OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Read Proverbs 3:5b and 7a. Self-reliance derails love. Can you think of any examples of your own "wisdom" or "good intentions" preventing you from fully trusting God and loving others?

b) Consider the verbs in Proverbs 3:1, 3:3, and 3:5. In what way is Father Solomon progressing us deeper in our relationship with God. Where are you in this spiritual journey? Are you living out Proverbs 3:5?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Trust deepens love. In what ways is trust in God (v.5) necessary **before** we can truly love others (bind love around our necks, v.3)?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Read Proverbs 3:3 again. In what way is God's steadfast love (Covenant, enduring love) and faithfulness (reliability, truthfulness) most evident in the cross of Christ?

b) Read Proverbs 3:6. Tim said that God makes our "path straight" by making us like Christ. Read Romans 8:28-29. In what ways is God conforming you to the likeness of Jesus and his love? Are you actively trusting this process?

c) Read the New Covenant in Hebrews 8:6-10. Compare Hebrews 8:10 to Proverbs 3:3. In what way is the New Covenant a "better promise" than the wisdom of Solomon? How can trusting the New Covenant promises deepen our ability to love others?

APPLICATION

a) Consider Proverbs 3:3 again. In what way have you been experiencing the steadfast love and faithfulness of God in Christ recently? What might "binding God's love and faithfulness around your neck" look like this week? During Grace Gives?

b) In what way is Jesus the perfect "son" who experienced the blessings of Proverbs 3:2,4, and 6? How does our union with Christ makes these same blessings ours in him? Are you living from these blessings? If not, how might you start?

PRAYER

- Praise God for his steadfast love and faithfulness.
- Confess ways that you have failed to trust God with your whole heart.
- Thank Jesus for being the Son of God who always kept the commandments, trusted God, and displayed God's love to others.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to bind love and faithfulness around your neck for all to see.