

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 23

Feminine language is used to image Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs (i.e. “Never walk away from Wisdom – *she* guards your life; love *her* – she keeps *her* eye on you!” ~ Proverbs 4:6 *The Message*). Is this significant in your opinion? Why or why not?

What wisdom are we to learn from observing the actions of a deer and an ant? (Proverbs 6:1-11)

What are the seven things that God despises with a passion according to Proverbs 6:16-19? Why? What do these things have in common?

Why are human beings so tempted to follow the voice of the world (the harlot) rather than wisdom? What does following the world’s voice lead to? Why? (Proverbs 7, 9) What is “Lady Wisdom” trying to shout at us over the voice of the world? What will following Wisdom’s voice do for us? Why? (Proverbs 8)

What is the origin of Wisdom? (Proverbs 8:22-31) What does this tell us about the importance of Wisdom in the world?

What power do words have in the world? How do wise people use them? How do foolish people use them?

What do you think Solomon means when he says, “The world of the generous gets larger and larger while the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller?” (Proverbs 11:24 *The Message*)

Why is seeking advice and counsel from people we trust seen as a wise way to live?

Why is it wise to live a calm and simple life?

According to the Book of Proverbs, what will a life of hard work get us? What will a lazy/slothful life bring us?

How is Proverbs 15:25 a definition of God's justice?

What role does humility play in living a wise life? Why?

What are the characteristics of a good ruler/leader?

What are the characteristics of a true friend? Why is it wise to be a good friend and cultivate strong friendships?

What does Solomon mean when he says, "To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice?" (Proverbs 21:3, NRSV)

What is the antidote to living a life of materialism and greed?

What wisdom does the Book of Proverbs offer about parenting? What is the best way to teach our children?

What wisdom are we to gain from Proverbs 24:27 (*The Message*), "First plant your fields; *then* build your barns"?