SERIES BASED ON PROVERBS

More Than Just a

"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble." Proverbs 13:20

Fortune Cookie

Journey Group Lesson for "Trusting God's Wisdom on How to Treat Others" July 18, 2010

<u>**Getting Started**</u> **(Everyone Answer)**

Couple must display theft signs

"A Houston couple convicted of theft must display signs, outside their home and near a mall, saying they are thieves. On Friday, prosecutors said Eloise Guerrero Mireles and Daniel Domingo Mireles were sentenced to 10 years' probation. She is a former assistant in the Harris County district attorney's office who on Thursday was ordered by Judge Kevin Fine to repay more than $265,000 diverted from crime victims. She must also serve 180 days in prison, followed by one month in jail annually for six years. Daniel Mireles must pay restitution and must be in jail every July for six years. DA spokeswoman Donna Hawkins says the wife, when freed, must hold a sign in the Galleria area every Sunday for six years, indicating she is a thief. The husband, when freed, must display a thief sign every Saturday during the period." – Published in Austin's statesman.com on July 9, 2010.

What are your thoughts about the two county officials? Do you think they got what they deserved? Should the penalty have been greater? Different? Less?

Can you think of a time in your life where justice was not done but should have been? What should have been done? Share as much as you can about that experience.

<u>**Digging Deeper**</u>

<u>*Read Proverbs 3:27-30;*</u>

What do these verses reveal about how God desires us to treat people?

In what ways do you fail at this? In what ways do you succeed at this?

<u>*Read Proverbs 17:5; 19:17; and 23:10b-11.*</u>

What do these verses show us about God's heart for the poor and the downtrodden?

How do you think the church in general does in serving the poor and downtrodden?

What are some ways that you, your family, and/or journey group could serve the poor?

<u>**Bringing It Home**</u>

Brainstorm as a group about ways your group might be able bless those who need help in your community or in other parts of the world.
Spend some time praying about this as a group.