

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "WISDOM BUILDS A HOME" | PROVERBS | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What do you remember most from growing up?

### *"Wisdom Forms the Family" Proverbs 4: 1-4*

Proverbs show that wisdom was to be learned from belonging to a family, passed down from generation to generation.

- What is something that Christ-followers should seek to pass down to next generation?
- How can God's people give care and honor for the fatherless, the widow, and those from difficult relationships?

### *"Wisdom Strengthens Marriage" Proverbs 31: 11-12, Proverbs 14:1*

Husbands and wives are to bless each other and others near them with a faithful covenant, wisely building each other up.

- What does it look like to build a strong covenant in marriage?

### *"Wisdom Shapes Children" Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 22:15, Proverbs 29:15*

Proverbs show parents are to be training children with wisdom and kids need discipline and boundaries to become wise.

- How is training children to be wise different than what the world says children should experience?
- What helps adults provide wise discipline and boundaries for kids?

### *"Christ Connection to Wisdom: Love and Honor" Matthew 3:13-17*

God called Jesus His Beloved Son and Jesus listened and obeyed His Father, showing Him honor.

- How does knowing Christ-followers are beloved sons and daughters change how they hear instructions from God?

### REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Families powerfully shape husbands, wives, children and future generations. God's wisdom allows families to be shaped by grace leading to legacy of honoring God.

- What kind of legacy do you want to leave to the next generation?
- Have you had a posture of honor towards family members lately?
- Ask God to heal family hurts and to build your identity as His child.

## 5 - Wisdom Builds A Home

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online **2nd**.
- B. Slide1-3 Kelly: Easter Weekend. Holy Week. GriefShare.
- C. Slide4,5 Reminders: Missions Prayer today 1:30-2:30. Movie/David tonight 6:30pm.
- D. Slide6 Prayer: Ps.103:2-5 *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and **forget not all his benefits**, (*benefits?* Then he lists 5 for the *harassed & helpless* soul) *who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good.**

### II. Slide7a Intro: **Wisdom Builds A Home** (family, marriage, parenting)

- A. What do you remember most from growing up? (usually people **don't** remember square footage of their house. Or mention the car their parents drove. Or how busy their schedule was). Usually what's most mentioned is: Tone. Moments at the table. How conflict was handled. How correction was delivered.)
  1. What they remember most **wasn't comfort, it was Culture**.
  2. Proverbs assumes that **homes** create **culture**, and that **culture** shapes **souls**.
  3. Wisdom at home **isn't** about **perfection**, it's about **what gets passed down**.
- B. **Wisdom or folly** (always the question in Proverbs) - **How will you raise your family?**
  1. If we choose **wisdom** we can flourish, we can have an **enjoyable** *albeit* a often **challenging, family relational dynamic**.
- C. **Questions:** What's *one value* you're grateful was passed down to you? (good work ethic). What's *one pattern* you hope **stops** with you? (*Bell Sarcasm*)
- D. **Outline: Wisdom Builds A Home**
  1. Slide7b from Proverbs 24:3-4 **By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; 4 by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.**

2. 1 *Wisdom Forms The Family.* 2 *Wisdom Strengthens Marriage.*  
3 *Wisdom Shapes Children.*

### III. Slide8a **WISDOM FORMS THE FAMILY** (IDENTITY)

A. **Big idea:** A wise home is **relational** before it is *instructional*.

B. One of the phrases that keeps showing up in Proverbs is **My son**. (23 x's)

1. That's not *filler*, that's **framing**. Before there's a **command**, there's a **connection**. Before there's **correction**, there's **relationship**.
2. Proverbs is not just a list of rules. *It's the voice of a father shaping the inner world of his child*. He doesn't start with, "*Here's what you're doing wrong*." He starts with, "**My son!**" [pause. that phrase carries weight].
  - a) It says: You belong to me. I'm for you. What I'm about to say comes from **love**.
3. **And notice the order**. He doesn't say, "*Do this so you can become my son*." He says, "**My son... therefore listen**."
  - a) **Belonging** precedes behavior. **Identity** comes before instruction. That's why the wisdom can land *without shame*.
  - b) *Where **attachment** is secure, wisdom is absorbable. Where **attachment** is fractured, even truth feels like threat.*
  - c) If you **don't feel safe**, **correction** feels like *rejection*.  
If you **know you're loved**, **correction** feels like **protection**.
4. Slide8b **My son** also echoes the **tone and heart of God**.
  - a) In Proverbs, the father warns, corrects, and even pleads: "**My son, do not forget my teaching...**" (Prov. 3:1) "**My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline...**" (Prov. 3:11) "**My son, give me your heart...**" (Prov. 23:26)
  - b) That last one is powerful. *He's not just after compliance. He wants the heart*.
  - c) At Jesus' baptism, before He did a miracle or preached a sermon, the Father said, *This is My beloved Son*. [affection before assignment. Identity before action]
  - d) God doesn't say, "*Perform, then you'll belong*." He says, "*You belong. Now walk in wisdom*."

5. This changes how we hear Proverbs. **Not as insecure people** trying to earn approval, **but as beloved sons and daughters, it feels Fatherly.**

a) That's how **wisdom** moves from *information...* to **formation.**

C. **Slide8c Multi-Generational Wisdom.**

D. Proverbs 4:1-4 *Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, 2 for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. 3 When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.*

1. Solomon isn't just teaching his son, he references his own father teaching him. **Wisdom is moving:** Grandfather (David) → Father (Sol) → Son.

E. Whether you realize it or not, **you are shaping someone.** And whether you like it or not, **someone shaped you.**

1. Proverbs assumes wisdom **doesn't** stay private. It moves from one generation to the next. [wisdom must be intentionally passed down].

F. **Questions:** What kind of legacy do you want to leave? (can you name it?)

G. **Slide8d The ultimate model** of wisdom at home is **Jesus.**

1. **He listened** to His Father. **He submitted** in Gethsemane. **He said,** "*Not my will, but Yours.*"

2. Jesus shows: *Listening precedes Leading.*

H. **And** here's the beauty: **Jesus perfectly honored His Father** - **so that** when we fail in our homes ... **Grace is still available!** [that keeps this from becoming *moralism*].

I. **When you follow Jesus,** you don't just become **wiser,** you become **safer** for your family.

J. **Slide8e The Fatherless and Widow.**

- K. **Throughout the OT** God has a particular concern for those without families. (the fatherless & widow).
1. He set up laws in the OT to make sure they were **protected & provided** for
  2. Those laws were basically for **His people to care for them**.
- L. **Fatherless** - It brings Kel & I great joy to see those of you who are *adopting, fostering. Or pursuing adopting, praying for \$ to adopt, going through the terrible bureaucratic process to get your adopted children.*
- M. **Widows** - God knows them, He sees them, and He ultimately will have the final word against those that abuse them/land grab, etc.
- N. **Now what we need to do as His church is apply the spirit of this:** To care for those w/o families, protect, give aid, help. In 1 Tim.5, Acts 6 they were asking *how can we care for these widows*. **The church** is to be **a family** for those who don't have family, **period!** - God's heart/our heart.
- O. **\*Some of you didn't grow up in a wise home.** Proverbs **isn't** meant *to shame you* - it's meant **to show you what's possible**.
1. Many of you might be sitting there thinking: "My home wasn't wise." - "My parents failed." **Or**, "My child isn't walking with the Lord." - "We're estranged."
  2. Here's the good news: *In Christ, generational cycles can stop!*
    - a) **God can:** Heal what was *spoken over you*. Rewrite **identity**. Give you a **new starting point**.
- P. **\*For Estranged or Complicated Relationships.**
1. **Honor** does not mean *enabling sin or enduring abuse*.
  2. **Honor can look like:** Respectful speech. Prayer. Appropriate boundaries. Refusing to repay hurt with hurt (*hurt people, hurt people*).
  3. You **can't** always choose *reconciliation*, but you can choose your posture!

#### IV. Slide9a **WISDOM STRENGTHENS MARRIAGE** (COVENANT)

A. **Big idea:** The strongest parenting tool is a healthy marriage.

1. *This isn't about personality type, cultural expectations, or earning love. It's about cultivating a Christ-shaped marriage.*
2. Slide9b 2 things: Keep your covenant, and treasure your marriage.

B. **Husband - Be a Cultivator.** Our English word *Husbandry* comes from *husband*, which means farming or cultivation. Husbands work on **cultivating** a relationship with your wife.

1. Ray Ortland said, **true biblical masculinity** is not dominance or passivity, but steady, covenantal strength.
2. A husband in Proverbs is a man whose **character**, blesses his wife (31:11,12), and whose **integrity** benefits future generations (20:7).
3. A husband in Proverbs is not merely married - he is **morally weight-bearing**. His presence creates **stability**. His wisdom creates **safety**.
4. Husbands are called to: **Love** sacrificially (Ephesians 5). **Lead** gently. **Serve** humbly. **Repent** quickly.

C. Slide9c **Wives - Be a Builder.** Proverbs 14:1 *The wise woman builds her house...*

1. **Speak life** into their husband. **Notice effort**, not just failure. **Reinforce** strengths.
2. *A man can withstand a lot outside the home, if he feels safe inside it.*
  - a) Emotional safety. Space for vulnerability. Grace when he fails.
3. **Wisdom sharpens** but it never **shames**. Loving correction. Gentle tone. Clear communication.
4. One of the most powerful ways to support your husband is to **bring him before the Lord**. Pray for him.

## V. Slide10a **WISDOM SHAPES CHILDREN** (LEGACY)

A. **Big idea:** Your private character becomes their public foundation.

B. Proverbs 22:6 *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

1. It means: *Shape direction* early. *Bend* the trajectory toward *wisdom*.
  - a) Hebrew word *Train* carries the idea of *dedicating or initiating*.
  - b) Wisdom isn't *accidental* - it's *cultivated*.

C. *Slide10b For Parents of Prodigals*.

1. Proverbs 22:6 *is a principle, not a guarantee*. You can do many things right and still face heartbreak.
  - a) *Remember*, your child's *current direction* is *not a final verdict* on your faithfulness.
  - b) Please stay relationally available for them. Pray steadily. *And*, Trust God with *what you cannot control*.
2. *Proverbs are proverbs, not promises*. They are *sayings* that describe *the normal patterns* that prevails in this world, *not a particular outcome*.
  - a) *Slide10c* Proverbs 22:6 *is saying what to us then?* - *Parents your influence in the life of your son or daughter will endure longer than you think, and go deeper than you may have imagined*.
  - b) The thief on the cross, said to the thief on the *other cross* (who just finished "railing" on Christ), *Slide10d Do you not fear God?* Lk.23:39. *What? Where did that come from?* *Synagogue-Sunday-School*.
    - (1) Listen: *The living seed of the Word of God had been planted*.
  - c) *Parents with wayward children don't give up. 1 statement, one kernel of truth, can saved them from an eternity of hell.* [don't say, *oh good my work is finished*]

D. *Slide10e* Proverbs 22:15 *Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline* (training) *drives it far from him*.

1. Maybe it doesn't mean *beat your children with a stick* like we thought it did for a long time.

E. The best known passage about the Rod is found where? (Ps.23:4b *your rod and your staff, they comfort me*).

- F. A shepherd used a rod for at least 2 reasons I know of: the sheep would pass under it to be counted (showing the shepherd's protection & care). **And** we know the shepherds did not carry the rod *to beat the sheep*, **But** to stave off any adversary.
1. So the rod was used to **defend**, **guide**, and sometimes **correct** the sheep. It is not a weapon *against* the sheep, **but** for their protection and direction.
  2. Thus the sheep gained **comfort** of trusting the shepherd to fend off these wild animals. *They knew they would never be left at the mercy of their enemies that would otherwise destroy them.*
    - a) **Slide10f** *The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.* (Pr 29:15) The Hebrew "*left to himself*" originally described **livestock grazing** without boundaries or supervision.
  3. Your child will find comfort and knowing you're gonna do whatever you can to protect them from: **bad friends, bad decisions, bad influences**.
    - a) **But** don't ever expect your child to say, *your restraint comforts me*.
    - b) **But** without it, they would be in a very scary place, defenseless of all the things that assail them.
- G. **Slide10g For Parents.**
- H. Go for the children's **heart**, **not** *behavior modification*.
1. **Because behavior flows from the heart.** [you might *keep them out of jail*, **but never** see them *live for the glory of Christ*].
  2. **How do you go for the child's heart?** **Ask** your children (any age) about: *their beliefs, their feelings, what motivates them?*
    - a) **Authority** without **listening** produces **distance**.
    - b) Pstr Dan said, *We need to learn active listening, reflective questioning, and be creating the safety necessary for the deeper work to begin.*
  3. **Slide10h Protect them** in those early years, **and then Prepare them** to be **world changers**. -*"They're not antiques to protect, but arrows to be sent."*
  4. **But** you can't pass down what you don't possess. **Instruction must be embodied.**

5. The loudest voice in the home shouldn't be **anger** - it should be **wisdom**.
6. Your **presence** matters more than *perfection*. **Consistency** matters more than *intensity*. **Modeling repentance** may be the most powerful lesson.
- I. **Be present** first, **then** create space to **speak** into their lives. Like **Jesus** did.
- J. The best way to communicate to your children is **dialogue** not *monologue*.
- K. **Dialogue questions:** (to children depending on age)
1. For yourself: **Ask**, are you more aware of my encouragement or my criticism? What is daddy/mommy most passionate about? Do I act the same at church as I do at home? Are you aware of my love for you? Is there a way I've sinned against you that I have not repented up? How am I doing as a dad/mom? Does my relationship with your mom/dad make you excited about being married?
- L. **Slide10i For Children.** (adult children also)
1. **Honor** your father and mother. Honor = *give weight to, or regard as heavy*. **So** it means, *give weight to what they say*.
  2. **Honor** doesn't expire at 18. You can disagree and still **honor**. You can set boundaries and still respect. **Honor** isn't agreement - it's posture.
- M. **Slide10j** And for *extra encouragement* to **children** of **any age** - God placed a *warning* sign-post in Prv.30:17 *The eye that **mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother** will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures. :)*
- N. **\*Wrap Up:**
1. **The home you grew up in** shaped you. **The home you are building** will shape someone else.
  2. God's wisdom isn't meant to **stop** with you. It's meant to **outlive you**.
  3. **Jesus perfectly honored** His Father. **And because-of-Him**, your home can be **shaped by Grace** - **not guilt!**

O. **Prayer:** Healing in *strained* homes. Courage to lead. Humility to listen.  
Generational faithfulness.

P. Keywords: