

D.A.D.: A CALL TO ALL MEN

PROVERBS 1:7

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – JUNE 15, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

SERMON SUMMARY

D – Disciplined in Heart

Proverbs 16:32

Discipline means being governed by God's love rather than our emotions, ego, or the expectations of others. The world often measures strength by outward performance, but God values inward self-control. Without discipline, men are vulnerable to temptation and burnout. Like physical training, spiritual strength is developed through consistency and challenge. Discipline is not about never falling but about getting back up and growing through grace.

A – Available to Serve

Proverbs 3:27

Availability is not about having free time; it is about having a heart that is ready to respond. In a world full of distractions and demands, men must be interruptible, present, and responsive to needs. Greatness in God's kingdom is found in service, not status. Whether it's showing up for your family or stepping into someone else's crisis, availability begins with seeing people through God's eyes and acting when prompted.

D – Devoted to God

Proverbs 1:7

Devotion flows not from guilt or obligation, but from the reverent awe of who God is. It is a relationship grounded in love, not performance. True devotion reorders our priorities, reshapes our thinking, and releases us from the guilt of the past. For many men, bitterness or shame blocks that devotion. But Jesus offers a new way—one built on grace, forgiveness, and restoration.

CONCLUSION

The sermon compares life without God's wisdom to assembling an IKEA bookshelf without reading the instructions—crooked, confusing, and unstable. But the good news is that the Manual (God's Word) is still available, and the Carpenter (Jesus) is ready to help us rebuild. This is not just a message for biological fathers, but for all men called to live with intentionality and legacy. Jesus redefines manhood and invites us into a life marked by grace-filled discipline, loving availability, and sincere devotion.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING PROVERBS

Proverbs is God's manual for wise and righteous living. It is immensely practical and spiritually rich, especially for those seeking to grow as leaders, fathers, mentors, and men of integrity. With 31 chapters, Proverbs offers a perfect rhythm for daily wisdom. It helps us develop godly character, discern right from wrong, and align our lives with God's purposes.

Key benefits of studying Proverbs:

- Builds wisdom for everyday decisions
- Sharpens our understanding of discipline and self-control
- Cultivates humility, honesty, and purity
- Reinforces the importance of fearing the Lord as the foundation of life

CHALLENGE

Commit to reading one chapter of Proverbs each day for the next month. Journal one truth from each day and reflect on how God is shaping you through it.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What's the most 'manly' thing you tried to fix without instructions—and how did it go?

(Let everyone share—expect some laughs and stories that invite honesty and vulnerability.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What do I see?

1. What recurring words or ideas stood out from the sermon (e.g., discipline, availability, devotion)?
2. Which illustration or story impacted you the most (e.g., IKEA shelf, gym soreness, father wounds)? Why?
3. In Proverbs 1:7, what does “the fear of the Lord” suggest about where true wisdom begins?
4. How does the structure of the sermon (D-A-D) help frame a godly legacy?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

1. What does it mean to be “disciplined in heart” according to Scripture? How is this different from being emotionally reactive?
2. Why is availability so challenging in modern life, and what does Proverbs say about meeting the needs around us?
3. How does devotion flow from being loved rather than trying to earn love? How does this change how we approach spiritual disciplines?
4. Why is Proverbs such a foundational book for men and leaders? What wisdom does it offer specifically for relationships, leadership, and legacy?
5. What does Jesus' description of Himself as “gentle and lowly” (Matthew 11:28-29) reveal about true strength and godly masculinity?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. **Discipline:** In what area of your life is God calling you to greater discipline (speech, thought, finances, time, relationships)?
2. **Availability:** Who in your family, church, or community needs more of your presence this week? What's one specific way you can show up for them?
3. **Devotion:** What step can you take this week to grow in your relationship with God—not out of duty, but delight?
4. **Proverbs Practice:** Will you commit to reading one chapter of Proverbs a day for the next 31 days? What day will you start?
5. **Forgiveness:** Is there bitterness or guilt that's blocking your growth? What would it look like to release it in light of God's grace?
6. **Legacy:** What kind of legacy are you building? What step can you take this week to move toward the man God has called you to be?

GROUP REFLECTION AND COMMITMENT

Where do I need to grow—discipline, availability, or devotion? Who can I serve this week—not for applause, but for the glory of Christ?