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| SUMMARY: The book of Proverbs speaks a lot about wealth and prosperity. It even indicates that those who work diligently will be rewarded. At what point though does the reward become more important than the wisdom? Well, as Proverbs also points out, that point is a word we call greed.Greed is good, well according to Gordon Gekko at least. Greed is the great motivator in a world driven by the never-ending desire for more. The problem with greed is that it places prosperity in front of people and often in front of morals. A greedy person is someone who is willing to bend the rules in order to get themselves ahead which sounds like almost all of us at some point.At its root, greed is a deep discontentment with our present lot in life. It’s a feeling of dissatisfaction and a perpetual craving for more. The problem with greed is not just that it drives us to warp our values, it also actually places us in opposition to God’s own nature.In creation, we see the generosity of God on full show. We can see it in the beauty of nature, the complexity of human nature and endlessness of space. In making us and stamping us with his image, he has poured himself out into this world, no greater act of generosity can be imagined. Greed is not good, because greed seeks to replace God with things that he has made. Things that he has, in pure generosity, allowed us to have. Sure, we can work hard for our living but what we have and desire can never be more than what God has already given us.  |

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| Greed in the book of proverbs1. How would you describe someone who is greedy?
2. Why and how does our world today portray greed as good?
3. Why are human eyes never satisfied? (See Prov. 27:20)
4. How does greed destroy a household? (See Prov. 15:27)
5. How does the second half of Proverbs 15:27 ring true?
6. In what ways can we be greedy with things other than money? (i.e. time, energy, our homes)
7. What would Proverbs 11:26 look like in our world today? What does it mean?
8. How is greed against the very nature of God?
9. What does our generosity (or lack thereof it) say about our own greed?
10. Does Proverbs 11:28 match with our world and with us?
11. Where do our possessions fit within our priorities? How essential is what we have to our identity?
12. How does Proverbs 15:16-17 challenge our consumer driven world?
13. Can you actually be too generous or do we use that idea as an excuse for greed?
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