

Discussion Guide

"Diamonds from Dust" – Week 6

Opening Doors...

1. Think of some examples in your life of ignored warnings. We've all done it! We speed by one sign after another, experience the consequences, and then kick ourselves for ignoring the many messages screaming for a different behavior. Why are there times when we pay no heed to the caution lights?
2. When you hear a known person's name, what thoughts automatically come rushing into your mind? How is so much attached to our names? How do we define our names to others?

Digging In...

1. There's a significant difference between knowledge and wisdom. How would you distinguish the two? Read Daniel 5:18-23. What knowledge did Belshazzar possess and what wisdom was he still lacking?

- Read Romans 1:18-25. The beginning of the passage says, "What can be known about God is plain to them because God has shown it to them," but they chose to "suppress the truth" and are left "without excuse." What does it mean to "suppress truth?" What was God's response, and how did this affect their pursuit of wisdom?
- Read John 3:16-21. What does this passage reveal concerning why a man would possess knowledge but refuse to act in wisdom?



2. Daniel gives Belshazzar the interpretation of the writing on the wall—"God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end. You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." These are the consequences of refusing wisdom, but there is a different direction we can take...

- **Read Psalm 119:97-104. List the ways you see the psalmist receiving wisdom from God's Word.**
- **Read James 3:13-18. How is true wisdom known in our lives? What is different about worldly wisdom and wisdom from above?**

Taking It Home...

- 1. What practical steps can you take to be/remain a life-long learner?**
- 2. Have you identified anyone as a potential mentor? If so, how has this served your continued growth? If not, what steps could you take to establish one?**

