

## **THE WAY OF THE WISE: A STUDY OF PROVERBS**

### **Friendship, Various Proverbs**

#### **LEARNING THE WORD**

1. Read and discuss Proverbs 20:6, 18:24, 17:17. Why are long-term friendships essential to life?
2. Read and discuss Proverbs 27:9, 25:2, 15:23. Based only on these verses, write a single sentence that could be used as part of a "job description" for friendship.
3. Read and discuss Proverbs 25:12, 27:6, 28:23. Have you experienced a friend who does this well? How has their honesty been an encouragement to you?
4. Read and discuss Proverbs 25:17, 25:20, 27:14. What are some ways well-meaning people operate with lack of emotional awareness and health?
5. Read and discuss Proverbs 18:21, 12:18, 15:1, 17:27. What do these verses teach about the power of our words?
6. Read and discuss Proverbs 13:20, 28:13, 17:9, 27:17. How do spiritual friendships deepen our lives, going beyond common interests, hobbies, and personal preferences?

#### **LIVING THE WORD**

7. Why do you think it often appears more difficult to establish deep friendships once you leave high school and college?
8. In the discussion above, what is one thing you most desire a friendship at this point in your life?
9. In the discussion above, what is one area where you want to grow as a friend to others?
10. Read the verses below, and then consider these questions: Why is our friendship with Jesus the most important in our lives? How does the gospel shape our approach to friendship?

*John 15:12-13, 15*

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends...*

*No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends."*