Group Discussion Guide
Best (Blank) Ever 3: Selection of Proverbs
Big Idea: *Invest spiritual wisdom in money matters*

Leader Note: You'll notice several of these leader notes throughout the guide. These don't have to be read out loud. But you can if they're helpful. They are simply here to help you navigate discussion with a little extra knowledge or helpful tips. If I can help you with anything before group, please feel free to get a hold of me! You can easily contact me at daniel@fcc-online.org

Financial Peace University: We are offering Financial Peace University at FIRST Champaign starting Sunday January 27 at 10:45A. This is a great step for anyone who desires to surrender their financial life to Jesus. For details and to sign up, direct your group members here: https://www.fcc-online.org/fpu

ICEBREAKER: (5 MIN)

- **Question:** What was the first significant purchase you made with your own money growing up?

CONNECT: (5 MIN)

- **Say this:** *Wouldn't you love to be able to go back in time and invest into companies like Amazon or Apple before anyone else did? Imagine the payout you would have today! We can't go back in time to reinvest into a company, but we can "invest" our resources with eternal wisdom in mind.*
- **Connect Question:** What would it take for you to feel secure in your finances?

STARTERS: (10-15 MIN)

- **Read: Proverbs 3:9-10**
- **Question:** How does this wisdom compare and contrast to the financial advice that you have been given throughout life?
- **Read: Proverbs 10:4**
- **Question:** Not everyone starts on level playing field financially, but if you applied this wisdom, how would it impact your financial outlook?
- **Read: Proverbs 14:31**
- **Question:** What does the way we treat those who are less fortunate that us reveal about our character? Especially the poor?
- **Read: Proverbs 16:8**
- **Question:** If you were honestly evaluating your heart, how do you feel about this proverb? Have you ever struggled to live like this is true?

DISCOVER: (30 MIN)

- **Say this:** *On Sunday, we talked about the need to live our lives from a proper foundation. A lot of the time we move toward quick fixes, especially when it comes to our finances. But when it's all said and done, surrendering to Jesus with our finances requires we look at our foundation.*
- **Question:** Jesus shares a story about two foundations. One built on solid rock, the other built on sand. Why is it so important that we think about where we're building our financial foundation?
    - **(Leader Note:** You can find this story in Matthew 7:24-27)
- **Question:** A lot of us buy into the idea that if we just had (fill in the blank) more money, we'd use it to honor God. Why does this line of thinking prove to be unreliable?
    - **(Leader Note:** Generosity is far more about WHO we are not WHAT we have. Having more does nothing to directly change our character.)
- **Question:** Have you ever bought more (or even strongly desired to have more) to make you feel better about yourself? What was that like?
    - **(Leader Note:** If you want to have healthy open conversation, this may be a great place to provide an example from your own life.)
- **Question:** At FIRST, we define generosity as "the surrender of our time, talent, and treasure before God, for the sake of the world." What parts of this do you think you do well? What do you struggle with?
- **Question:** Generosity rarely happens naturally. It's a discipline we need to build consistently over time. What do you need to change in your life to become more generous?
- **Read: John 3:16**
- **Question:** We often forget to think of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as a gift – a tangible act of generosity. How does considering Jesus' own generosity toward you inspire you to become generous like Him?

RESPOND/PRAYER: (15 MIN)

- **Prompt:** Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week? **(refer to the cheat sheet on the last page of this discussion guide)**.
- **Prompt:** Pray that God would open our eyes to see the people who He wants us to B.L.E.S.S. where we live work and play.
- **Silence and Prayer:**
    - As a group **take 60 seconds of silence** to prepare yourself to **say this single prayer:**
    - (Have one person read aloud) *"Dear God, all that we are and all that we have is from you. May we, like Jesus, give all our life to you and trust you with our time, talents and treasure.* (Repeat this prayer 2 times).
    - After the prayer, **take 60 more seconds of silence** to soak in the reality of that prayer.
- **Prompt:** Spend time sharing prayer requests.

WRAP UP: (OPTIONAL)

- It's not natural to think in a disciplined way with our money. It is even less natural to invest spiritual wisdom in money matters. But if we are looking to be fully surrendered to Jesus, our financial life is something that we must be willing to give over to Him. With the fear of the Lord and the generosity of Jesus as our model, we truly can have the best financial wisdom ever.

FIRST Groups B.L.E.S.S. Updates

At FIRST, *our groups exist to help us grow in our relationship with God and each other.* But for what? Why does God want us to grow? We are convicted that God wants to use the strength and community of our groups, to bless the people where we live work and play. Especially the people we know who do not have a relationship with God. This is how we'll fulfill the Jesus Mission to "go and make disciples" (Matt 28-18-20).

As groups, **we want to intentionally "B.L.E.S.S." people each week.**[1] *What do we mean by that?*

B – Begin with prayer: We will pray for the people where we live work and play.

L – Listen: We will intentionally listen to the people in our lives where we live work and play.

E – Eat: We will share meals with the people where we live work and play.

S – Serve: We will respond to the needs we discover among the people where we live, work, and play.

S – Story: We will share the story of Jesus and what He is doing in our lives with the people where we live work and play.

So in your group:

- *Start every prayer time by asking,* **"who did you B.L.E.S.S. this week?"**
- Write down what each of your group members say, and follow up week by week.
- **ENCOURAGE:** This is not meant to shame, but to empower us to take intentional steps to be a blessing. If all else fails, you can encourage timid or nervous group members to start by intentionally praying for God to open doors for them to be a blessing (Colossians 4:2-3)
- Continue to share personal prayer requests and praises.

This subtle shift in times of prayer can lead to a massive impact over time. Thanks for helping your group grow and be a blessing!

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[1] This B.L.E.S.S. acronym was originally developed as a church resource by Dave Ferguson. https://smile.amazon.com/Discover-Your-Mission-Dave-Ferguson/dp/0983086486/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539805578&sr=8-1&keywords=discover+your+mission+now