



# WISDOM

## A Life of Wisdom Looks Different Than You Think

August 1, 2021 | Speaker: Michelle Rader, Lead Elder

### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

#### Key Points:

**1 – Wisdom may be gained and demonstrated by anyone at any time.** It's never too late to choose a life of wisdom. It is not limited by gender, age, social status or ethnicity.

- Key Characters:
  - Solomon/Father (1:1, 8-19; 4:1-27; 10:1; 23:22-28)
  - Mother (1:8; 6:20; 10:1, 23:22; 31:1)
  - Child or Youth (throughout)
  - Lady Wisdom (1:20-33; 8:1-36; 9:1-6)
  - King Lemuel (31:1-9)
  - Noble Wife (31:10-31)
  - The Fool/Fools (throughout)
  - The Strange Woman (2:6-19; 3:3-14; 7:5-27)

**2 – Wisdom comes from God.** It is intrinsic to the character of God, active in creation, proceeding from God. Those created in God's image are called to embody and participate in God's wisdom. Wisdom brings joy and life.

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.....  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.  
Proverbs 8:22-23, 29-31

**3 – Jesus is the Wisdom of God.** God's wisdom is gracious, sacrificial, and outward oriented. It gives, creates, sacrifices, takes the long view. It is puzzling and offensive to our fallen human

conception of wisdom which is selfish, oriented to our own security and success. God's wisdom rebukes division and self-focus, rebukes the human desire to win and be on top at all times.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written,  
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?  
Where is the debater of this age?  
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?  
For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom,  
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.  
For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,  
but we proclaim **Christ crucified**,  
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  
but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks,  
**Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**  
For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,  
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

*(for personal and small group discussion)*

1. What was most impactful to you from this weekend's service?
2. If you are comfortable, share an example from your life of both a foolish and a wise decision/action.
3. Does wisdom sound attractive or burdensome? Why do you think some people seem to run from wisdom?
4. What do you think of Paul's claim that the crucified Christ is the wisdom of God?
5. What does true wisdom and strength look like in God's kingdom and how is that different from how humans typically picture wisdom and strength?
6. How is God calling you to participate in his cruciform wisdom in your life?

Additional Resources: Check out the Bible Project Videos and Podcasts on Proverbs and Wisdom at <https://bibleproject.com/>

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