



## FOOL, PART 1: WISE IN YOUR EYES

We all know people who have a lot of book smarts, but who aren't street wise. Just having a high IQ doesn't guarantee living a successful life. Don't believe me? Just ask Solomon. He was the wisest person who has ever lived, but as we will see over the next couple of weeks, he started well with wisdom but ended his life as a fool.

BIG IDEA: Dependence gives direction.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*\* Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. Webster's dictionary defines a fool as "a person who lacks good judgment." Have you or someone you known ever made a foolish decision? Share it with the group.
2. Read how Solomon defines a fool in [Proverbs 3:7](#).

*Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.*

[Proverbs 3:7 \(NIV\)](#)

The fool thinks about what seems right to them instead of involving God in their choices. When we are wise in our own eyes, we come to believe that everything we do and say is right. We let pride take over and this way of thinking leads us to be the exact opposite of what God desires from us. We end up turning our attention towards pursuing our own wants and needs, and putting God's agenda on the back burner. As you pray today, ask God to show you where you are missing out on involving Him in your decision making.

3. Reflect back to a time when you were wise in your own eyes. How many of you can think of a time when you were wise in your own eyes and it didn't work out?
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, read [1 Kings 3:5-13](#).*

*<sup>5</sup> That night the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!" <sup>6</sup> Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne. <sup>7</sup> "Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. <sup>8</sup> And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! <sup>9</sup> Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?" <sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. <sup>11</sup> So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—<sup>12</sup> I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! <sup>13</sup> And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!" [1 Kings 3:5-13 \(NLT\)](#)*

5. When you rely on your own understanding, it will never be enough. God truly does have everything figured out. Solomon knew this. That's why he asked for wisdom.

6. Put yourself in Solomon's shoes for a minute. God shows up in a dream in this Genie moment and says you can have anything. What would you wish for? (*Don't just give the spiritual answers! People in this group know you!*)
7. Chris said, "*The Lord asks penetrating questions in order that we may discover what our deepest desires are.*" What do we learn about Solomon and his character? Solomon and how he views himself? How he views leading God's people, the Israelites?
8. You need only trust Him and His guidance in your life. It's time to stop trying to have all the knowledge yourself and start dialing into His wisdom. Let Him make your crooked path straight. [Read Proverbs 3:5-6.](#) You have true wisdom when you believe that the Lord is wiser than your best reasoning.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.* [Proverbs 3:5-6 \(NIV\)](#)

Even Solomon had his moments where his heart gradually wondered. As we will see next week, Solomon compromised God's command regarding who to marry; he leaned in to his own understanding and wound up destroying his family, his kingdom, and his legacy.

9. Think about a time when you let your standards slip and you acted foolishly. What was the end result? When you compromise your obedience to God, you can damage your future and potentially derail the plans God has for your life.

## MOVING FORWARD

God has tremendous plans for your life; you need only to be obedient to His guidance. There are so many areas of life where you need God's wisdom. Your relationships, your career, your children, your health; the list is endless because ultimately God should be involved in every aspect of your life.

What would it look like to acknowledge God in all your ways? In your prayer time today, invite God to take over every area of your life. It's time to incorporate some new habits into your life. It starts with "...in all your ways acknowledge Him."

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding.* [Proverbs 3:7, 9:10 \(NIV\)](#)