

RAISE THE MARK

JUNE 2008

WELCOME TO RAISE THE MARK!

Please introduce yourself to those with whom you will be praying and briefly share something you would like to pray about with them in your time together.

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S WISDOM

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion, a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. **PROVERBS 1:1-7**

- Thank God for His Word, our source of wisdom and learning.
- Ask God for greater understanding and insight, that we would see situations and people through His eyes.
- Praise God that He always does what is just and fair.
- Ask God to give us the discipline to make prudent decisions, informed by His Word, His Spirit and His people, not by our emotions or our imperfect perceptions of equity and justice.
- Pray for the youth of our body, that they would live lives marked by knowledge and discretion.
- Ask God to help us guard our hearts from the "guidance" this world offers; that we would be able to recognize information, worldviews and philosophies that do not square with God's Word.
- Pray that we would all have teachable hearts, and that we would handle responsibly the teaching that has been entrusted to us.

CONFESSING OUR NEED

Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood, let us ambush the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, even whole, as those who go down to the pit; we will find all kinds of precious wealth, we will fill our houses with spoil; throw in your lot with us, we shall all have one purse," my son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, for their feet run to evil and they hasten to shed blood. Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net in the sight of any bird; but they lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; it takes away the life of its possessors. **PROVERBS 1:8-19**

- Pray that we would not merely be hearers of the truth, but that practicing truth would increasingly become a way of life for us.
- Ask God to protect our children, fellow believers, leaders and the leaders of our nation and world from the enticement of sin.

- Confess any instances where we have obeyed the pull of our flesh to be hurtful or less-than-truthful toward others either out of insecurity or for our own selfish gain.
- Pray that we would not be naïve regarding the snares and "baited nets" of the enemy.
- Praise God that the evil one's days are numbered and that his end has already been foretold.
- Pray that the peace and blessing that comes from living wisely would speak to many outside the faith of the greatness and goodness of our Father.

EMBRACING GOD'S PROVISION FOR HIS PEOPLE

Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings: "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Turn to my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention; and you neglected all my counsel and did not want my reproof; I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but they will not find me, because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD. They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. But he who listens to me shall live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil." **PROVERBS 1:20-33**

- Thank God for delivering us from unhealthy or addictive behaviors and thought patterns.
- Ask God to give us greater attentiveness to His Spirit, and that we would obey without hesitation when we sense Him prompting us to ask forgiveness, confess, reach out, reconcile, or confront.
- Intercede for those perishing in their sin, that they would respond to wisdom's call while there is still time.
- Ask God to help us give counsel lovingly and accept reproof with humility.
- Pray that God would replace our complacent tendencies with a hunger to seek Him and know His Word at any cost.
- Praise God for His mercy, that we who belong to Him can live free of the fear of evil and death.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOODNESS TO OTHERS

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" - that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. **ROMANS 10:8-10**

- This is our time for you to share specific areas in which you individually are struggling or praising God for areas of victory over self.
- This is also our time for you to openly confess and "expose to the light" any area in which you are entangled in sin and for the body to pray for you.
- As you listen to others, pray that if salvation is a concept that anyone here tonight has not grasped, that they will understand and invite Christ into their hearts.