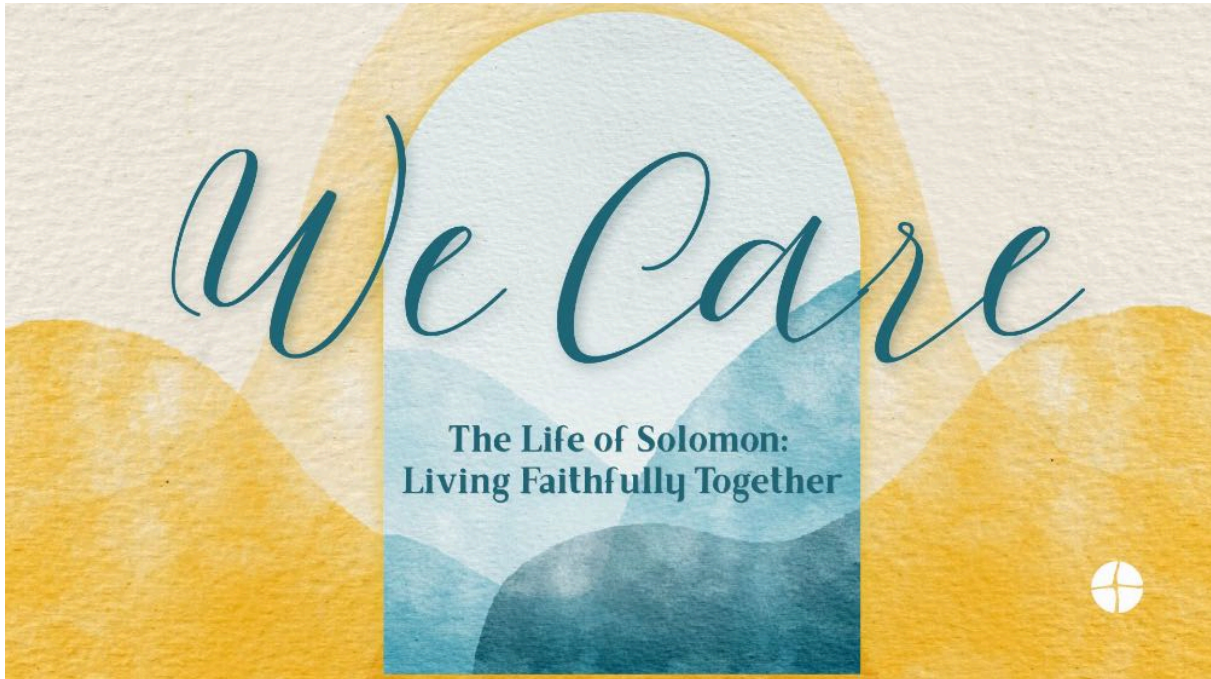


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Worship Set and Sermon Notes



Worship Set

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We Care: The Ministry of Noticing

Proverbs 19:17; 21:13; 27:23–24

This fall in WE CARE, we're asking how to faithfully live the life God has entrusted to us. This week we keep listening to Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs. It's less a story than sitting at the kitchen table with a wise elder who shares what he's learned about living well in God's world. One lesson keeps coming back: we can't care for what we don't notice. Yet life gets so full that we miss the coworker who has gone quiet or the friend whose "I'm fine" doesn't sound fine, and we often wait for a crisis before we respond.

The Big Idea is that love begins with attention, and we notice because we've been noticed. We'll take two steps: first, meeting the God who notices, and second, seeing how wisdom learns to do what He does.

The God Who Notices

(Exodus 2:24–25; 3:7; Proverbs 22:2; 20:12)

Before Proverbs asks us to notice anyone, it shows us that God already does. Enslaved in Egypt, Israel was easy to overlook, but God heard their groaning, looked down on them, and knew it was time to act (Exodus 2:24–25). He told Moses, "I am aware of their suffering" (Exodus 3:7). He saw, heard, knew, and came down. Solomon adds that rich and poor share one Maker (Proverbs 22:2), and that eyes to see and ears to hear are gifts from the LORD (Proverbs 20:12). We don't notice people because we're naturally compassionate. We notice because we worship a God who does. In everyday life, that means slowing down enough to see the people, places, and needs God has already placed in front of us.

Wisdom Does What He Does

(Proverbs 28:27; 21:13; 27:23; 19:17; Matthew 25:40; John 10:14; Mark 10:49)

Wisdom learns to do what God does. It sees, refusing to close its eyes to need (28:27). It hears, refusing to shut its ears to cries for help (21:13). It knows, getting close enough to understand someone's story, the way a shepherd knows his flock (27:23). And it moves, because helping the poor is lending to the LORD (19:17; see Matthew 25:40). This is wisdom's pattern, not a formula for getting rich. But we can't sustain it by trying harder. We need the Good Shepherd, who knows His sheep (John 10:14) and who, when the crowd told a blind man to be quiet, stopped (Mark 10:49).

This Week

Love begins with attention, and we notice because we've been noticed. Jesus sees you. He knows what you're carrying, and He didn't notice us from a distance. He went to the cross, took our sin, and rose again to bring us back to God. We love because He loved us first (1 John 4:19). If you're tired, let the Good Shepherd care for you before you try to care for anyone else. Then take this step: each morning this week, pray, "Jesus, who are You asking me to notice today?" Then do one small thing. Send the text, offer encouragement, welcome someone new, or come alongside someone who is hurting. Don't wait to be asked.