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Grounders:

We have two options for dealing with interpersonal conflict: we either protect our pride or we learn in our humility. Proverbs offers four insights to learning both *for* and *from* conflict. Proverbs 22:17-19 says that when it comes to learning, we must we must (1) pay attention; (2) listen; (3) apply our hearts to learning; and (4) keep the wisdom in our hearts, ready on our lips. We can remember these insights in four images: (1) goads, (2) miners, (3) sponges, and (4) warehouses.

First, we must be *motivated like goads* to learn, paying attention (Prov. 22:17). Begin by asking, "What motivates me?" Next, ask if the answer is consistent with God's wisdom. Our motives may seem innocent to us, but God looks at our hearts and weighs our motives (Prov. 16:2).

Second, we must *dig like miners* listening to wise sayings (Prov. 22:17). This week, get out your Bible and read a chapter each day in Proverbs. Dig for the wisdom God offers through Solomon. We can flesh this out in conflict by listening to the other person involved.

Third, we must *retain like sponges*, soaking up wisdom in order to retain it (Prov. 22:17). We do this by applying our hearts to wisdom. We need to develop a system to learn wisdom so that it soaks into the fabric of our lives. Typically, we can't remember because we never properly learned the information. When you read Proverbs, develop a system for you to remember a key verse or concept. Make the system visual, imaginative, and active. These three elements help retention.

Fourth, we must *recall like warehouses*, storing up the wisdom we have learned, organizing it for easy recall (Prov. 22:18). This works when we learn with the same method that we recall. For example, if we used images to learn, then we see the images when we recall. If we used sounds to learn, then we hear when we recall. If we used action to remember, then we do it when we recall. This week, recall your memory verse or concept and apply it to your life.

Learning empowers us with the wisdom to effectively manage conflict. This week, (1) be motivated like a goad by God; (2) dig like a miner reading a chapter in Proverbs each day; (3) retain like a sponge, memorizing a verse or concept that will help you learn to be wise; and (4) recall it like a warehouse daily.

By the way, number one is Chai tea; number two is white Corvette; number three is flat tire; number four is cinnamon crunch bagel; number five is Shaca Kahn; number six is paint chip; number seven is Satchkwan; number eight is Bono; number nine is a full head of hair; and number ten is the Patriots.

In Him,  
Mitch