

## The Path to Prosperity Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What was the general attitude toward money in the home in which you grew up?
2. If someone gave you \$1,000 to give to one person of your choosing, to whom would you give it?

**Read the following passages:** Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:18, 24-25; 21:5, 17; 22:7.

The book of Proverbs is an example of ancient wisdom literature. Wisdom literature teaches us how to fit ourselves into this world that God has created. Wisdom literature often contains powerful principles that hold true in a wide variety of circumstances, but not necessarily all circumstances. Consider the following wisdom saying from Proverbs 12.

*No harm overtakes the righteous,  
but the wicked have their fill of trouble.*

*Proverbs 12:21*

Most of us would agree that living righteously can save us from a great deal of trouble. But we all know of cases in which the righteous have suffered greatly. Jesus himself is the ultimate example of a righteous sufferer.

Proverbs has a great deal to teach about the path to financial prosperity. The principles taught in Proverbs do not guarantee financial prosperity, but all of us can greatly benefit by following their wisdom.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. In your observation, what are some of the primary reasons people struggle financially?
2. Read again Proverbs 11:18. What does it mean to “sow righteousness”? How might a continual posture of “sowing righteousness” impact us financially? How does sowing righteousness connect with what Jesus identifies as the greatest commandment? (See Matthew 22:37-40.)
3. Among a list of thirty “success principles” that included things like having a high energy level or finding the right mentor, a group of first-generation wealthy individuals identified “Being honest with all people” as the most important. Why do you think this would make such a big impact on their financial success?

4. Why do you think most businesses are more effective when they exist for more than the money?
5. Many people would love to become wealthy overnight. What are some potential drawbacks to becoming wealthy quickly? Why do you think so many lottery winners end up declaring bankruptcy?
6. Why do you think it is so common for people to spend everything they make, or even beyond what they make? What do you think might help us live below our means?
7. How would you assess your current level of debt? If you have debt, do you have a plan for getting out of debt?
8. Do you have a budget that directs how you spend your income? Explain.
9. Which of the following actions do you think is the most important for you to take right now?
  - Giving to God first through my local church
  - Being generous toward other people
  - Finding a job (or a better job)
  - Being more productive in my current job
  - Getting out of debt
  - Creating and sticking to a budget
  - Beginning to save

**Pray**