

Small Group Discussion Guide

****Series:**** What If You Were Wiser?

****Message:**** Wisdom for Relationships

****Scripture:**** James 3:13-4:2

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to give your group wisdom, humility, and open hearts to receive His truth about relationships.

Icebreaker

****Question:**** Share about a relationship in your life that has been marked by peace and wisdom. What made it different from other relationships?

Discussion Questions

****Read James 3:13-16 together****

1. Pastor Mark identified "bitter envy" and "selfish ambition" as the root causes of relational disorder, chaos, drama, and conflict. Which of these two do you struggle with more in your relationships? Why?

2. How does envy act like "poison" in our lives? Can you share an example (without naming names) of how comparison has stolen joy or damaged a relationship?

3. The sermon said "grace looks to give, envy looks to grasp." What does it look like practically to approach relationships with a posture of giving rather than grasping?

****Read the following passages and discuss:****

****Job 2:13 & 13:5**** - *The power of presence and silence*

4. When has someone's silent presence been more helpful to you than their words? When might you need to practice this kind of presence with someone in your life right

now?

****Psalm 1:1-3**** - *Planted in God, not pulled by people*

5. What does it mean to be "planted in God, not pulled by people"? Where do you feel most pulled by people's opinions, expectations, or pressures?

6. Pastor Mark described the progression: principle → pervasive → permanent. Can you identify an area where you've compromised on one principle and seen it become a bigger problem?

****Proverbs 13:20**** - *Walk with the wise*

7. "Walk with the wise and become wise." Who are the wise people you're walking with? How can you be more intentional about surrounding yourself with godly wisdom?

8. How do we balance being careful about who we walk with while avoiding cynicism and isolation?

****Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**** - *Two are better than one*

9. Where in your life do you need the support of others right now? What keeps you from asking for help or being vulnerable?

****Song of Songs 2:7**** - *Don't awaken love too early*

10. Why is patience so countercultural when it comes to relationships and physical intimacy? What are the consequences of not waiting?

****Read James 3:17-18****

11. Pastor Mark summarized relational wisdom as: ****Peace, Priorities, and Patience****. Which of these three do you most need to grow in right now?

12. The key question from the message was: *****"What would the wiser you do?"*****

- Think about a current relational challenge you're facing. What would the wiser you do in that situation?

- How would the wiser you respond differently than you have been?

Application

****Choose one action step for this week:****

- ****Practice silence:**** Commit to being present with someone who's hurting without trying to fix or explain
- ****Examine your heart:**** Journal about areas where bitter envy or selfish ambition might be affecting your relationships
- ****Seek wise counsel:**** Reach out to a spiritually mature person for advice on a relationship challenge
- ****Exercise patience:**** Identify one area where you need to wait on God's timing instead of forcing your own
- ****Sow peace:**** Reach out to someone you've had conflict with and take a step toward reconciliation

****Share your action step with one other person in the group for accountability.****

Closing Prayer

****Pray together:****

- For wisdom in specific relationships people mentioned
- For freedom from envy and selfish ambition
- For patience to wait on God's timing
- For the courage to be planted in God rather than pulled by people
- For anyone who gave their life to Christ during the message