

PREPARED

Ice Breakers

- Talk about your most recent boating experience.
- Name the most fun you've ever had on a boat or tubing experience.
- Name the scariest time you've ever had on a boat.



When facing difficult circumstances, we need to be wise about who we are seeking advice from.

- What is the starting point in finding wisdom?

Read these verses together.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:2-6

So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding...

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

When we understand how great God is and see how small we are, we will grow in a proper reverence and fear of God. That leads us to ask for His guidance and to study His Bible to grow not just in knowledge but in understanding of the principles behind those facts. Meditating on and applying that biblical knowledge and understanding with God's Spirit leads to godly wisdom.

So we seek wisdom when we fear God, pray for His help, and study His Bible to find principles that apply to the decisions we face.

- In our world today, who do people go to first, without seeking God, when faced with problems?

- Talk about a time where you sought God and His wisdom first. Then talk about a time where you decided to do things on your own or listen to someone else.

- How else does the Bible tell us to seek wisdom?

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

- Trusted experts and wise individuals can be a good source of advice. Other people may see our problem from a different angle than we would, allowing them to provide possible solutions we might not see.
- Who do you have in your life right now that you can go to and get Godly advice?
- Are you a person that people seek out for Godly advice?
- How should we make our decisions?

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live..."

Luke 14:28-30

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'"

- Talk about a time when you were faced with making a decision that was a popular one to make but went against the Bible.
- In your life right now, are you asking the question "What is the wise thing to do?" Share with the group and take time to pray about it.
- If a possible solution requires disobeying a biblical principle, delete that option from your list. Then compare the remaining options with positive biblical principles, wise advice from others, the likelihood of success, and the effects your decision will have on others. Carefully weight the pros and cons and "count the cost."
- Read over Acts 27 and retell the account in a way where the sailors and captain of the ship listened to Paul right from the start.