



LIFE Group Discussion Guide

May 17, 2026

Proverbs 3:5-6

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

OPENING

Have you ever made a decision that seemed right at the time—but didn't turn out well?
What did you learn from it?

We all rely on our own understanding every day—our instincts, experiences, and reasoning. But Proverbs 3:5–6 challenges us with a different way to live: trusting God fully, even when it doesn't make sense.

This morning we'll explore how God's direction becomes clear when we trust Him completely.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Proverbs 3:5–6 aloud together.

Ask the group to listen for:

- What we are called to do
- What we are warned against
- What God promises

PASSAGE SUMMARY

These verses are central to understanding a life of faith:

- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” — a call to complete dependence on God
- “Lean not on your own understanding” — a warning against self-reliance
- “In all your ways acknowledge Him” — inviting God into every part of life
- “He will make straight your paths” — God's promise of guidance and direction

This passage is about who we trust to lead our lives—ourselves or God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to “trust in the Lord with all your heart”?

It means fully relying on God—His character, His Word, and His wisdom—rather than partially trusting Him while still holding control ourselves.

Why is it so natural for us to “lean on our own understanding”?

Because we trust what we can see, feel, and control. Pride and past experiences can make us believe we know what's best.

What are some dangers of relying only on our own understanding?

Limited perspective, poor decisions, spiritual drift, and missing God's better plan.

What does it look like practically to “acknowledge Him in all your ways”?

Seeking God in decisions, praying regularly, aligning actions with Scripture, and considering His will in everyday choices.

How does trusting God differ from simply having information about Him?

Trust leads to action and obedience. It's not just knowing truth—it's living like it's true.

What does the promise “He will make straight your paths” mean?

God provides direction, clarity, and guidance—not necessarily an easy path, but a purposeful and guided one.

Can you think of a time when trusting God led you in a direction you didn't expect? What was the outcome?

Encourage sharing of real-life examples of God's faithfulness.

APPLICATION

Where in your life are you currently tempted to rely on your own understanding instead of trusting God?

Encourage specific areas: decisions, relationships, future plans, challenges.

What is one step you can take this week to actively trust God in that area?

Examples: praying intentionally, seeking Scripture, asking for godly counsel, choosing obedience.

What would it look like to acknowledge God in your daily routines—not just major decisions?

Small, consistent habits of dependence: prayer, awareness of God's presence, intentional obedience.

DIG DEEPER

Why is partial trust in God not the same as full trust?

How can we discern the difference between God's leading and our own desires?

What role does patience play in trusting God's direction?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Trusting God isn't just for big decisions—it's a daily posture of the heart.

Ask:

Am I truly trusting God, or just asking Him to approve my plans?

Challenge:

This week, choose to trust God in both the big decisions and the small moments.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we will discuss **Proverbs 6:1-5** as we continue our series, *Uncommon Sense: God's Wisdom in a Foolish World*.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for His wisdom and guidance.
- Ask Him to help us trust Him fully, not just partially.

- Pray for clarity and direction in areas where we feel uncertain.
- Pray specifically for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

COMMENTARY

Proverbs 3:5-6

3:5 To trust anything or anyone other than the Lord results in disaster (11:28; 28:26; cp. Ps 52:7; 62:10; Isa 30:12-13; Ezek 16:15). To rely on something—a synonym for “trust”—is to lean on it as if it were a crutch (2 Sam 1:6; Job 8:14-15; Isa 50:10). Understanding is good (16:16), but only if it is from the Lord (9:10).

3:6 To think about God in all your ways is to invite His presence into all daily activities and decisions. Guide... on the right paths is literally “make straight” or “smooth.” God will make righteousness attainable.