



## **Net Group Discussion Guide**

### **Week Three: Why Isn't This Working?**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This past Sunday, Ryan warned that the book of Proverbs isn't a series of promises, as much as it's a series of probabilities. Just because it says it and just because you do it, doesn't mean it will always work out as expected. Having said that though, he also pointed out that following the right path is still your best option, because to not do so increases your chance of failure, because probabilities work both ways.

#### **GETTING STARTED**

Ryan shared two stories. One where a good decision ended badly and another where a bad decision ended well. Share your own story of when you've seen these two scenarios play out in your own life.

#### **THINKING THROUGH IT**

- Was the idea that the sayings in Proverbs are probabilities not promises new to you? How did you previously view these sayings (and others in the Bible like them)?
- How does seeing Proverbs as probabilities change your engagement with the text? Does it make the sayings in Proverbs easier or harder to follow? Add pressure or relieve it? Explain.
- What does the fact that good decisions can go wrong and bad decisions can work out say about God's justice and grace? What does it say about the role of grace in your life? What does it say about how we should engage others when our temptation is to make judgements based on the outcomes we observe?
- At one point, Ryan gave a list of real life examples where things don't always go according to plan (marriage, parenting, work, health, etc). Pulling from that list or your own experiences, where are you currently seeing life not working out even though you're living in the way of wisdom? What effect is that having on you?
- Read Proverbs 16:4. How does this passage and Ryan's conclusion that "over time the odds play out" speak into your response to the last question?

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- What do you believe God is saying to you through this message and time of discussion?
- What step can you take this week to follow through on what you believe you're hearing?