

Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon: "What If You Were Wiser?"

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you made a decision you thought was wise, but it didn't turn out the way you expected. What did you learn?

Key Sermon Points Review

- **Main Idea:** God's wisdom is not an indictment, but an invitation
- **Definition:** Wisdom is insight and implementation—right thinking that leads to right living
- **Five Wisdom Books:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs
- **Core Truth:** Wisdom is not just a principle to grasp; wisdom is a person—Jesus Christ

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding God's Invitation to Wisdom

The sermon emphasized that "God's wisdom is not an indictment, but an invitation."

- How does this change the way you approach God when you've made unwise decisions?
- Where in your life right now do you need to accept God's invitation to wisdom rather than feeling condemned?

2. The Messiness of Wisdom

Pastor Mark said, "I need a wisdom that is as messy as my life is."

- Why do you think God included five different wisdom books in the Bible rather than just one simple instruction manual?
- How does Job's story challenge the idea that "everything happens for a reason"?

3. Processing in God's Presence

The Psalms teach us to "process everything that you feel in the presence of God."

- What emotions or situations have you been hesitant to bring honestly before God?
- How can we create space in our lives to meditate on God's Word "all day long" as Psalm 119 describes?

4. Wisdom in Different Seasons

The five wisdom books teach us to:

- Live fruitfully
- Suffer faithfully
- Worship authentically
- Love deeply
- Fear God above everything else

Which of these five areas do you most need wisdom in right now? Why?

5. Practical Application

The sermon asked: "What would the wiser you do?"

- Think about a complex situation you're currently facing. What would the wiser version of yourself—the one who fears God, asks for wisdom, and practices Jesus' teachings—do differently?
- What specific step can you take this week to "put into practice" what Jesus has taught you?

Scripture Reflection

Read together: ****James 1:5-8****

****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. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.****

- What does it mean that God gives wisdom "without finding fault"?
- How does doubt prevent us from receiving God's wisdom?
- What would it look like to ask God for wisdom with genuine faith this week?

Personal Reflection & Prayer

****Reflection Question:**** Complete this sentence silently: "The area of my life where I most need God's wisdom right now is..."

****Prayer Exercise:****

1. Take 2-3 minutes of silence to ask God specifically for wisdom in that area
2. Share prayer requests related to needing wisdom (relationships, decisions, suffering, etc.)
3. Pray for one another, asking God to give wisdom generously

****Closing Prayer Focus:****

- Thank God that wisdom begins with fearing Him and knowing Jesus
- Ask for courage to practice what we already know
- Pray for strength to build our lives on the rock of Christ's teachings

This Week's Challenge

****Daily Practice:**** Each morning this week, pray: "Lord, give me wisdom for today. Help me to fear You above all else and to practice what You've taught me."

****Action Step:**** Identify one teaching of Jesus you know but haven't been practicing. Take one concrete step this week to put it into action.

****Memory Verse:**** **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* - Proverbs 9:10