Cultivate Reflection Guide

Unbreakable: Decisions in Times of Change Pastor Claude Hickman | August 20-21, 2022

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King Solomon was blessed with the wisdom of God, and from that wisdom he wrote a short book of his greatest advice for his son to live by. Studying Proverbs has given people throughout history the wisdom to navigate a godly, secure, blessed life, and we need that wisdom today, more than ever.

Our Reflection Guide is a tool to help you grow spiritually wise, relationally kind and emotionally healthy. Use it to start a REAL conversation in community or to cultivate God's word into your life through personal bible study. Choose the questions that encourage you to reflect and respond to what we're learning. Pair it with your bible, a journal or any resource that helps you learn. It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!

Read: James 1:5 ESV

Notable Quotes: Review these words of wisdom from Pastor Claude's message. Which one most encourages or even challenges you, and why?

- Wise people listen to the people who've been where they want to go.
- When the world is changing, we need truth that has lasted through change.
- Redefine getting advice as success.
- Force time into your decisions.

Reflect & Respond:

- 1. If asked by someone who hasn't experienced it for themselves, how would you describe the value of God's wisdom in your life?
- 2. We must build a habit of seeking **advice** from **trustworthy** people.
 - What do you do when you don't know what to do?
 - How has that response served you? If your response isn't working, where is the breakdown happening in a lack of seeking advice, in the advice you're getting or in your willingness to listen?
 - Read Proverbs 15:31-33. Identify a few people in your life that you trust. What is one area in which you could immediately seek their advice? Reach out, ask for their wisdom, then spend some time listening.
- 3. Our worst decisions are usually isolated, emotional, quick and unplanned.
 - In which of the above scenarios do you fall prey to poor decision making?
 - Read Proverbs 14:16. Practice watchfulness. What warning signs do you need to watch for SO THAT you know it's time to seek wisdom? For example not praying first, difficulty asking for help, overwhelming doubt, anger or fear, an unnecessary sense of urgency, secrecy, overconfidence, etc.
 - <u>Read Proverbs 21:5.</u> Make room for wisdom. What is a spiritual discipline [prayer, worship, meditation, scripture reading, fasting, honest conversation] you could pursue **before** you act or decide?

Prayer: Father God, I want to live wisely. Create in me a spirit that is teachable and willing to seek you quickly and listen to you carefully. Help me to be alert and awake to any sin and pride that robs me of wisdom and truth. Give me eyes to see the people around me who are wise and trustworthy, and give me the courage to cultivate the habit of seeking wisdom in the right places. Amen.

Dig Deeper Opportunity

<u>Read Proverbs 19:21</u>. We must build a habit of **asking God** for wisdom. Then, comes the hard part – listening and obeying Him. Sometimes that means saying "no" to ourselves so that we can say "yes" to God's plans for us, even when we don't like, understand or see what He's doing. Hold out your life to God. Is there anywhere your plans need to realign with His will? Ask people you trust to weigh in too, then listen, follow and obey.