



Fences | June 29, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Whether you choose to or not, you will have an influence on others. What kind of influence do you want to have?

Key Verse

Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

Discussion

“Fences” are everywhere. We create such boundaries to keep the bad out and the good in. Parents often create “fences” to keep their kids in line or to protect them from others.

1. What would you say are some of the fences you had as a child?
2. Were you the type of kid with a lot of fences or were the kind of kid for whom the fences were created? Explain.

As we grow older, we learn to set boundaries for ourselves. There are times when these borders protect us from ourselves or others, and there are times when we need access to the world beyond these fences in order to impact this world for the better.

3. What are some examples of “fences” you have created for yourself now?
4. What are some places you may need to set boundaries in order to protect yourself?

Although the Proverb suggests that associating with fools leads to a path of trouble, Jesus seems to be very concerned with us impacting others. If at no point the “wise”...the ones with the boundaries to protect themselves...never cross over and intentionally seek out the ones who could pose a danger, the “fools” can never become influenced by the “wise.”

5. If you look at your current relationships or opportunities, where do you think you can have a positive influence?

What's Next?

No matter what we are going to have an influence. The best part is that we get to decide what kind of an influence we get to have. We can “hope” to be the exception, or we can be intentional and decide to set boundaries and then cross into the spaces where people need to be influenced.

This week decide:

1. Are you the type of person that causes fences to be created? What would you change if that isn't what you want?
2. What boundaries do you need to create in order to prepare for a positive influence?
3. Are you the type of person who has special access to other people's fence gates? If yes, what are you doing about it? If no, what would you like to change?