.

Today's Reading - Proverbs 3, 5, 6, 16, 31

Read the passage for today and write down anything that stood out to you. God primarily speaks through His word, so, if something "jumped off the page" that was probably God revealing something to you or to our church family. Write it down!

Pray

Write out your prayer. Or at least the main points. I like to do this section in a different color.

Listen

Take time to listen to what God is saying to you. Check your understanding against the truth of His word. He will never tell you something that contradicts His word. Be sure to listen throughout the day even after you leave the sanctuary. As He speaks, write it down! I like to use a third color for this part

Date: _____

What's on my mind?

Prayer

Today's Scripture

Listen