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 4 Overview……

A LIFE TO PURSUE

What issues am I facing in life at the moment ?

What might wisdom look like in these context?

How would I response to these issues?

Are the proverbs applicable in my life's circumstances?

What would I do in order to put the proverbs into practice?

DAY 17 | 25 MARCH Mon.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 14B

18The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. 19Evildoers will bow down in the presence of the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. 20 The poor are shunned even by their neighbours, but the rich have many friends. 21It is a sin to despise one's neighbour, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy. 22 Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.

23All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. 24The wealth of the wise is their crown, but the folly of fools yields folly. 25A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful. 26Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.

27The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death. 28A large population is a king's glory, but without subjects a prince is ruined.29 Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly. 30A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. 31Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God. 32When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous seek refuge in God. 33Wisdom reposes in the heart of the discerning and even among fools she lets herself be known. 34Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. 35A king delights in a wise servant, but a shameful servant arouses his fury.

Prayer:

God of mercy, we look upon Your hands, for we are poor and needy. We are poor because we build our lives on the temporary things; we are needy because we let us be cut off the origin of abundance. O Lord, may your restore the righteousness in our hearts, so that whenever we see the divine presence of You in the poor and weak, we may revere our Creator. 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

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DAY 18 | 26 MARCH Tues.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 15A

1A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. 3The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. 4The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. 5A fool spurns a parent's discipline,

but whoever heeds correction shows prudence. 6The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings ruin. 7The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but the hearts of fools are not upright.

8The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

9The Lord detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

10Stern discipline awaits anyone who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die. 11Death and Destruction lie open before the Lord— how much more do human hearts! 12Mockers resent correction, so they avoid the wise.

13A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.14The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly. 15All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast. 16Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil. 17Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.

Prayer:

Omniscient God, we worship You, for You fill the whole earth with Your wisdom, and You eyes are everywhere, keeping watching on the wicked and the good. Even they cannot hide their minds in front of You. May us fear You, pursue uprightness, righteousness and all the things pleasing You. 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 19 | 27 MARCH Wed.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 15B

18A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.19The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway. 20A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.21Folly brings joy to one who has no sense, but whoever has understanding keeps a straight course. 22Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. 23A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word! 24The path of life leads upward for the prudent to keep them from going down to the realm of the dead.

25The Lord tears down the house of the proud, but he sets the widow's boundary stones in place. 26The Lord detests the thoughts of the wicked, but gracious words are pure in his sight. 27The greedy bring ruin to their households, but the one who hates bribes will live. 28The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.29The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. 30Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones 31Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. 32Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding. 33Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honour.

Prayer:

God of honour, glory and power, we worship You! How wondrous is Your wisdom? Your mind is higher than ours as You have sent Your only Son Jesus Christ to the world, to demonstrate to us the humility before honour. 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 20 | 28 MARCH Thurs
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 16A

1To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. 2All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. 3Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. 4The Lord works out everything to its proper end—even the wicked for a day of disaster. 5The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. 6Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord evil is avoided.7When the Lord takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them. 8Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

9In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. 10The lips of a king speak as an oracle, and his mouth does not betray justice. 11Honest scales and balances belong to the Lord; all the weights in the bag are of his making.12Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness. 13Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value the one who speaks what is right. 14A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but the wise will appease it. 15When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favour is like a rain cloud in spring. 16How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!

Prayer:

O God, who weighs the motives of all, we thank You for Your righteousness and justice are never change. No matter what course we are planning in our hearts, we lift them up to You, and may you establish our steps in Your way. 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 21 | 29 MARCH Fri.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 16B

**17The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their ways preserve their lives.
18Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. 19Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud. 20Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord. 21The wise in heart are called discerning, and gracious words promote instruction. 22Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent, but folly brings punishment to fools. 23The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction. 24Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.**

25There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. 26The appetite of labourers works for them; their hunger drives them on. 27A scoundrel plots evil, and on their lips it is like a scorching fire. 28A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. 29A violent person entices their neighbour and leads them down a path that is not good. 30Whoever winks with their eye is plotting perversity; whoever purses their lips is bent on evil. 31Gray hair is a crown of splendor;

it is attained in the way of righteousness. 32Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city. 33The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

Prayer:

O Lord, who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love, we thank You for Your kindness and patience to us, for we are unworthy of them. By the power of Your Spirit, help us to be more patient and slow to anger in our words and deeds. 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 22 | 30 MARCH Sat.
Scripture Reading : Proverbs 17

1Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife. 2A prudent servant will rule over a disgraceful son and will share the inheritance as one of the family. 3The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart.4A wicked person listens to deceitful lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue. 5Whoever mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished. 6Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. 7Eloquent lips are unsuited to a godless fool— how much worse lying lips to a ruler! 8A bribe is seen as a charm by the one who gives it; they think success will come at every turn. 9Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends. 10A rebuke impresses a discerning person more than a hundred lashes a fool. 11Evildoers foster rebellion against God; the messenger of death will be sent against them. 12Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool bent on folly. 13Evil will never leave the house of one who pays back evil for good. 14Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

15Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent— the Lord detests them both.16Why should fools have money in hand to buy wisdom, when they are not able to understand it? 17A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.18One who has no sense shakes hands in pledge and puts up security for a neighbour. 19Whoever loves a quarrel loves sin; whoever builds a high gate invites destruction. 20One whose heart is corrupt does not prosper; one whose tongue is perverse falls into trouble. 21To have a fool for a child brings grief; there is no joy for the parent of a godless fool. 22A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. 23The wicked accept bribes in secret to pervert the course of justice. 24A discerning person keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth. 25A foolish son brings grief to his father and bitterness to the mother who bore him. 26If imposing a fine on the innocent is not good, surely to flog honest officials is not right. 27The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. 28Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.

Prayer:

Our heavenly father, You have built Your family with wisdom, and in this family each of us find joy, kindness and harmony. Thank You for showing us that wisdom can build a family and foolishness can tear it down. Help us to live wisely and be true blessings to our family. 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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31 MARCH Sun.
Sermon Scripture : Proverbs 9

Sermon Title:

Making Tough Choices

1Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars. 2She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. 3She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city, 4"Let all who are simple come to my house!"

To those who have no sense she says, 5"Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. 6Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight."

7Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse. 8Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.

9Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.10The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 11For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.12If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

13Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing. 14She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, 15calling out to those who pass by,

who go straight on their way, 16"Let all who are simple come to my house!" To those who have no sense she says, 17"Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!"

18But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.

Sermon notes: