

Seeking Godly Counsel

Bulletin Outline

Rehoboam is faced with a difficult decision and decides to ask for more time and seek out advice. (1 Kings 11:1-5)

The Importance of Wise Counsel (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 24:6, 12:15, 19:20; James 1:5-6, 19)

Seek Wise Counsel Because

1. Emotion is a fog that shrinks your field of vision.
2. You don't know what you don't know. (1 Kings 12:6-14, Prov. 13:30)

Choosing Wise Counsel

1. Choose people who have nothing to lose by telling you the truth. (Prov. 27:5-6, 27:17)
2. Choose people who are where you want to be. (Prov. 14:7)

What To Ask

1. Are any of the options I'm considering outside the bounds of Scripture?
2. What am I missing? (Do you see any blind spots?)
3. What is the wise thing to do?

Pride and fear prevents us from asking for advice, but the gospel sets us free from both pride and fear by His grace. (Gal. 2:20)

Small Group Discussion Questions:

- When you think of a wise person, what qualities or characteristics come to mind?
- Read 1 Kings 12:1–5. What pressures was Rehoboam facing as a brand-new king? What did he do wisely before giving the people an answer?
- Read 1 Kings 12:6–11. What differences do you notice between the advice of the elders and the advice of Rehoboam’s younger friends? Why do you think the younger men’s advice appealed to him?
- Read Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, and 19:20. What do these verses teach about the importance of receiving counsel? Which verse stands out to you most?
- The sermon described emotion as “a fog that shrinks your field of vision.” What are some emotions that can make it difficult for people to see a situation clearly or make a wise decision?
- One reason we need advice is that “we don’t know what we don’t know.” What are some situations where another person’s experience or outside perspective can be especially valuable?
- Read Proverbs 27:5–6 and 27:17. According to these verses, what does a good and trustworthy friend sometimes need to do? How is that different from being critical or argumentative?
- The sermon encouraged us to seek advice from people who have nothing to lose by telling us the truth and whose lives show the kind of fruit we want. What should we look for when deciding whether someone is a wise counselor?

- Read Galatians 2:20. How does knowing that our lives belong to Christ change the way we respond when wise counsel conflicts with what we want to do?
- Think about a decision, relationship, or situation where outside perspective might help you. Who is one wise and trustworthy person you could speak with, and which question would be most useful to ask: “Is anything I’m considering outside Scripture?” “What am I missing?” or “What is the wise thing to do?”