



Table Group Discussion Questions

Series: Practical Wisdom

Title: “How Do I Become Wise?” on July 12, 2026

Start Here (5 minutes)

1. Where do you usually go first when you need to make a decision — Google, a trusted person, your own gut, or somewhere else? Has that changed over the years?

Getting to Know Each Other (10 minutes)

2. Are you more of a “jump in the pool” kind of person or a “learn to swim first” kind of person — in general and in your relationship with God? What’s a story that proves it?

Getting Into the Word (20 minutes)

Read together: **Proverbs 1:1–7**

The sermon opened with this question: with more access to information than any generation in history, are we actually becoming wiser? Maria Popova says we’re confusing information with wisdom — and that more information without context can actually muddle our understanding rather than enrich it.

3. Where in your own life have you experienced that gap — a moment when you had plenty of information but still didn’t know what to do? What was missing?

Proverbs 1:2–3 says the Proverbs exist to teach **wisdom and discipline**, to help us understand wise sayings, and to provide instruction that is **righteous, just, and full of integrity**. The sermon described three things Proverbs do: they **set the target** for human flourishing, **guide us** in making good decisions, and **guard us** against the pitfalls that lead away from the good life.

4. Which of those three do you most need right now — a clearer target for what a flourishing life looks like, better guidance for a specific decision, or protection from a pattern that keeps pulling you away from what’s good? Be as specific as you’re able.

Proverbs 1:7 says: “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*” The sermon described the fear of the Lord not as blind terror but as healthy awe and reverence — like a new swimmer who has deep respect for the water. The goal isn’t fearful paralysis or fearless foolishness, but confident swimming rooted in genuine respect.

5. What does your relationship with God actually feel like right now — afraid, apathetic, or something like healthy reverence? What has shaped that?

The sermon said Proverbs are not about building a kingdom where you reign supreme — they’re about aligning yourself to the God who reigns. Not living life *my way* but learning to live according to *his wisdom*. And it named two enemies of wisdom: **evil** and **apathy** — the person who does wrong, and the person who just coasts, putting a Jesus label on a life running on the same fuel as everyone else.

6. Which of those two is the bigger temptation for you personally — evil or apathy? What does apathy look like in your daily life when it shows up?

Going Deeper with Each Other (20 minutes)

The sermon's closing question: *"Which path are you on right now? Not which path do you want to be on. Not which path you think you should be on. Which path are you actually on?"*

7. Sit with that question honestly for a moment. The fool isn't always someone who's made terrible decisions — sometimes the fool is just the person who stopped listening, stopped pursuing, and started coasting. The wise person isn't the one who has it all figured out — just the one who keeps showing up. Where are you right now, really?

The sermon said wisdom must be actively pursued — it won't fall out of heaven into our laps. But it also said wisdom grows an appetite: you start pursuing it for what it produces, and over time you start pursuing it because it's true, good, and beautiful. Like coffee — you didn't love it the first time, but you kept coming back.

8. What has your pursuit of wisdom actually looked like over the last year? What's helped you grow in wisdom — and what's gotten in the way? **ACTION BONUS:** Identify one person in your life who is genuinely further down the road in wisdom than you. Reach out to them this week and ask if you can meet for coffee or a meal.

The sermon offered five ways to grow in wisdom: read Proverbs daily, learn from those who have gone before, seek out wise people, pay attention to your life, and learn from your mistakes. The posture underneath all five is humility — *"I'm not it, but he is, and I want to learn from him my whole life."*

9. Which of those five is most natural for you — and which one do you most resist? What would it look like to lean into the one you resist this week?

Coming Back to Where You Started (5 minutes)

The sermon said: *"Wisdom is a relationship with a God who forms you — over time, through real life — into someone who actually knows how to live."*

10. Has anything shifted in how you think about wisdom after this conversation? What's one thing you're taking away?

Pray for Each Other (10 minutes)

Don't close with a general prayer. Go around the table and let each person share one specific thing they want the group to pray for — something connected to the path they're on, the wisdom they need, or the posture they want to have. Then pray for each person by name, out loud, before you leave.

If the group is ready for it, try praying this over each person: *"Lord, give [name] the fear of the Lord — not terror, but the kind of awe that keeps them close to you and on the path toward true flourishing."*

One Thing to Carry Into the Week

The **"now what"** from the sermon: before you reach for your phone in the morning this week, reach for Proverbs instead. One chapter. That's it. We've got seven weeks together in this series — that's all it takes to get through the whole book. Let that be the first voice you hear in the morning instead of Instagram or TikTok. That's where the posture shift begins.

Try it at least once before the group meets again. Come back and tell someone what happened.