



LESSON TWO:

IRON

SHARPENING IRON

TO BEGIN

Name one of your favorite teachers (this could be a teacher from your childhood, college, church, workshop, seminar, etc.).

What made this teacher special? How did this teacher influence you?

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. To enrich your understanding of Proverbs 27:17, look at the verse in its context—read Proverbs 27:14-19 and answer some or all of the following questions:

- What kind of a person do you imagine after reading Proverbs 27:14-16?
- In Proverbs 27:18, how are the images of “guarding of the fig tree” and “protecting the master” alike?
- What is the end result of both “guarding of the fig tree” and “protecting the master”?
 - What parallels do you notice between Proverbs 27:19 and Luke 6:45?
 - What kind of a person do you imagine after reading Proverbs 27:17?
- How does the imagery of Proverbs 27:17 contrast with Proverbs 27:14-16?
 - How does Proverbs 27:18-19 build upon Proverbs 27:17?

2. Who is sharpening you? Who are you sharpening?

- Everyone in the group should answer these 2 questions. If you or someone else cannot answer one or both of the above questions, please pray for God to reveal a name for each question.

3. Who has sharpened you in the past? How did their example sharpen you? How did you sharpen them?

4. In the video lesson, Sarah said, "God created us to fuel one another's faith, to be sharpened and to be a sharpener." With her words in mind, read 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11; 2 Timothy 2:14-16; Titus 2:7-8; and 1 Peter 2:13-17. In what ways do these verses encourage us to set an example for others?

5. Ultimately, believers are sharpened to accomplish God's mission. Ephesians 2:8-10 says that we are not saved by works, but we are God's handiwork created to do His good work. While the ultimate purpose of believers is glorifying God by sharing Jesus to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), each believer has unique purposes (or a calling). To reflect on your unique purpose, consider these questions:

- What burden has God placed on your heart?
- How have your past experiences prepared you for "such a time as this"?
- Where can you make a difference like no other?
 - Who follows you and looks up to you?
 - Who depends on you?
- What (or who) breaks your heart? What (or who) stirs up your compassion?

6. Take some time to pray for one another and the example that you are setting.

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND DEEPER STUDY

Read Proverbs 27 every day for the next 7 days.

Memorize Proverbs 27:17 or Proverbs 27:14-19.

Reflect on the passages mentioned in the above lesson.

Philippians 4:9 says, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice."

- Read Philippians 4:4-13.
- List the different ways Paul and believers like him set an example for us.
- Review the list you made, and identify the ways you're good at setting an example and the ways you need to improve your example.
- Pray about the areas where you can improve.
- Write down one simple step you can take to improve your example.

Philippians 3:17, says, "Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do."

- Read Philippians 3:7-21.
- List the different ways Paul and believers like him set an example for us.
- Review the list you made, and identify the ways you're good at setting an example and the ways you need to improve your example.
- Pray about the areas where you can improve.
- Write down one simple step you can take to improve your example.