



Week Five

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for being here with us. Help us to make the most of our time together; help this time to be life-giving to us and honoring to you. Amen.

Talk It Over

This week we continued our series called 40 Days of Prayer. The goal of this series is to help us grow in our connection with God and to grow in our understanding of God's power through prayer. The hope is this series can help us find something fresh in our relationship and approach to God. This week our topic was wisdom.

- Tell us a light or funny story about a time you made an unwise choice.
- Are there any decisions unfolding in your life right now that have you seeking wisdom for? Tell us about the different choices you are considering.

Read Ephesians 1:16-20

To help us make sense of what wisdom is, we covered the idea that knowledge isn't wisdom. Knowledge can be seen as information we know; think facts, data, and details. But wisdom is our ability to actually choose the best choice and live out the best choice.

- Describe someone in your life who is wise. What about this person makes them wise to you?
- Tell us about a time you had knowledge, but you still felt like you lacked wisdom.
- We started our time off by sharing light or funny examples of unwise choices we've made. Now, can you share a more serious example of a time you made an unwise choice?
- In what ways have you seen yourself grow in wisdom over the years? What has enabled you grow in this area?

Read James 1:5

We have all made unwise choices and we are each invited to grow in our ability to walk in wisdom. During the rest of our time together we will be looking at four filters we can use to help us walk in wisdom, to help us process life choices better, and to help us live our best life.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. God gives wisdom generously through scripture.

The bible is full of stories that can help us through our decision making. One of the values that comes from seeking wisdom through the Bible is that it helps us confirm when we sense God's lead in our life. God's heart in leading our life will line up with what we find in Scripture.

- Tell us about a time you turned to the Bible for wisdom.
- Have you ever seen someone do something because they said God told them to even though you know the Bible speaks against it? What was that experience like? What danger might come from people doing this sort of thing?
- Who do you know in your life who has a strong grasp of the Bible? What sorts of things does this person do that empowers them to know the Bible well?

- Looking at your current life, who could you go to in order to gain more insight in the Bible if need be? If you have an experience of doing this, tell us about it.

Read 1 Kings 18:38-39, 1 Kings 19:11-13, and Psalm 46:10

2. God gives wisdom generously through his voice.

While we cannot limit the ways in which God speaks to us, the Bible does tell us that sometimes God's voice is a still small voice. This week we were reminded that his voice is gentle and encouraging even in rebuke and correction. In addition, this week we were reminded that the Bible says God can also speak through dreams, visions, people, and miracles.

- Tell us about some of the ways you have heard God speak to you in your own life. If you have never heard God speak to you, don't be ashamed or discouraged. In fact, consider telling us about how you wish you heard from God and consider adding the request to your prayer list.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) and Hebrews 13:7

3. God gives wisdom generously through wise counsel.

We aren't designed to do life alone. We are designed to be in community where we can spur one another on in faith and encourage each other as we are walking out lives committed to pursuing Jesus.

- Tell us about a meaningful time wise counsel helped you make a good choice.
- Without sharing names or details, tell us about a time someone did something even though the people around them told them they should probably should go another direction. What was that experience like for you?
- Who is in your life today that can serve as wise counsel? What about them qualifies them to be seen as wise counsel?

Read Proverbs 22:3 (VOICE)

4. God gives wisdom generously through counting the cost.

Counting the cost involves looking honestly at the risks, the work involved, the pros, and the cons of a choice. And remember, we take this step with consideration to the last three points we looked at too. This is important to note because there will be times we may need to do things as Christ followers that involve real cost.

- Tell us about a time you made a choice and you failed to count the cost well. Are there problems you could have avoided had you evaluated the situation more honestly or openly?
- Tell us about a time you had to make a wise, hard choice despite the cost.

Looking back through the list of four ways we can think through wise choices consider these two questions:

- What step comes most natural to you? Why do you think that is the case?
- What step comes the least naturally to you? Why is that the case? How can you grow in this area?

Read Romans 8:28

When our heart is postured towards God, the Bible tells us God works out all things for our good — even our mistakes. This is by no means intended to justify the bad choices in our life or remove consequences, but rather, it's a promise God's grace is at work even through the brokenness of this life when we are humbly postured towards him.

- Have you ever made a choice you later regretted and saw God's grace come through somehow? Tell us about it.
- Is there an unwise choice in your past that still feels unresolved? Or maybe there was an unwise choice and you're still looking for God's grace to bring the good even though you made a mistake? Tell us about what happened and what you desire.

Closing Prayer

God, you have made it clear in the Bible that you desire to give wisdom to your people. Help us to say 'yes' to your wisdom, God. Help us to process life and choices in wise ways and to say 'yes' to your best. Amen.

(Content continued on the next page.)

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.

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