

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

[GUARDRAILS]  
KEEPING YOUR LIFE OUT OF THE DITCH

May 5/7, 2017  
Wisdom


**BIG IDEA:** Guardrails are healthy boundaries established by heavenly wisdom.

## GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

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## KEY VERSE

**For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.**

**Proverbs 2:6**

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Choose to pursue wisdom by consuming God's word and read one chapter of Proverbs a day. Ask God to give you heavenly wisdom to build guardrails as you read.

Do you have a story of someone taking a next step?

Share with us at  
[groups@valleycreek.org](mailto:groups@valleycreek.org)

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

Guardrails are healthy boundaries established by heavenly wisdom. They are protective barriers to get us from where we are, to where we're going without going into the ditch. Just like road guardrails, life's guardrails are clearly defined, proactive, intentional and expensive boundaries that take time and effort to create. **(Proverbs 1:1-5NLT)** We need to learn how to build guardrails in every area of our lives through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. It is impossible to have healthy boundaries without heavenly wisdom. **(Proverbs 2:1-13)**. Three ways to seek Godly wisdom:

- 1. Admit we need God's wisdom.** We don't accept, listen to or ask for something we don't think we need. **(Proverbs 2:1-3)** Guardrails are proactive not reactive, build them before they're needed. **(Proverbs 16:18NLT, 1 Corinthians 10:11-12MSG)** Guardrails aren't a sign of weakness but wisdom and often we don't build guardrails because we don't know where we're going. **(Proverbs 29:18KJV)** Vision tells us where we're going but it also tells us where we're not going. When we become passionate about our vision we will become passionate about our guardrails.
- 2. Pursue God's wisdom.** Wisdom is heavenly perspective on earthly circumstances, it's having God's perspective and insight on any given situation. Wisdom is costly, inconvenient and countercultural. It must be pursued, searched for and extracted. **(Proverbs 2:4, Proverbs 8:10-11NLT)** Anyone can become wise if they are willing to pay the cost. The Old Testament story of King Solomon asking for wisdom is a prophetic picture of a New Testament truth. **(1 Kings 3:4-13, 1 Corinthians 1:30)** When we choose Jesus, the wisdom of God, we become qualified to steward everything else in life. **(Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 3:5-6)** We can pursue wisdom by:
  - a) Asking God for it. (James 1:5)**
  - b) Consuming God's Word. (Psalm 119:11)**
  - c) Inviting wise people into our lives. (Proverbs 13:20)**
- 3. Apply God's wisdom to our lives.** Solomon failed because he didn't build and maintain clearly defined and intentional guardrails. **(Proverbs 2:12-13)** Good intentions without faithful actions are pointless and little compromises end up with big consequences. **(John 16:13, James 1:14-15)** Your guardrails will be different than those around you. There is freedom in guardrails, the answer is decided before the question is asked, and ultimate freedom is on the narrow road with Jesus. **(Matthew 7:13-14, Proverbs 16:17, Psalm 90:12)**

## DISCUSSION

1. A scratch is better than a wreck. Describe a time when you hit a guardrail, how did that boundary protect you?
2. God asked King Solomon what he desired and Solomon asked for wisdom. What is it that you want God to do in your life? What steps can you take to pursue wisdom in that area? (See point #2)
3. Guardrails are different for everyone. What are some guardrails you have, or would like to establish, in your life? (See point #3)
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**