

SMALL GROUP LESSON: THE WISDOM OF GOD

The Real God, Part 5

Scripture: Proverbs 2:1–15

¹ My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,

² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—

³ indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,

⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

⁸ for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

⁹ Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path.

¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

¹¹ Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

¹² Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse,

¹³ who have left the straight paths to walk in dark ways,

¹⁴ who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,

¹⁵ whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

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DISCUSSION STARTERS

Read through the questions below and pick the ones that would work best for your group. Chances are, you won't need to work through all of them! Ask the questions in your own words—don't feel that you need to read them "as is." And feel free to ask your own questions! Keep the overall objective in mind so that no matter what "path" your conversation takes, you end up driving home the objective.

OBJECTIVE

To help your students understand that God's wisdom means his perfect knowledge leads to the best decisions.

1. WARM UP

- Whom do you talk to when you need wisdom or advice? Why do you trust that person?
- Based on the message, what's your definition of God's wisdom?

2. SET UP THE PASSAGE

"God's wisdom is perfect—He's never surprised and He's always right—and God is the ultimate source for wisdom and truth." This week, we are looking at a passage from the beginning of the book of Proverbs. Most of this book contains short bits of wisdom like these:

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
(Proverbs 3:5)*

As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. (Proverbs 31:6)

3. CONTEXT QUESTIONS (focus on scripture)

- Read the passage out loud (consider having a different student read it a second time).
- Does anyone have any questions about this passage? Did you find anything confusing or difficult to understand?
- If you had to summarize this passage in a single sentence, what would it be? What phrases from the scripture support your paraphrase?
- Verse 5 connects fear of the Lord with the knowledge of God, and Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Why is this true? What does fear have to do with gaining wisdom? Isn't fear a bad thing?

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need to be perfect to earn God's love and protection? Explain why you feel the way you do.

Re-read verses 12–15.

- How does this passage define the “wicked”?
- Verse 12 says, “Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men.” In your opinion, how might wisdom protect you?

4. APPLICATION QUESTIONS (focus on personal significance)

- Verse 10 says, “Knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.” In your opinion, what does this mean? How can this be true in your own life—how can knowledge be pleasant to your soul?
- In your opinion, why do people ignore wisdom? Why do we sometimes do the wrong thing even when we know we shouldn't?
- Practically speaking, how can a person gain more of God's wisdom?
- As a small group, how can we hold one another accountable to spending time in God's Word?
- What situation are you currently facing in which you need more of God's wisdom? (We suggest using this time to share rather than “fix” each other's situations.)
- In the message, we had three responses to God's wisdom. Which one was most challenging for you personally and why?

1. Begin by fearing God.
2. Decide to trust God completely.
3. Search for wisdom in God's Word.

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