



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: Selected passages from Proverbs

KEY POINT: God desires for us to plan wisely, in pencil, ready to pivot if He deems it so.

FOR LEADERS

- **Final Week!** *If you can believe it, the end of our Spring Communities season is already upon us! Spend some time this week reflecting over the CRAZINESS of this entire year, and take some time to pray for your group, for the summer, and the future of our church!*
- **COVID Phase 1** – *Ironically enough, just as our Communities Season is ending, our first phase of re-opening has begun. We are now allowed to gather in groups of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors, and are encouraging our Communities to host watch parties for weekly sermons! Chat with your group this week to perhaps plan out a couple gatherings (as folks feel comfortable) for the upcoming months!*

GETTING STARTED

- [1] Communities Video:** Watch this week’s community extras video!
- [2] Icebreaker:** What in the world will Summer look like for you this year?
- [3] Opener:** What was one takeaway you had from the sermon this week?

RIGHT PLANNING

Ask for a volunteer to read Proverbs 3:5-6.

In the sermon this week, we looked at what the Bible had to teach us about planning, and how we should plan in a way that is both wise and God-honoring. Ryan went on to compare planning to building a ladder and climbing that ladder rung by rung, and warned us to be careful that we’re building on the right wall.

- [1]** Early on in the sermon, Ryan shared a story about a friend who thought that “planning for the future” was actually a lack of trust in God. How do you feel about this? How would you respond to someone who felt this way?
- [2]** What do you think the sermon illustration of the ladder on the wall is meant to illustrate? How can we personally make sure our ladder is resting on the “right wall?”
- [3]** Sometimes we climb up the wrong wall by rushing toward short-term opportunities at the expense of wiser long-term goals. Have you ever experienced this yourself or know someone who has? What do you think could have been done differently?
- [4]** What personal plans or goals do you have set for yourself and how does glorifying God factor into them?

5 STEPS FOR GODLY PLANNING

The book of Proverbs gives us five steps for climbing the right ladder for God’s glory.

STEP 1: Commit your work to the Lord - Proverbs 16:3

- [5]** What do you think it means to “commit your work to the Lord”?



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As Ryan said, prayer is a huge part of this. But God does not usually respond to our prayers with clear answers about what we're supposed to do. Rather, we pour out our hearts and plans to him, and then take steps of faith.

[6] Why is it often unwise to wait for clear responses by God to our prayers? How can this lead us astray?

STEP 2: Seek godly counsel – Proverbs 15:22

[7] What makes a wise counselor? In other words, what characteristics should we be looking for in someone from whom we seek counsel?

[8] Can you recall a time when you regretted not seeking wise counsel before making an important decision?

STEP 3: Walk in obedience – Proverbs 15:22

[9] Can you recall a time in your life when obedience to the Lord was at odds with accomplishing your goal(s)? What happened? What did you learn from that?

[10] In which areas of life are you struggling with this right now?

[11] Is there someone in your life who needs you to lovingly remind them of this? What's the best way to do that?

STEP 4: Be diligent – Proverbs 21:5

[12] In explaining this point, Ryan said, "Without diligence, all your planning is just thoughts on paper." Is this something you struggle with? What practical steps can you take to be more diligent in meeting your goals?

[13] How has delaying short-term gratification helped you in your life? How has giving into it hurt you?

STEP 5: Write your plans in pencil – Proverbs 16:9, 19:21

[14] In what ways has God subverted your plans for your good or the good of others?

[15] In what ways has God confused you by subverting your plans in ways that you don't understand or that wish he hadn't? What does walking in faith look like for you in light of this?

THE RICH FOOL

Ask for someone to read Luke 12:13–21.

[16] Why is misuse of wealth an example of foolish planning?

[17] How is this parable most relevant to you in your life?

PRAYER

[1] Pray that the Lord would help you to plan wisely, to glorify Him, according to the wisdom we see in Proverbs!