LENT Devotional Journey

.....a journey to follow Jesus through the book of wisdom

The book of Proverbs was originally written to a young man by his elder in an attempt to pass down both godly wisdom and instruction. In this six part series, we will explore the book's themes of wisdom and folly, and you are invited to live with wisdom and in the fear of the Lord in order to experience the good life. The culture we live in today desperately needs to see and experience wisdom. So this series is not only for churchgoers, but it is for the people we will interact with on a daily basis. Join us as we learn how to fool-proof our lives.

Corporate Worship & Prayer Space

Ash Wednesday Service
6 Mar, 7-9pm, SOC Main Hall

Tuesday Worship & Prayer Room
12, 19 & 26 Mar, 2 & 9 Apr Free to come and go between 7-9pm, SOC Main Hall

Lovingly Present; Lovingly Disruptive | Re:Work
30 Mar, 10am-4pm, London Institute of Contemporary Christianity

Good Friday Prayer and Reflection Space
19 Apr, SOC, free to come and go between 10am-6pm

Personal Devotional Journey

In your own quiet room

This devotional journal takes you on a journey through worship & prayer where you can come into God's presence; build a relationship with Jesus; and be ministered in the Holy Spirit.....

As You Begin……..

What does worship mean to me? Is my worship God centred and pleasing to Him? Have I personally encountered with God during worship? Does God really listen and answer my prayers?

As we considered these questions, let us consider what Jesus said in Luke 10…'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.'

In fact He is calling us to: 'COME, worship me with your whole life, and you will experience transformation in your soul, your heart, your mind and your strength….'

This is Whole Life Worship….

We encounter with God in the journey of our life. Whether we gather in our church, in our home or work place, in our small groups, or in our personal quiet time, we seek the presence of our Father God, we build a relationship with Jesus and ready to be ministered by the Holy Spirit. In fact each of our 'Daily Walk' with God forms the basis in shaping our corporate worship culture.

Hence the church would like to invite you to walk this worship & prayer journey together. This devotional journal takes you on a path which helps you focus on God. Feel free to use this in your personal quiet time, or you can come along to the 'Corporate Worship Space', which takes place in SOC every week during Lent, and journey with other brothers & sisters in our church.

The Corporate Worship Spaces are not events to attend - hence feel free to come and leave anytime between the set time. When you come inside you are free to pray, meditate, reflect at your own pace, share your thoughts with others, and minister to each other with prayers.

The only agenda is to encounter with God…….

Journey Guide

When we spend time with God alone in worship and prayer, He welcomes us into a personal friendship that grows deeper over time. In this friendship we not only sense His presence and speak to Him as we journey through our daily lives, but also learn to hear His voice.

Therefore seek His presence in your life every day. If your walk with Him is close, expect Him to draw you closer. Our God is always ready to meet us where we are and bring us further with Him. You will experience life in all of its fullness.

The following is a simple guide in your journey to explore and experience our God in the different spaces of our whole being – your SOUL, your HEART, your MIND, your STRENGTH

WORSHIP – engage in God's presence

REFLECT – engage with His Word

PRAYER - engage in conversation with God

Try this journal format to record your journey

Posture of your soul

surrender your everything
come into His presence to adore & praise Him
wait - listen - meditate

Status of your heart

open your heart
allow Him to search inside out
confess – forgive - heal

Thinking in your mind

consider your life situations at present
hold tight to His words & truth
read – reflect - ask

Strength to serve

commit your life to serve Him
move with the Holy Spirit
response – minister – supplicate

Week 2 Overview……

A PATH TO TAKE

Where does the way of wisdom leads to?

Am I taking the right path in search for wisdom?

What instructions can I draw from the Proverbs?

What benefits come with knowing God and His wisdom?

How does God's wisdom protect us from worldly danger?

DAY 5 | 11 MARCH Mon.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 5

1My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight,2that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.3For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; 4but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.5Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. 6She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

7Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. 8Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, 9lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel,10lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another. 11At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. 12You will say, “How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! 13I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. 14And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God’s people.”

15Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. 16Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?17Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.18May your fountain be blessed,

and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love. 20Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man’s wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman 21For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths.22The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. 23For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.

Prayer:

O God, you are the one constantly loving us with loyalty and faithfulness. You have invited us into your covenant of love, so that we will be in your love forever and our fountain be blessed. Help us to discern the adulterous woman deeply hiding in our hearts, and we might cast them out by the light of Son of God, so that our hearts might entirely return to you again. In the season of Lent, may we continue to live out a life with Wisdom through knowing You. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Journal

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come into Your presence

what am I willing to surrender? _____

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wait & listen, what is God saying to me?

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DAY 6 | 12 MARCH Tues.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 6A

1My son, if you have put up security for your neighbour, if you have shaken hands in pledge for
a stranger, 2you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth.
3So do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbour's hands: Go—
to the point of exhaustion—and give your neighbour no rest 4Allow no sleep to your eyes, no
slumber to your eyelids. 5Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird
from the snare of the fowler.

6Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7It has no commander,

no overseer or ruler, 8yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.9How
long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10A little sleep, a
little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— 11and poverty will come on you like a thief
and scarcity like an armed man.

12A troublemaker and a villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth, 13who winks maliciously
with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers, 14who plots evil with deceit in
his heart— he always stirs up conflict. 15Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he
will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

Prayer:

Our Lord, you are not just the Creator of the world, but you also constantly provide and sustain everything with Wisdom. In your grace, may you reveal our hidden idleness, selfishness and deceit which constantly corrode us, help us to be inspired with wisdom through your wondrous creation. In the season of Lent, may we continue to live out a life with Wisdom through knowing You. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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DAY 7 | 13 MARCH Wed.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 6B

16There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18a heart that devises wicked schemes,

feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

20My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 21Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. 22When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. 23For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life, 24keeping you from your neighbour's wife, from the smooth talk of a wayward woman.

25Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes. 26For a prostitute can be had for a loaf of bread, but another man's wife preys on your very life. 27Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? 28Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? 29So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. 30People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. 31Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. 32But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself. 33Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away. 34For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. 35He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse a bribe, however great it is.

Prayer:

Holy and righteous God, who are those with haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil? Who are the false witnesses who pour out lies and stir up conflict in the community? We are, aren't we? We are supposed to be punished by you, but yet we have been granted with mercy through your beloved Son, how could it be? In the season of Lent, may we continue to live out a life with Wisdom through knowing You. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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DAY 8 | 14 MARCH Thurs
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 7

1My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. 2Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.3Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and to insight, “You are my relative.” 5They will keep you from the adulterous woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive words.

6At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. 7I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. 8He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house 9at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. 10Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. 11(She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home; 12now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) 13She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: 14“Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home. 15So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! 16I have covered my bed with coloured linens from Egypt. 17I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. 18Come, let’s drink deeply of love till morning; let’s enjoy ourselves with love! 19My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. 20He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon.” 21With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. 22All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose 23till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

24Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. 25Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.26Many are the victims she has brought down;
her slain are a mighty throng. 27Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

Prayer:

Our heavenly Father, your eyes never leave your loved ones. Whenever we ignorantly go down to the house of the prostitute, follow her likes an ox going to the slaughter, we break your heart. May your Spirit illuminate our hearts, remind us of the your words and commands. And help us to be watchmen for each other, let none of your children walk alone at twilight, as the day was fading and as the dark of night. In the season of Lent, may we continue to live out a life with Wisdom through knowing You. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

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DAY 9 | 15 MARCH Fri.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 8A

1Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? 2At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; 3beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud: 4“To you, O people, I call out;

I raise my voice to all mankind. 5You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your hearts on it. 6Listen, for I have trustworthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. 7My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. 8All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. 9To the discerning all of them are right; they are upright to those who have found knowledge.

10Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, 11for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

12“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. 13To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech. 14Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power. 15By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; 16by me princes govern, and nobles all who rule on earth.17I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.18With me are riches and honour, enduring wealth and prosperity. 19My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. 20I walk in the way of righteousness,

along the paths of justice, 21bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

Prayer:

God of wisdom, thank you for sharing your wisdom with us, so that through it we may really know you that all the uprightness, righteousness, richness and truth are from you. By worshiping you kings reign, by your wisdom rulers issue decrees that are just; by knowing you princes govern, and nobles all who rule on earth. O Lord, help us who are ignorant and arrogant, to love and seek your wisdom. In the season of Lent, may we continue to live out a life with Wisdom through knowing You. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

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DAY 10 | 16 MARCH Sat.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 8B

22“The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; 23I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. 24When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; 25before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, 26before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. 27I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, 28when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, 29when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. 30Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, 31rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

32“Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. 33Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. 34Blessed are those who listen to me,

watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. 35For those who find me find life

and receive favour from the Lord. 36But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.”

Prayer:

O mighty God, who created all things, your wisdom fills the whole world beyond the beginning and the end, rejoicing in your creation and delighting in us. Though your wisdom constantly cry out to us, forgive us O Lord, as we always neglect her voice and forget her way, ignorantly finding life apart from her. In the season of Lent, may we continue to live out a life with Wisdom through knowing You. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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