

Beyond the Box (Proverbs)

9.30.2024 - Beyond the Box (Seek Wisdom)

1. How can the teachings of Proverbs be relevant to contemporary issues we face? Can you think of a proverb that resonates with your current life situation?
2. Reflect on a time when you had to choose between acting on knowledge versus seeking wisdom. What was the outcome?
3. The episode emphasizes that wisdom is participatory. In what ways do you think seeking wisdom requires our active involvement?
4. How do you interpret the “try-on” approach to understanding different perspectives? Can you share an experience where trying on a new perspective changed your view?
5. Why do you think humility is essential in the pursuit of wisdom? How can we cultivate humility in our conversations and interactions?
6. What does it mean to "seek wisdom" in your daily life? How do you currently approach decision-making and seeking understanding?
7. How can you incorporate the daily examine prayer from St. Ignatius into your routine? What specific areas of your life would you like to focus on during this practice?

10.7.2024 - Beyond the Box (Do No Harm)

Be sure to view/hear the podcast before considering these questions!

1. Think of a time when someone’s words had a significant impact on you, either positively or negatively. How did it shape your actions or feelings?
2. How do you think your words impact others on a daily basis?
3. How do you typically respond when someone offends or hurts you? Do you find it easy or difficult to approach conflict with love and patience?
4. What practical steps can you take to ensure that your words reflect grace and promote reconciliation during conflict?
5. How can we better embody Wesley’s rule of “doing no harm” in our workplaces, families, or friendships? How can our speech help heal rather than hurt, and what actions can we take to reflect God’s love through our words?
6. How do you respond when others are unkind to you? How might you approach such situations differently to reflect God’s love?
7. What tools or spiritual practices can help you stay grounded in kindness when faced with challenging interactions?

10.14.2024 - Beyond the Box (Focus Forward)

1. How do you guard your heart in daily life? What practical steps can you take to protect yourself from negative influences? What are some signs that you may not be guarding your heart effectively?

2. What are some common "sideshows" or distractions in your life that pull you away from your purpose or priorities? How can you develop the discipline to stay focused on what's truly important?
3. Can you recall a time when being humble helped you grow? What did you learn from the experience?
4. Why do you think it's difficult for people to admit when they're wrong, and how can we make it easier for ourselves?
5. How can "I statements" improve communication in conflicts or difficult conversations? How have you used them effectively before?
6. In what ways do you take ownership of your actions and words in your relationships with others?
7. How can we strike a balance between holding each other accountable and offering grace? Why is this balance important for building a strong community? What does it look like to lovingly correct someone while maintaining a spirit of humility and kindness?
8. When faced with difficult or challenging situations, how can you remain open to correction while also protecting your mental and emotional well-being?
9. What role do others in your community play in helping you grow? How can you contribute to the growth of others?

10.21.2024 - Beyond the Box (We the Purpose-full)

1. Proverbs 27:9 speaks of friendship refreshing the soul. How can we cultivate deep, meaningful friendships in our communities? How do these relationships support us in times of challenge?
2. Proverbs 31 calls us to speak out for justice. What are practical ways you can advocate for the marginalized in your daily life? How does your faith influence your sense of responsibility to others?
3. The pastors discuss how faith can influence voting without defining a person's Christianity by their vote. How do you balance your personal values and faith when making decisions that affect the broader community?
4. "Both/and" thinking is emphasized over binary thinking. Can you think of a time when two opposing perspectives were both valid? How can practicing "both/and" thinking enhance your relationships and understanding of others?
5. The podcast mentions that God's kingdom is already in charge. How does this perspective affect your outlook on current events, community involvement, and long-term goals?
6. In the episode, the pastors encourage listeners to see diversity as a strength. How can you practice embracing diverse perspectives in your personal, spiritual, and professional life?
7. The final message is to live "on earth as it is in heaven." What does this look like for you in your daily life, and how can you contribute to creating a just and loving world?