

September 17, 2023

## Supply Lines: Next Generation (Proverbs 1)

*Take the initiative to support the next generation.*

### Hook – Under the Wing (7min)

- Welcome, connect card, notes
- Notes tab – its back on – thanks for the input
- Sermons on PODCAST – Apple, Google, Spotify
- When I was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, a group of college guys took me under their wing. They taught me to surf, took me out for food, and introduced me to punk and alternative rock. I wasn't in their "friend group", but they intentionally invested in me. Most of all, they pointed me to Jesus – showing how faith could be lived in real life. This was in addition to my parents, friends, youth pastor, and youth leaders – these guys shaped my life and faith.
- Today – going to talk about Supply Lines for others...especially the Next Generation.
  - Turn to Proverbs 1 (p.525)
  - Biggest problem? Next Gen feels ABANDONED.
  - According to Chap Clark in his book *Hurt*. Young people need at least FIVE KEY adults in their lives.
  - This "abandonment" has been going on for decades.
    - Gen X parents tend to "helicopter" and overprotect – but that isn't enough. Young people need OTHERS to invest in their lives.
    - NY Times published article "Men Are Lost: Here Is the Way Out." One of the big solutions is MENTORING.
    - Mentoring is big thing in our church – after the connection of a Group or Team).
  - \*Take the initiative to support others, especially the next generation.
- Young people – thank you for being here!
  - Parents – prioritize getting your kids connected in church.
  - Everyone – this is OUR job – we all have a part to play.

### Prayer

### The Posture of Proverbs (13min)

- \*Proverbs 1:1-9 (p.525)
  - ! These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.

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- <sup>2</sup> Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline,  
to help them understand the insights of the wise.
- <sup>3</sup> Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives,  
to help them do what is right, just, and fair.
- <sup>4</sup> These proverbs will give insight to the simple,  
knowledge and discernment to the young.
- <sup>5</sup> Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser.  
Let those with understanding receive guidance
- <sup>6</sup> by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.
- <sup>7</sup> Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
- <sup>8</sup> My child, listen when your father corrects you.  
Don't neglect your mother's instruction.
- <sup>9</sup> What you learn from them will crown you with grace  
and be a chain of honor around your neck.

- \*Proverbs has a posture of pursuit and hope.
  - Proverbs – father and mother to children, and Wisdom calling out to foolish people who can change.
  - Proverbs – knows evil but has hope for young people.
  - Adults complain about the anxiety of our world while they scream and yell about politics, economy, or the family.
    - It's easy to criticize from the couch.
  - You can choose to invest in the next generation – even teenagers, invest in kids.
  - *This posture will help others and change YOU.*
    - *This has always been the way of Christ and the shape of Christianity.*

- Some of the lessons passed along...

- \*Prov 1:10-15

- <sup>10</sup> My child, if sinners entice you,  
turn your back on them!
- <sup>11</sup> They may say, "Come and join us.  
Let's hide and kill someone!  
Just for fun, let's ambush the innocent!"
- <sup>12</sup> Let's swallow them alive, like the grave;  
let's swallow them whole, like those who go down to the pit of death.
- <sup>13</sup> Think of the great things we'll get!  
We'll fill our houses with all the stuff we take.
- <sup>14</sup> Come, throw in your lot with us;  
we'll all share the loot."
- <sup>15</sup> My child, don't go along with them!  
Stay far away from their paths.

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- **\*You become like those you walk with.**
  - **\*Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble. Prov 13:20**
  - **\*People to avoid (from chs. 1-9):**
    - **People who love violence.**
      - For evil people can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day. They can't rest until they've caused someone to stumble. They eat the food of wickedness and drink the wine of violence! Prov 4:16-17
    - **Those who are lazy.**
      - A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber. Prov 6:10-11
      - NOTE – teens need extra sleep!
    - **Troublemakers – especially with their words.**
      - What are worthless and wicked people like? They are constant liars, signaling their deceit with a wink of the eye, a nudge of the foot, or the wiggle of fingers. Their perverted hearts plot evil, and they constantly stir up trouble. Prov 6:12-14
    - **Immoral people, especially around sex.**
      - It [wisdom] will keep you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of a promiscuous woman. Don't lust for her beauty. Don't let her coy glances seduce you. ... Can a man scoop a flame (coals) into his lap and not have his clothes catch on fire? Prov 6:24-25, 27
  - *If you are a peer and your friends are doing things things...stay away. You can be a light to them—with others—but don't walk with those who are walking away from Jesus.*
  - *You may be saying: I have tried to support others, and they reject me.*
    - *Don't force it on people – and don't be rude or pushy.*
    - *But keep pursuing those who want wisdom.*
- **\*Proverbs 9:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return.  
Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt.

<sup>8</sup> So don't bother correcting mockers;  
they will only hate you.  
But correct the wise,  
and they will love you.
- **\*Take the initiative to support others.**
  - People will receive correction from those who are willing to be corrected.

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- My mom would regularly apologize to us when we were kids.
  - My mentors share with me stories of their mistakes – helps me be more open to hearing their correction for my mistakes.
  - *People are looking for those who are doing life well (not perfectly) – not preachy but healthy and helpful.*
  - Take the initiative – youth with kids, young adults with youth and kids, adults with youth, older adults with younger adults and all ages.
- Three tips as you do this...

## Setting Up Supply Lines (10min)

YOUR role as adult (step up and lead well)

- **\*Model authentic faith.**
  - When I was a youth pastor, kids from four families told me that they couldn't make it to youth group anymore. I asked why? Because Survivor had changed nights, and their parents did a weekly watch party – and couldn't take their kids to church.
    - I am glad the parents were connecting – but they selfishly robbed their kids of their FAITH connections, and it hurt the faith of their kids.
  - Be authentic in your faith and failures.
    - Let your faith SHINE – worship, devotions, evangelism, serving in church, justice.
    - You have something to share.
- **\*Show how to seek and receive support.**
  - One of the most important things to share is how YOU are RECEIVING support.
    - If you, as a strong adult, needs support – then the next generation can see how important it is.
    - Studies have shown that digital support is important – but it is not a SUBSTITUTE for in person or phone calls. Adults – model the importance of genuine connections.
  - For years, I have required Youth and Young Adult leaders to have their own Life Group of peers that they are connecting with. Otherwise – they start using Youth Group as their Bible Study and support group – which is unhealthy.
  - **Model** your own Supply Lines –
    - Post the card for others to see – kids, co-workers, others.
    - Tell the stories (receiving therapy, meeting with Spiritual Director, friends)
  - **Ask** others about their Supply Lines.
    - Get copies of the Supply Lines card – use it as a tool with others.
  - **Help** others seek out support.
    - Don't try to be all five.

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- **\*Take the initiative to support others.**
  - Everyone is anxious – the adults and youth.
    - Young people – seek out support. This is a house of hope.
    - Adults – the greater burden is on us.
  - Ideas:
    - Pray every day – grab a prayer card.
    - Open your home for Next Gen events or meetings.
    - Offer to bring food – it always works.
    - Help in Kids, Youth, or Young Adult Min – we have high standards, but it is worth it!
- **\*(mp) I am not going to complain about the next generation – I am going to invest in them.**
  - WILL YOU?

## Punch – Baptized (3min)

- My daughter Janie got baptized this year, and that was a highlight of the year for me. I pray every day for my kids, and we do family devotions pretty much every week. But my influence was not enough. She has great youth leaders, is involved in Christian club at school, and has a mentor in Jane Johnson.
- Jane is a leader in our church and asked if she could mentor our daughter. We were thrilled. Her wisdom and care for our daughter has helped her faith grow so much.
- Posture of pursuit and hope. Taking the initiative. Getting support and supporting others.
- This is the family of faith.
- **What will YOU do?**

### Prayer

*Thanks for a great series – can still buy books.*

Coming up

- Two weeks – new series “Gamers: what video games taught me about God”
- Next week – Israel Solomon returning!

Benediction – Col 2:7

- Prayer Team available
- Fight Hunger – next week!

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