

# Welcome to Teen Church at RFBC!

Sunday, September 10,  
2023

# Announcements

- Happy birthday to those of you who were born in September!
- Support the Boy Scouts with popcorn sales.
- We will sign cards for the sick and shut in next week.



# Prayer and Preparation

This week, we are continuing a series where we will continue to unpack the word "wisdom."

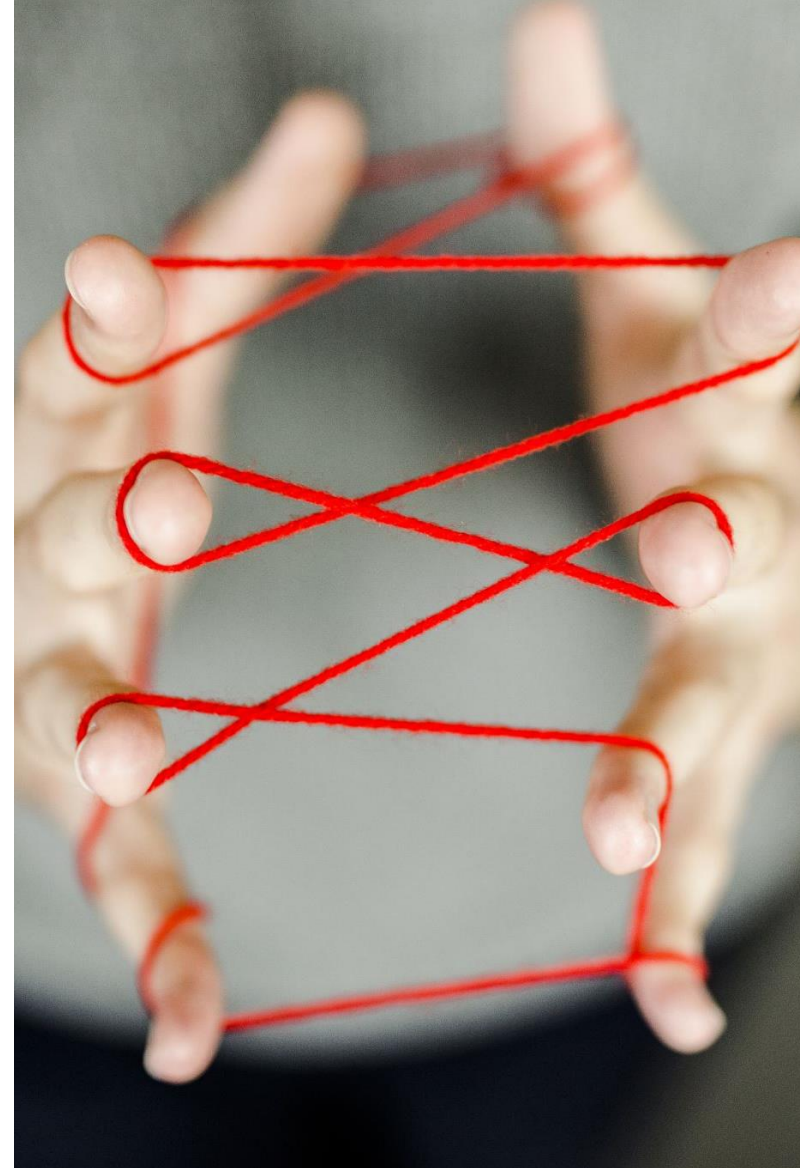
Today, our focus is "Wisdom and Discernment."

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## Example/Activity

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# Discernment

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- By looking at this picture, can you tell who is the “good” one?
- Which one is the “evil” or “bad” one?
- How do you know?
- What do you know about Tom and Jerry? Is the troublemaker who you think it is? Who “lawfully” lives in the house? Is Tom a troublemaker or is he a watchful cat who is trying to rid his house of a pest? Is Jerry a good mouse or is he a cunning mouse who is trying to survive?
- Why is Tom always the one in “trouble?”
- Some things aren’t always as they seem.



# Bottom Line:

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WISDOM DISCERNS WHAT IS GOOD.



# Discernment

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DISCERNMENT HELPS US IDENTIFY WHAT IS

- MORALLY RIGHT (AND/OR)
- LAWFULLY RIGHT

AND HOW TO JUDGE CORRECTLY WHAT/WHO IS GOOD AND WHAT/WHO IS NOT.

EVERYTHING THAT IS LAWFULLY RIGHT, IS NOT MORALLY RIGHT.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT IT?





# Question

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**Are you tired of learning lessons the hard way?**

If we will open our hearts to get wisdom, God will show us how to have understanding and will keep us from continuing in making poor decisions.

# What does the Bible say?

Proverbs 3:13

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CEV

God blesses everyone who has wisdom and common sense.

NIV

Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding...

# What does the Bible say?

Proverbs 15:14

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## CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION

Anyone with good sense is eager to learn more, but fools are hungry for foolishness.

## NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash.

What does  
this mean for  
us today?

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# What does the Bible say?

Philippians 1: 9-11 CEV

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CEV

**9** I pray that your love will keep on growing and you will fully know and understand

**10** how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day,

**11** Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God.

# Scripture says...

- Another word for wisdom is discernment.
- The ability to “define and act upon the difference between right and wrong.”
- Charles Spurgeon would say it’s the difference between “right and almost right.”
- We must practice discernment.
- How do we do that?
- Discernment and growth go hand in hand.
- Discern what is pleasing to God and what is not.



How do we  
apply this?

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# What does the Bible say?

Proverbs 3: 5-6

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CEV

- 5** With all your heart you must trust the LORD and not your own judgment.  
**6** Always let him lead you, and he will clear the road for you to follow.

NIV

- 5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
**6** in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



# Application...

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How often have you hurt someone or made a mistake because you tried to figure something out on your own.

Proverbs 2 told us that as we study God's word, God will give us discernment.

Ask God for discernment. Pray.

If you want to know what is best for you—what is right and best—pray. Ask God to mature you in the area of discernment. You desire to make good decisions—decisions he would be pleased with.



# Discussion...

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1. Have you ever made a bad decision even though you knew it wouldn't end well for you?
2. Do you feel like you have to learn lessons the hard way? Why or why not?
3. What's the difference between information and understanding? Give some examples of how this would look in our lives.
4. How can you lean on God's understanding and not your own this week?

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching upwards, palm facing up, towards a bright, hazy sun in a sky. The lighting is warm and golden, creating a sense of hope and aspiration.

# So...

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If you feel like you are stuck in a cycle where you consistently make bad decisions, knowing what you shouldn't do, Jesus offers you a way out.

If you will ask for wisdom and understanding and begin to yield yourself to God, the Holy Spirit will give you discernment as you learn to lean on Him.

God gives wisdom to those who ask. Ask God for wisdom and understanding. Ask Him for common sense.





Altar Prayer  
Call to Discipleship  
Benediction

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