



The Week of September 26, 2021

The Value of Wisdom

Conversation Guide

This Week's Takeaways

- About God: (1 Corinthians 8:6) I believe there is one God who exists in 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is perfect in all things. He is the creator of all things. He has made humanity in his image and he desires a personal relationship with each one of us.
- About Humanity: (John 3:16) I believe all people are fallen in sin, but loved by God who has taken the initiative to save humanity from its sinfulness.
- About Christ: (Hebrews 1:1-4) I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, lived a perfect life, died for sinners, rose from the dead and now reigns at the right hand of the Father.
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Intro Questions

- What are sources of wisdom available to us today?
- How do we decide if a source is good?
- How do we decide if a source is offering sound, biblical wisdom?
- What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?

Value of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:1–7 (CSB)

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: For learning wisdom and discipline; for understanding insightful sayings; for receiving prudent instruction in righteousness, justice, and integrity; for teaching shrewdness to the inexperienced, knowledge and discretion to a young man— let a wise person listen and increase learning, and let a discerning person obtain guidance— for understanding a proverb or a parable, the words of the wise, and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.

- Who is speaking?
- Who is he speaking to?
- List the three audiences he was addressing?

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Psalms 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his instructions have good insight. His praise endures forever.

- What is the first step toward wisdom?
- What does it mean to fear the Lord?

1 Kings 4:32-34

He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls.

He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

- What was Solomon's reputation (good & bad)?
- It's no secret that Solomon had a horrible track record (especially in relation to wives and children, see 1 Kings 11). How could God use such a flawed person to convey timeless wisdom?
- How does it make you feel that God was able to use people that weren't perfect?
- How does this make you feel about your own usefulness in light of your sins and issues?

Luke 11:31

"The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and look – something greater than Solomon is here."

- What did Jesus say about Himself in comparison to Solomon?
- Solomon in all of wisdom ultimately failed. Did Jesus have any moral failings? What does this tell us about the wisdom that we can gain from Jesus?

James 1:5

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God – who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly – and it will be given to him.

James 3:13-18

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. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

- What characterizes worldly wisdom?
- What characterizes heavenly wisdom?
- How do we get this wisdom from heaven?
- According to this passage, how do we show that we truly have wisdom?

3 Circles

Ultimately, the successful pursuit of wisdom is the pursuit of Christ

- Get your copy of the Life Conversation Guide that was given out at the end of the service or download the app at <http://lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide>
- As a group, go through the Conversation Guide. If you are a believer, this is great training in how to share your faith.
- Still not sure in your faith? Listen and read closely- there's no better day than today to make a decision!

Next Steps

- If you haven't accepted Christ yet, keep studying the 3 Circles! What questions do you have? Want to talk further- talk to your group leader, visit the Fresh Start tent, call the church office. Check out the book *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel or the movie.
- Pray for God to bring someone in your path that you can share the 3 Circles with and be ready to share with the group.