

**3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025 – Sarah Mallett****How do I “work” well? – Proverbs 16:3**

1. John 5:17 says ‘Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”’
  - a. How do you picture God? Do you picture Him “at work”?
  - b. What “work” does God do?
2. Read Isaiah 61:1-3 (part of which is quoted in Luke 4:18-19).
  - a. What do think of this as a summary of Jesus’ “work” in the world when he was on earth?
  - b. What about now?
3. Jesus intends to carry out this mission through his people.
  - a. How can we be involved in this work?
4. What do you understand by the “Kingdom of God”?
5. When you look at the world today do you think it is getting better/safer or less safe, are we closer to the Kingdom of God or further away?
6. Sarah gave several examples of how Christians throughout history, in different jobs or walks of life, have tried to make the world a better place.
  - a. How does this make you feel? (encouraged, overwhelmed, motivated, inferior, focussed, confused, etc etc)
7. How do you feel that your work is helping to build the Kingdom of God (whether in a paid job or other work that you are involved with - at home, with family or neighbours, volunteering, within church, etc)? How do you think your ‘work’ could help build the kingdom of God more?
8. The Proverb for this week is Proverbs 16:3 ‘Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.’
  - a. Does this mean that God will bless whatever we plan? Why not?
  - b. How do we commit our work to the Lord?

Sarah spoke about the heritage we enjoy of Christians in the past who have done the work God called them to, many of whom didn’t get to see the outcome of their work. We too are called to “plant trees”, to work according to God’s plans, often for the benefit of future generations. This idea is beautifully put into words by the poet Joshua Luke Smith in this video – [click here to watch on YouTube](#).

**27<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Richard Saint****How do I become wise – Proverbs 2:1-11**

1. Which of the "ifs" in Proverbs 2:1–4 stands out most to you?
  - a. Why do you think that particular action (accepting, listening, crying out, seeking) is important for obtaining wisdom in your life right now?
2. The sermon highlighted that wisdom must be actively pursued rather than passively expected.
  - a. In your daily life, what does it look like to pursue wisdom with urgency and discipline?
3. We were reminded that true wisdom cannot come from within ourselves.
  - a. How does this contrast with the “self-help” mindset of today’s culture?
  - b. How might it challenge your own instincts?
4. Wisdom is described as beginning with “the fear of the Lord.”
  - a. How have you previously understood or struggled with “the fear of the Lord”?
  - b. How has this talk altered your understanding?
  - c. How might Isaiah’s experience of being in the presence of God (Isaiah 6:1-7) help you hold together God’s terrifying holiness and his overwhelming compassion?
5. Wisdom is not just intellectual, but relational.
  - a. How does your current relationship with God affect your decision-making and approach to life’s challenges?
6. God gives wisdom through His Word and His Spirit.
  - a. Where do you most often seek guidance when making a difficult decision? How might you become more receptive to God’s wisdom through His Word and Spirit?
7. The sermon used the image of wisdom as a shield.
  - a. What are some “arrows” of temptation, deception, or pressure you face regularly, and how might God’s wisdom shield you from them?
8. Wisdom also functions like a compass, helping us discern “every good path.”
  - a. Can you think of a time when God’s wisdom guided you in a way that you wouldn’t have chosen on your own?
  - b. Where do you need God’s direction at the moment?
9. Transformation is a key result of wisdom — not just protection and direction, but shaping.
  - a. What area of your life do you sense God wanting to transform through His wisdom?
10. Ultimately, Jesus is described as the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:18–31).
  - a. In what ways does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus shape your understanding of true wisdom?