



**Introduction**

1. What virtues (or characteristics) do you think are important in the Christian life?

*Simply an opening question to get them thinking about the idea of 'virtues' (or 'godly character').*

Last week we learnt that the Book of Proverbs is made up of many short sayings that provide practical wisdom for everyday living as God's people. We also learnt that individual proverbs must not be read in isolation, and as a result we will be exploring the Book of Proverbs *thematically* over the next few weeks (that is, we will group proverbs from throughout the book into themes), rather than working through sections in the order they are recorded.

**Read the 'Proverbs About Godly Character' sheet**

2. As you read through the Proverbs try to group them under one of the headings below (don't worry if they don't all fit perfectly). As you go through them, make a mark next to any of the Proverbs that you find particularly interesting or challenging.

*Plan carefully how you want to read through the sheet of Proverbs. There's quite a few there, and you may want to do it as a big group, in small groups, individually, or a combination of all of the above. There's no specific right or wrong answers here, but rather the aim is to get them to begin to understand the common themes running through the Proverbs. Spend enough time on this question so that your group gets a clear picture of what message is being given. Get them to explain why they have found particular proverbs interesting or challenging.*

**Temper / Anger**

**Pride & Humility**

**Carefulness**

**Integrity / Crookedness**

**Forgiveness / Revenge**

**Self-Control**

**Loyalty & Faithfulness**

**Courage**

**Other**

3. How would you summarise the overall impression that these proverbs give of a wise person with godly character?

*A chance to recap (which may be helpful if your group has become bogged down or sidetracked by any particular proverb). You may like to draw out here the idea that whilst we may often tend to focus on the 'doing' things of living as a Christian, these Proverbs focus on the 'being' issues (ie who we are).*

### **Digging Deeper**

4. Which of these characteristics do you think that you personally, or our Christian community in general, need to grow in? Why?

*You can push your group here to consider ways in particular in which they may need to apply what they have just learned to their own lives, or to the life of your group as a whole.*

5. How does Paul's teaching in Galatians 5:16-26 help us to further develop a biblical understanding of what it means to live as someone with a Christian character?

*This cross-reference to the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians, gives a comparison for further thinking about our Christian character as people who strive to live as followers of Jesus.*

6. As a group, what are some practical ways in which we can be helping one another to do these things?

*A further chance to get practical in thinking through how your group can grow together in this area.*

### **Pray**

Spend some time praying for each other, that you may be people who are known for being of godly character. Pray that you would be wise in the decisions that you make and in the way in which you relate to other people.