

Small Group Discussion Guide

Getting It: “Being God Smart” — His Word & Our Words

September 7, 2026

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I. Proverbs Is a God-Inspired Life Coach

Read Proverbs 1:1–4 aloud.

These verses remind us why Proverbs was written: to help us “know how to live well and right,” understand what life means, learn what is right and fair, and gain wisdom for everyday life. In other words, Proverbs is God’s practical instruction manual for living.

A. God’s Word — A Matter of Authority

Read Proverbs 30:5 and Hebrews 4:12–13 aloud.

There are many debates surrounding Scripture—its inspiration, interpretation, context, translation, culture, and even whether certain passages should be understood literally or symbolically. Those discussions can be important, but they can also cause us to miss the most important question: Will I submit to the authority of Scripture?

- **What does it look like in everyday life to “submit to the authority of Scripture”?**

One of the dangers of every generation is generational arrogance—the idea that somehow we have become smarter than God. We may have more technology, more information, and more resources, but we never outgrow our need for God’s wisdom.

- **Why do you think every generation is tempted to believe it has become “too smart for God”?**

B. God’s Word & Following Jesus Are Linked Up

Read Psalm 119:105, John 8:12, John 1:4–5, and John 1:14 aloud.

When we yield to the Word of God, we are following Jesus, and the same light that illuminated His life begins to illuminate ours. To be a Christ-follower is to accept His Word. We cannot claim to follow Christ while rejecting the authority of His Word. The only way we can wield the Sword of the Spirit (God’s Word) is by first yielding to the authority of the Author. Before we can use God’s Word effectively, we have to submit ourselves to the One who gave it. If we do not yield, we have nothing to wield.

- **How are following Jesus and following His Word connected?**

II. Sticks and Stones

Read Proverbs 17:27, Proverbs 18:21, Proverbs 21:23, and Proverbs 12:18 aloud.

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” sounds good, but Proverbs tells us it simply isn't true. **Words matter!**

Our words carry significance spiritually and physically. Proverbs contains more than 120 references to the mouth, tongue, lips, words, gossip, and talk. God clearly wants us to understand the power of what we say.

- **Share a time when someone's words brought healing or encouragement to you. What made those words so meaningful?**

A. Harmful

Read Proverbs 11:9 and Proverbs 15:4 aloud.

Proverbs uses strong language to describe the damage our words can cause. With our mouths we can **destroy, pierce, crush, work ruin, trap, separate friends, and lead people astray.**

Gossip can destroy relationships. Rash words can bring ruin. Deceitful words can crush someone's spirit. Sometimes we say something in a moment of frustration and wish we could take it back, but words often leave a mark long after the conversation is over.

- **What kinds of words—gossip, criticism, anger, or others—might we sometimes use without realizing how they affect others? How can we become more intentional and aware of the words we speak?**

B. Helpful

Read Proverbs 12:19 and Proverbs 10:19 aloud.

Truthful words endure. Wise words bring healing. Pleasant words encourage and teach. A trustworthy person knows when to speak and when to keep confidence. Guarding our mouths can even protect us from unnecessary trouble.

- **When you face a difficult circumstance, do your words tend to focus more on the problem or on the promises of God? What would it look like in your life to speak with greater faith?**

Proclamation - Let's learn to speak God's Word over our lives!

READ ALOUD AS A GROUP

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. My steps will not be hampered, and when I run, I will not stumble. The Sovereign Lord is my strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer and enables me to go on the heights.

So I say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid.

All my sons will be taught of the Lord and great will be the peace of my children. Terror will be far removed from me. It will not come near me. No weapon forged against me will prevail, and I will refute every tongue that accuses me. For this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from the God of the Heavens. Amen.