

WISDOM'S CRY
Silliness vs. Significance
Small Group Discussion Questions

Tonight we are going to look through another passage in Proverbs that gives us practical wisdom on how to speak.

Read Proverbs 26:17:

- Give an example of a disagreement that you stuck your nose into that didn't turn out so well for you?
- What are some ways to meddle in other people's quarrels?
- What would have been the problem with grabbing a dog by the ears? (Remember, dogs were wild undomesticated beasts in Solomon's day.)

Read vs. 18-19:

- Note: A more modern translation of "Am I not in sport?" (KJV) is: "I was only joking!"
- There is a kind of joking that is OK and a kind of joking that goes too far. How do you discern the difference between the two?
- What are some consequences for going too far when joking around with a friend?

Read vs. 20-22:

- Note: The word for "whisperer" (ESV), "talebearer" (KJV, NKJV), and "gossip" (HCSB) means: "the sort of fool who attempts to wrongly attack another's rights, reputation, or authority to secure his own will."
- Note #2: The word in verse 22 translated 'wounds' in the KJV is a mistranslation. It is better translated 'delicious morsels' or 'tasty trifles'.
- Can you give an example of the type of person who is a whisperer? Why does verse 22 describe his words as

delicious morsels? Why does quarreling cease when he leaves?

Read vs. 23:

- What does this verse mean?
- What is the application to your life?

Read vs. 24-26:

- Tie in these verses with the first point from this morning. Explain the connections.
- Why does verse 26 say that his wickedness will be exposed before the whole congregation?

Read vs. 27-28:

- What is verse 27 doing here? It seems a little bit out of context, why does Solomon include this verse here?
- Verse 28 seems to say that the flattering mouth is worse than the lying tongue. (The flattering mouth works ruin, the lying tongue only hates.) Why can flattery be more dangerous than lying?

Read Proverbs 27:1

- See if you can find any other Scriptures that express this same principle. (Hint: You might want to check out some of Jesus' words!)

Read vs. 2:

- Why does Solomon say this?

Read vs. 3:

- Why is a fool's wrath/provocation/aggravation heavier than a stone and weightier than sand?
- What are some ways that you aggravate people with your words?