



LIFE Group Discussion Guide

June 21, 2026

Proverbs 23:26-28

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

Who has been one of the most influential people in your life? How did they shape your choices, values, or direction?

Every day, we are influenced by people, relationships, and messages around us. In Proverbs 23:26–28, a father appeals to his son to give him his heart and pay attention to the path he is walking. This passage reminds us that our hearts and relationships have a powerful impact on our spiritual lives.

Today we'll explore how the direction of our lives is often determined by what captures our hearts and influences our choices.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Proverbs 23:26-28** aloud together.

Ask the group to listen for:

- The father's appeal
- The warning being given
- The consequences of ignoring wisdom

PASSAGE SUMMARY

In this passage, Solomon emphasizes two important truths:

- Wisdom begins with the heart, not merely outward behavior.
- The choices we make regarding relationships and temptations can either strengthen or destroy our walk with God.

The father's request, "Give me your heart," is really a call to embrace God's wisdom fully. The warning that follows illustrates how destructive sexual temptation and unfaithfulness can be when left unchecked.

The larger principle is:

What captures our hearts will ultimately influence the direction of our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do you think the father means when he says, "Give me your heart"?

He is asking for trust, teachability, and a willingness to embrace wisdom. He wants his son to receive instruction at the deepest level, not merely obey externally.

Why does Solomon focus on the heart before addressing behavior?

Because behavior flows from the heart. Lasting change happens when our desires, priorities, and affections are aligned with God's truth.

What are some things in today's culture that compete for our hearts and attention?

Success, entertainment, relationships, money, social approval, personal comfort, and many other pursuits can become distractions from God.

Why do you think temptation is described with such strong imagery ("deep pit" and "narrow well")?

The imagery highlights danger and entrapment. Temptation often appears attractive but can lead people into destructive consequences that are difficult to escape.

What makes temptation so deceptive?

It often promises satisfaction, fulfillment, or pleasure while hiding the long-term consequences.

How do wise boundaries help protect us from destructive choices?

Boundaries create space between us and temptation. They help us make decisions ahead of time rather than relying solely on willpower in the moment.

How can believers guard their hearts in a culture filled with competing influences?

Through Scripture, prayer, accountability, wise relationships, worship, and intentional focus on Christ.

APPLICATION**What is currently competing for your heart and attention more than it should?**

Encourage honest reflection about priorities, habits, relationships, or distractions.

Are there any boundaries you need to strengthen in your life to guard your heart more effectively?

Examples may include media habits, relationships, time management, or accountability.

What is one practical step you can take this week to intentionally pursue God with your whole heart?

Examples: dedicated prayer time, Scripture reading, reconnecting with accountability, or addressing an area of temptation.

DIG DEEPER**Why is it dangerous to focus only on outward behavior while neglecting the condition of the heart?**

How do our daily habits reveal what truly has our hearts?

What role does accountability play in guarding against temptation?

How does Jesus' teaching about the heart deepen our understanding of this passage?

CLOSING THOUGHT

This passage reminds us that spiritual growth is not simply about avoiding bad choices—it is about giving our hearts fully to God.

What currently has the greatest influence over my heart?

Am I intentionally pursuing God's wisdom or drifting toward other influences?

Challenge:

This week, pay attention not only to your actions, but also to the affections and priorities that are shaping those actions.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we will discuss **Proverbs 23:29-35** 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 guard our hearts and pursue Him wholeheartedly.
- Pray for discernment to recognize temptation and strength to choose God's path.
- Pray for healthy accountability and godly influences in our lives.
- 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 23:26-28

The teacher calls for the pupil to imitate him and shun the temptress. The passage portrays two types of loose women: unmarried (“prostitute”) and married (“wayward wife”). In either case there is danger, for their way is a “pit”, the gateway to Sheol; and those who enter are as good as dead. But the danger is active – “like a bandit she lies in wait” and multiplies the unfaithful among men.