

because to them God's wisdom is nonsense.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 NLT - 23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. 24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Demonstrating Godly wisdom through deeds done in humility, can give you a unique opportunity to share Christ with others.

Do you find it challenging to make Godly decisions knowing they will be scrutinized by others? Have you ever followed God's wisdom and been criticized because it appeared to be foolish to the world? What was your response to their criticism?

WRAP-UP

So, to live well, we submit to the Lordship of Jesus in the fear of the Lord. We ask the Spirit for wisdom, and we remain faithful as we grow in wisdom through the power of the Spirit. If you've never asked for wisdom, ask for it today. And develop rhythms and practices that allow you to be shaped by the Spirit and grow in wisdom. If God's given you wisdom, don't be afraid. This is not a time for fear or false humility. The world needs you. So, pray that the Spirit would open the right doors for you to speak into the lives of those around you in ways that are transformative.

MEMORY VERSE

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. - Proverbs 1:7 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

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

Challenge- Follow the You Version Bible Plan for Proverbs this month. <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/3055>

“How to live well in God's World”

Wisdom #1

INTRODUCTION

How do we live well in this world? We learn to trust the wisdom of God. The book of Proverbs helps us do that. The book of Proverbs isn't a book of promises, it was designed as guidance passed down from one generation to the next sharing the observations of Godly people about how life usually works out. The first seven verses specifically give us the purpose of the book. Its first nine chapters go on to explain this in more detail. Then, from chapter 10 on, we find a collection of wise sayings mainly of King Solomon, the wisest king who ever lived – on all aspects of life: relationships, money, anger, sex, parenting and so much more. Not every proverb will resonate with you right now, but over the course of your lifetime most will come into play. So, let's spend some time in the book of Proverbs and gain some Godly wisdom.

Ice Breaker

What was the best advice given to you by your parents?

Key Passage

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV - 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is Wisdom?

Proverbs 1:1-4 NLT - 1 These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. 2 Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. 3 Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. 4 These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.

In the first four verses of this book, Solomon tells us plainly its purpose- to teach wisdom, discipline, and insights.

Verse 3 gives us our first insight into what constitutes a wise and successful life. What are the three things Solomon includes in a successful life? How do you go about determining what is right, just, and fair?

Proverbs 1:7 NLT - 7 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

If you want to be wise, your foundation is found in Proverbs 1:7 “Fear the Lord.” The word for fear, *yir’â* can mean terror but also respect, reverence and piety. Fear is about humility, honor, awe, not an “I’m afraid you’re going to punish me” kind of fear. You begin with an understanding that He is the Lord, and you are not. God is the one who establishes what is right and wrong, he sets the standard of justice and fairness. They are found in His commandments and if we don’t respect that we are foolish.

Have you observed the difference between the life of someone who “feared God” and of someone who “despised wisdom and discipline”? Can you describe the consequences of those attitudes you saw in their lives?

2. How do we gain Wisdom?

Proverbs 2:2-5 NLT - 2 Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. 3 Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. 5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.

James 1:5 NIV - 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Solomon tells us that wisdom is available to everyone and wants to be heard. Wisdom is an attribute of God and because we have God’s Spirit living in us, we have access to Godly wisdom. But how do we hear God’s wisdom? Prov 2:2-5 tells us to tune our ears, concentrate, cry out for insight and ask. This seems so logical. James also tells us if we lack wisdom – ask! But how often do we stop to actively seek God’s wisdom in making decisions?

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV - 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Consider the steps to seeking wisdom in Prov 2:2-5 and what we are warned against in Prov 3:5. For most of us the default in decision making is to trust in our own understanding. What decisions are you facing in your life today that you should pause and apply Proverbs 2:2-5 before taking action on? If you ask God for wisdom, what will you do to “tune your ears” to hear His reply?

Psalm 111:10 NLT - 10 Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Praise him forever!

Wisdom isn’t a question of “either you have it, or you don’t”. As you remain faithful to the Lordship of Jesus and the guidance of the Spirit, you will grow in wisdom. You are never too young, or too old to gain wisdom.

Consider the ways God has increased your wisdom. In what areas of your life can you say you’ve seen an increase in Godly wisdom? What sorts of things changed as you grew wiser? (e.g. relationships, finance, health, faith)

3. What do we do with Wisdom?

James 3:13 NIV - 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

1 Corinthians 3:19a NLT - 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God....

If we live wisely there will be evidence. James tells us that wisdom is demonstrated by our deeds done in humility. There will also be evidence if we live foolishly and ignore or run ahead of God’s wisdom. So, following the wisdom of God requires us to be humble, patient and faithful. And don’t expect the rest of the world to applaud your efforts,