

April 17, 2021

Hi, Life Group Leaders:

This Sunday, April 18, we are launching a series in the book of Proverbs called, "A Word From the Wise." Week 1 will be an introduction and then the next 6 weeks will cover various areas of wisdom (humility, speech, relationship, marriage/parenting, leadership, and money).

The goals of this Sunday's sermon are to define wisdom (What is it?) and explain how to get wisdom. There are two key verses for Week 1:

- Proverbs 4:7 – Wisdom is supreme – so get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
- Proverbs 9:10 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

### **Discussion Questions / Guide**

**1) How did Brent define the difference between being smart/intelligent and being wise?**

**Wisdom** is good judgment (decision-making) in response to life's challenges and dilemmas in areas such as finances, relationships, conflict resolution, handling your emotions, working through ethical dilemmas, etc.

**Intelligence** is the ability to quickly acquire and retain knowledge and information (math, science, engineering, car mechanics, etc.)

**2) What might be one area where you have expertise (intelligence)? What is one area in which you might consider yourself wise? (NOTE: reassure them that they are not bragging if they answer these questions!)**

**3) Read Proverbs 9:10. Brent suggested four ways to "get" wisdom. The first way (the starting point for getting wisdom) is to have a "fear of the Lord." How would you describe the "fear of the Lord?" The primary meaning of fear (the most frequent meaning), in both the OT and NT, is "the emotion of being afraid." The secondary meaning (the less frequent meaning) is, "awe, reverence, respect."**

**4) Brent spoke about a healthy fear (feeling of being afraid) because God is so powerful and holy. Do you see this "healthy fear" as a motivation to live wisely (as a starting point for wisdom)? Brent also described how God's might and wisdom and holiness should also cause us to have an "awe, respect, and reverence" for God. In what ways can this be a starting point for wisdom?**

**5) Read Proverbs 4:7. What are some insights you can draw out of this verse?**

- 6) Brent mentioned 3 additional ways to “get wisdom” (beyond having a “fear of the LORD”): 1) from God Himself (Proverbs 3:5-6; James 1:5); 2) from the Bible (the whole book of Proverbs; 2 Timothy 3:16); and 3) from wise people (Proverbs 1:8-10, 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33). **Which of these three sources of wisdom do you trust the most...the least? Which of these three sources of wisdom do you find it easiest to glean wisdom from?**
- 7) It is important that we apply what we are learning. Here are three options:
- a. **Present a problem or dilemma to God** (i.e., a relationship or financial struggle, a dilemma, a sin you are having trouble defeating) **and then sit quietly for 10 minutes, listening for God to give you wisdom regarding that problem or dilemma.** (And yes, this might feel like an eternity!) Don’t worry too much about your mind wandering. Just keep sitting there, asking God for wisdom regarding your problem or dilemma. You might not hear anything, or you might wonder whether the voice you hear is your own voice or God’s, but be disciplined to sit and wait and listen. It is important that we establish habits of actually listening for God’s voice.
  - b. **Each day for the next week, read the chapter of Proverbs that corresponds to the date for that day.** (So Monday, April 19, you would read chapter 19; on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> you would read chapter 20, etc.) Read the chapter slowly. Then read it again. Then read it a third time. Choose a verse that jumped off the page and “pray” that verse.
  - c. **Think of a wise person you know. If you are facing a dilemma or struggle, meet with that person and seek their advice/wisdom.**