

Reboot

The Madness of Wisdom

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

“12 So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. 13 Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. 14 The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. 15 Then I said in my heart, “What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?” And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. 16 For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! 17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind. 18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. 20 So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? 23 For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. 24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, 25 for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? 26 For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.” – Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 (ESV)

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- What was your favorite subject in school? Why did you enjoy it?
- Do you like learning new things? Why or why not?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read Ecclesiastes 2:12-26. What do the wise and the foolish have in common? Why is their fate the same in the end?
- Wisdom has its benefits in this life but why is it also vanity to the writer in the end?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- How can we sometimes idolize wisdom and knowledge?
- How can we value wisdom without idolizing it?
- True wisdom is found in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus said: “Someone greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:42). Wisdom gives us perspective for our lifestyle, decision making, and relationships. We can’t control what people think, say, or do. However, we can gain as much wisdom in Christ (Colossians 2:2-3) as we can for this life.
- True wisdom is the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 9:10). How does this overlap with Ecclesiastes 2:24-25?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- How will you seek to gain wisdom from Jesus this week?
- Pray to God to grant you true wisdom that comes from Him.

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What’s a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.