



Discussion Guide
Over/It – Part 6
LEADER GUIDE

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We spend so much of our lives trying to prove we're okay—to ourselves, to others, even to God. But the resurrection is God's final word: you are fully forgiven, fully accepted, and free to live differently. This series explores how that truth becomes real, present power in our everyday lives.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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“Correct him, but not as a foe, nor as an adversary exacting a penalty, but as a physician providing medicines.”

[John Chrysostom]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**

- Proverbs highlights the value of reproof and correction and the importance of being open to it. If we are to live the lives we are meant to, become the people God intends, and fully participate in His agenda for us and others, we must accept reproof. Failures in giving and receiving reproof come from a lack of the fear of the Lord, because we are counting our opinions and others' opinions as higher than God and His ways.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

Who in your family always seemed to be getting into trouble as a child? Was it you?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Lord, please be gentle and merciful with us as we talk about this topic of reproof. It is hard to give, and it is hard to receive. We've all had to be on both sides of this, and we need Your gentleness soothing the sore places left by those encounters. In Your name we ask this. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize this verse together by having one person read it aloud, then see who can quote it from memory. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together, so encourage everyone to meditate on these verses through the sermon series.*

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

[Ephesians 4:31-32]

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have someone read Proverbs 15:30-33, 27:5-6, 1:20-33, and 25:12 aloud in the ESV. You may want to let a few people split up the reading, and there's a question for each section. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

1. What does this first passage have to say about rebukes/discipline? *Listening to and learning from life-giving rebukes keeps you wise. Note that only the ones who are wise already will be able to do this. If you neglect and ignore it, you despise yourself. If you learn from it, you gain understanding.*
2. How can the wounds of a friend be faithful? (27:6) How can they be better than the kisses of an enemy? *Someone who corrects you out of love and concern might hurt you, but they are hurting to bring goodness and healing. An enemy's flattery (kisses) is to serve their own hidden agenda—they're a pretty lie.*
3. What does wisdom offer in verses 1:20-33? *To anyone who will turn and pay attention to her rebuke, Wisdom will pour her spirit on them and teach her words to them. This is two-fold: You have to turn (repent) and heed her rebuke.*
4. What does Proverbs 25:12 teach us about the relationship between a wise reprover and an ear that listens and learns? *This image of earrings and fine gold ornaments shows adornment and enhancement. It beautifies. A note here: you have to be a wise reprover, not just any reprover.*
5. In his sermon, Matt mentioned that proper confrontation isn't motivated by "impatience, frustration, hurt, anger, or ambition." What motivates good confrontation, then? *There are several possible answers here—things like love, concern for the person's wellbeing, mercy, affection, and care.*
6. Describe your ideal version of yourself. What is he/she like? *Answers will vary. Have fun with it. The details are what make this exercise enjoyable: the ideal me washes the dishes every night before bed, keeps up with the laundry, and never yells when I'm cut off in traffic, etc.*
7. Is that version of you the same as God's ideal version of you? What is different between the person you are now and God's ideal for you? *Watch here for a subtle problem: we may have a different idea of what God wants for us than what He actually does want. This exercise might make that more obvious as a side effect. The main idea, though, is for us to look at the difference between who we want to be, who God wants us to be, and where we are right now. We have to be willing to look at the gap.*
8. Who do you know who has the humility to change? Is it you? *Answers will vary.*
9. How can we discern the difference between holy/wise correction and reproof that's for our harm? *This is difficult for one reason especially: our defensiveness. Sin comes with a set of blinders that makes us very sensitive to hearing and receiving words meant kindly. It will amplify every slight mistake made in an attempt to get us to dismiss it. But, on the other side, we cannot receive every single bit of offered reproof without holding it up to the light of scripture and asking the Lord if we should accept it. Receiving everything offered is dangerous, but so is rejecting everything offered.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Be open to the Lord's Spirit—the spirit of Wisdom that corrects.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) Is there a gap in yourself that needs addressing? 2) Is there a gap in someone else that needs addressing? Either way, ask the Lord to open our eyes to the gaps.

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. You can ask for people's personal requests, pray through things brought up in the time together, or have each person pray a few sentences for the person next to them.*

"Lord, we want to be transformed, but it is difficult to want the transformation process that gets us to that place. Please open our eyes. Put Your finger on the next thing You want to work on in us. And please have mercy and be gentle with us. Amen."