

Common Ground Café

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, August 25, 2019



How to Get the Good Advice You Need

Proverbs 12:15 | Proverbs 15:22

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Pastor Tom included multiple passages in his sermon this week. Go ahead and have volunteers bookmark these passages so they can read these verses during class time.

Proverbs 12:15 | Proverbs 15:22 | Proverbs 20:18
Ecclesiastes 4:13 | Proverbs 10:8 | Proverbs 13:10
Proverbs 26:12 | Proverbs 27:17

Get to Know You

What is a time in your life in which you wished you sought advice before making a decision?

Alternate Question: What are some easy situations in which to seek advice? What are some hard situations in which to seek advice?

Study the Book

Read Proverbs 12:15 & Proverbs 15:22

You should seek advice when:

1) *You are considering a new venture. Read Proverbs 20:18*

What are some major life transitions/new ventures that the members of your group will most likely go through in the next ten years? Pick one or two and brainstorm some good questions concerning the transition/venture.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:13. Have two group members phrase the meaning of this verse in their own words. What does it teach us?

2) *You have had a series of failures.*

Why is it important to seek advice when you have had a series of failures?

3) *You are worried that you have developed some negative traits.*

How well do you take other people's criticism?

How can you discern between helpful criticism and destructive criticism?

4) *You have identified some areas in which you want to improve.*

What are some common areas in which people may easily seek help in improving? What are some areas that may be ignored in regard to seeking counsel?

5) *You need perspective.*

How can a wise outside perspective be beneficial in life?

We do not ask for advice because:

Read Proverbs 10:8

- 1) We do not want to face up to what we already know we should do.
- 2) We fear being seen as weak.
- 3) We assume that there's nothing anyone else can teach us.
 - a. We think we are too advanced.
 - b. We think our situation is too unique.

Which reason most often keeps you from seeking advice?

Read Proverbs 13:10, Proverbs 26:12, and Proverbs 27:17

How can you keep from listening to your own excuses for not seeking wise counsel in order to be obedient to the previous Proverbs?

Group Application Discussion

Tom's practical tips for seeking advice:

1) *Enlist the right advisor*

What are some characteristics that would help make someone the right advisor?

2) *Make your questions as specific as possible.*

3) *Give your adviser time.*

4) *Never argue with your adviser.*

5) *Remember that you cannot delegate the decision to your adviser.*

Which of Tom's practical tips speaks to you most? Why?

Live the Book (Personal Reflection and Application)

What area in your life do you need some wise counsel?

Make a list of potential advisers.

Contact someone before next Sunday about having a meeting to gain some wise counsel. (Be sure to begin preparing your questions.)