

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: WISDOM WEEK of Dec 9-15, 2018

PREPARE:

Please make sure to review the material in the guide so you are prepared for the conversation in your Life Group. I encourage you to pray and center your heart for what God wants to do tonight.

WELCOME:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with Life Group members. An icebreaker question could be to ask what they are looking for for Christmas.

VIDEO:

Watch the video together. Pastor Jonathan will be setting up the discussion on Wisdom.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

The Magi Visit the Messiah

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6

*"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

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7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)

The Wise and Foolish Builders

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

James 3:17 (NIV)

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

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Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

*Walk with the wise and become wise,
for a companion of fools suffers harm.*

REFLECTION/VISION STATEMENT TIME:

Provide 3-5 minutes for quiet reflection on the passage, so your Life Group members can collect their thoughts and questions. But before you do, say something like:

“I encourage you to first take a couple minutes to reflect on these passages and what it is that makes a wise person.”

QUESTIONS/OBSERVATIONS:

(Choose ahead of time your favorites. You won't be able to ask all of these.)

Question:

Who is someone you've noticed who shows great wisdom?
What is it about them that makes them wise in your mind?

Question:

What do we learn and recognize about the wise men in Matthew's account of their visit to baby Jesus?

- *(Possible add on):* What have you learned from this message series on Sunday mornings?

Question:

What does the passage in Matthew 7 with the wise and foolish builders mean? What does it mean for us today?

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Question:

James 3:17 lists out the attributes of heavenly wisdom as “pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” How do we grow in our wisdom?

Question:

Proverbs 13:20 seems to insinuate that if we surround ourselves with wise or foolish people, we will become like them. In what ways have you seen this to be true?

Question:

Based on these passages, if someone wants to grow in wisdom, what would they do?

Observation: Wisdom is listening to what Jesus says and then having the strength and boldness to do it.

Observation:

Wise people...

- Ask God for wisdom (Matthew 7:7)
- Have reverence for God (Proverbs 1:7)
- Surround themselves with wise people (Proverbs 13:20)
- Are diligent and prepared for action (Proverbs 21:20)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSISTENT AND FAITHFUL
LEADERSHIP!**

Have a Merry Christmas!