



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ice Breaker: If you could be part of any happening recorded in the Bible, what would it be and why?

1. Pastor Tom told us that the word discipline is used over and over in Proverbs and is a word that can make us feel scared or repel us. Describe a time where discipline has made you feel scared and uncomfortable. Looking back now, was that fear rational? Did the feeling change once the discipline was over? How so?
2. Read Proverbs 3:11-12, 15:32. Has God ever disciplined you? What lesson did you learn from him doing so? What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God?
3. Pastor Tom tells us that the motivation to develop personal discipline has to come from the deeply held conviction that mediocrity is not fulfilling or fun and that if we allow the Lord to inspire us, discipline will become an ally to help us. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) In what areas do you have good discipline? What impact has this had on you and those around you?
4. We learned that becoming a map reader is an important piece of the discipline puzzle. Have you ever had to take an alternate route when an unexpected detour in your life happened? Where did you see God working in that situation? (Proverbs 5:12-14)
5. In what areas are you sporadic, disheveled, and undisciplined in life? How can your small group help you with this? How can they be praying for you?

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day 1: Read Psalm 36

Day 2: Read Psalm 37

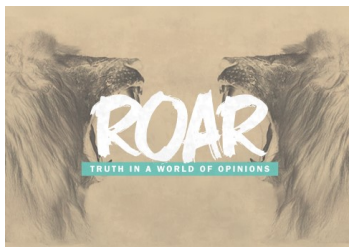
Day 3: Read Psalm 38

Day 4: Read Psalm 39

Day 5: Read Psalm 40



MESSAGE NOTES AND DISCUSSION-PERSONAL GUIDES



“Wise Character” [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

...how can we _____ what is actually true?

One word gets used over and over again in Proverbs that is the key factor in developing character = _____.

Unfortunately this is a word that either scares us or _____ us.

Why is that?

1. We Have a J_____ View of Discipline

Note Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:18; 15:32

Discipline is not a system of legalistic rules and oppressive practices intended to make life as much fun as c_____ s_____.

Discipline is character c_____-t_____.

2. What Are the Building Blocks of _____ Personal Discipline?

- A. Dissatisfaction with the s_____ - the m_____ to develop personal discipline has to come from the deeply held conviction that...m_____ is not fulfilling or fun...If we allow the Lord to inspire us to dream bigger dreams and think larger thoughts...then personal discipline becomes an _____ to assist us...*Note Proverbs 13:12*. Wanting to _____ our potential is part of what it means to be created in the image of God.

B. Delayed _____ - ...arranging the pains and pleasures of life by facing the pain first and getting it over with which then _____ the pleasure for the last. (M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*). *Note Hebrews 12:11*.

C. Be a “M_____ R_____” - *note Proverbs 5:18; 3-14*—it also prepares us to take good alternate routes when unexpected _____ in life happen.

In a world full of opinions, God's wisdom and truth matter:

- Being able to have productive, meaningful, and fulfilling lives instead of s_____, disheveled, and undisciplined lives is what being a person of character is all about.
- Character doesn't just happen by _____.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Wise Character”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

...how can we discern what is actually true?

One word gets used over and over again in Proverbs that is the key factor in developing character = discipline.

Unfortunately this is a word that either scares us or repels us.

Why is that?

1. We Have a Jaundiced View of Discipline

Note Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:18; 15:32

Discipline is not a system of legalistic rules and oppressive practices intended to make life as much fun as chewing sand.

Discipline is character cross-training.

2. What Are the Building Blocks of Growing Personal Discipline?

- A. Dissatisfaction with the status quo – the motivation to develop personal discipline has to come from the deeply held conviction that...mediocrity is not fulfilling or fun...If we allow the Lord to inspire us to dream bigger dreams and think larger thoughts...then personal discipline becomes an ally to assist us...Note Proverbs 13:12. Wanting to maximize our potential is part of what it means to be created in the image of God.
- B. Delayed gratification – ...*arranging the pains and pleasures of life by facing the pain first and getting it over with which then enhances the pleasure for the last.* (M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*). Note Hebrews 12:11.
- C. Be a “Map Reader” – note Proverbs 5:18; 3-14 – it also prepares us to take good alternate routes when unexpected detours in life happen.

In a world full of opinions, God's wisdom and truth matter:

- Being able to have productive, meaningful, and fulfilling lives instead of sporadic, disheveled, and undisciplined lives is what being a person of character is all about.
- Character doesn't just happen by accident.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!