

Wisdom in Relationships

1. **Read Proverbs 4:23 alongside Jeremiah 17:9–10.** How do these passages together shape our understanding of the human heart in Scripture? How can we live with wisdom when it comes to guarding our untrustworthy hearts?
2. **Compare Proverbs 4:23 with Jesus' words in Luke 6:45.**
What connections do you see between guarding the heart and the way our actions or words eventually show what's inside?
How do these verses complement each other?
3. There are often small, hidden things that quietly block the flow of love to others, acting like a kinked hose. Sharing as honestly as you feel you can, where have you noticed “kinks” in your own heart (e.g., resentment, comparison, secrecy, fear)? How do these affect the way love flows out of you?
4. **Proverbs 1:7** says wisdom begins with humility (fear of the Lord). In your own journey, what helps you stay humble and open before God? When and how have you sensed God gently showing you something in your heart that needed attention?

5. **Proverbs 4:23** teaches that what we allow into our hearts eventually shapes what flows out. What is one small, but significant influence, habit, or input (social media, conversations, private thoughts, entertainment, comparison, etc.) that you sense God inviting you to “guard your heart” around this week?

6. Wisdom is often lived out in relationships. Thinking about **Proverbs 27:17**, what is one practical step you can take to walk with wise people (starting a new life group, reconnecting with a friend, seeking accountability from a mentor, or inviting someone to speak into your life?) Finish by praying for each other.