

Growth Group Bible Study

Go “Buy the Ox!”



January 5, 2020

Reading Proverbs 14:4

Opening Questions

1. Do you have a favorite Proverb from the book of Proverbs?
2. What is a particular time in your life where you made a decision to “buy the ox”; to launch out into something hard, challenging, life-changing or difficult? (e.g. with a career, a move, deciding to have children, etc.)
3. What is one of the most “risky” things you have ever done?
4. Do you consider yourself to be someone who leans more toward laziness or more toward being highly motivated?

Study

1. As we study any of the proverbs in the book of Proverbs, what should we keep in mind as to what the proverbs are and how they should be taken?
2. How could we summarize the guideline and principle that Proverbs 14:4 is teaching?
3. Read Proverbs 6:9-11; 19:24; 21:25 and 26:13-15 and share what is a key barrier to our “buying the ox”? (i.e. to our launching out in doing what the Lord is leading us to do even if it is hard)

4. Read Matthew 14:22-33. What did it take for Peter to “get out of the boat”? What was the risk and what does this say to us about our fears?
cf. Ecclesiastes 10:8-9; 11:4

5. Fear of failure can be a barrier to our “buying the ox”. Who in Scripture “failed” and yet God still used them and helped them?

6. As you have faced failure in your life how has the Lord helped you to “fail forward”?

7. Read Matthew 6:19-34. What can be the wrong focus of our lives and what does Jesus say is the right focus?

8. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What does this say is a key way of breaking through the barrier of “buying the ox”?

9. How do 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Galatians 6:9 help us keep perspective in the challenge of “buying the ox” in 2020?

Application

1. Take time to think and pray about what the Lord is asking you to do in 2020 that will be a challenge, a change or a “risk” and ask the Lord to help you apply the principle of Proverbs 14:4.