

What are some of the qualities you look for in someone you would want to advise you?

*Proverbs 1:32-33 NIV - 32 For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 but whoever listens to me (wisdom) will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."*

The wise friend sees what God has gifted you in and what He is calling you to be.

*If you have a friend you would like to advise wisely, begin with an "I see in you..." conversation that builds up and encourages your friend to be the best God has created them to be.*

## WRAP-UP

You didn't choose what you go through in life, but you can choose who you invite to your table, to help guide and advise you. Don't surround yourself with people who lack wisdom, will lead you astray or criticize you. Rather humbly seek out the wise who will offer Godly counsel because they want to see God's best in your life.

## Memory Verse

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.  
- Proverbs 13:20 NIV

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: \_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge- Do a self-assessment this week to gauge which voices are dominant in your life-the simple, the fool, the scoffer or the wise.*

## "Who's At Your Table" "Unscripted" #3

### INTRODUCTION

When our lives go off-script, as they all have, we begin to ask some questions. How did I get here? What's the next step? What do I hope will happen? And even though we are in quarantine, we still have input from those around us that will shape the answers to our questions. Remember, not too long ago, when we could meet with friends who were wiser than us, for coffee or lunch, just to gain from their wisdom? We invited them to join us at the table as a mentor or advisor. More than ever, as life goes off script, we need to surround ourselves with a support system. And although we don't get to choose what we go through in life, we do get to choose who we go through it with. So, let's see what the bible tells us about four types of people we can invite to sit at our table.

### Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

If you could go back to a pivotal moment when your life went off script who would you want at your table?

### STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

#### 1. The Simple: Won't have any Wisdom

When you read Proverbs 7:6-7 I bet you think "I know that guy" or maybe you think, "I was that guy".

*Proverbs 7:6-7 NIV - 6 At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. 7 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense.*

*Do you remember ever declaring "I will never...." and then finding that you did just what you said you would never do?*

*Proverbs 13:20b NIV – 20b... for a companion of fools suffers harm.*

If we read the next twenty verses of Proverbs 7, we find that this boy is walking into a mess. It isn't entirely his fault, but he is inexperienced and just plain clueless. All of us hit that point in our lives. And right now, because we are in a situation we've never experienced before, we might be feeling pretty clueless, like a deer in the headlights.

*What reactions have you seen from people that appear to be responding to the pandemic from a simple, or naïve point of view?*

The problem with surrounding yourself with simple people is that they won't have any wisdom to share. And if we find ourselves feeling a bit "simple" right now, we need to ask God for the humility to admit that we need wisdom that we don't possess. Not only do we need to seek God personally for wisdom, we need to ask Him to send us those who can give us Godly counsel.

## **2. The Fool: Will Lead You Astray**

The fool is different from the simple person. He knows what is wise, but just doesn't care. He would rather do the easy thing than the right thing. In fact, Proverbs 10:23 tells us he takes pleasure in wickedness.

*Proverbs 10:23 NIV - 23 A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes, but a person of understanding delights in wisdom.*

Unfortunately, there is no shortage of fools during this pandemic. Perhaps you have heard of the zoom bombers who look for online meetings they can crash and cause mischief. These would be numbered among the fools of our day.

If you want a good reason not to invite fools to your table just look at what Proverbs 26:11 says about them.

*Proverbs 26:11 NLT - 11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his foolishness.*

It is not likely that the fool will stop his foolishness and start sharing wisdom.

*Fools' advice can be enticing. "Do whatever feels good, cut corners, take the easy way out, you deserve it." Have you ever been tempted by others to do something foolish? If so, what happened?*

## **3. The Mockers/Scoffer: Will Criticize you**

The scoffers bully people who are trying to make good decisions. They think they are wise, but they aren't. Their condescension and cynicism make it difficult for you to make a wise decision because they want you to listen only to them. Their voice can be loud, and their presence stirs up dissention.

*Proverbs 22:10 NLT - 10 Throw out the mocker, and fighting goes, too. Quarrels and insults will disappear.*

There is a good reason the mockers stir up so many quarrels, they aren't inclined to listen to anyone's advice.

*Proverbs 9:7-8 NLT - 7 Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return. Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt. 8 So don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you.*

For some of us it is difficult to deal with the toxic people in our lives. There might be a reason we can't totally remove ourselves from them. Maybe we work with them or perhaps they are a relative. If so, there probably needs to be some boundaries put in place.

*If there is someone in your life stirring up strife and arguments, what are some ways to remove them from your table, if not entirely from your life, so that you can hear the voice of wisdom once again?*

## **4. The Wise: Will Guide You**

So, who are the people you want at your table? They are the wise, your support system, who care about you and have your best interest in mind. You weren't meant to go it alone in life.

*Do you know the first thing God pronounced as "not good"?*

*Genesis 2:18a NLT - 18a Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."*

*Proverbs 13:20a NIV - 20 Walk with the wise and become wise, ...*