Walking in God's Wisdom

Eph. 5:15-17

Bulletin:

1. See the times clearly.
   Evil days are more ordinary than we think.
   (*Eph. 2:1-3*)

2. Seize the day wisely.
   Making the most of the time is about priorities, not productivity.
   (*Eph. 5:8, Phil 2:14-16*)

3. Surrender to God's wisdom and God's will.
   God reveals his wisdom and will to those who are ready to obey.
   (*Prov. 9:10, Acts 9:31, Prov. 29:25, Col. 3:16, James 1:5-8, Prov. 2:1-6, Rom 12:1-2*)

Small Group Discussion Questions

(Choose 1 or 2 from each category.)

Ice-Breakers:

1. What's your favorite oxymoron? (Think: "living sacrifice," "jumbo shrimp," "act naturally," etc.
2. "Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad." What's a time where you had the knowledge but not the wisdom?

Gospel:

1. Christ has defeated Satan, yet we still live in "evil days." How would you explain this "already and not yet" tension to a new believer?
2. Ephesians 2:3 says we were "by nature children under wrath." Why does Paul want believers to remember who they used to be?
3. Paul says to make the most of the time *because the days are evil,* not because time is short. How does that reason change the way we think about our priorities?
4. Why do you think Scripture says the fear of the Lord is the *beginning* of wisdom, and not simply part of it?
5. Acts 9:31 pairs "the fear of the Lord" with "the encouragement of the Holy Spirit." Why do we need both?

Community:

1. Colossians 3:16 links wisdom with the word of Christ dwelling in us richly, and with singing together. Why might God design wisdom to grow in community rather than alone?
2. Why do you think grumbling spreads so easily in families, workplaces, and even churches? What does it do to the relationships involved?
3. When a group, family, or friendship starts bonding over shared complaints, what is lost? How can someone gently redirect it toward gratitude?
4. The sermon quoted Ed Welch, who described the fear of man as when we "desire the approval of others so much that we need them more than we love them." Where do you see that dynamic most in your relationships, such as with a spouse, parents, kids, coworkers, or friends?
5. Who has been a source of godly wisdom in your life? What did they do that made it easy to receive?
6. Many people are turning to AI for spiritual guidance and a sense of being "seen." How does that open a door for Christians to offer real presence and prayer?

Mission:

1. If “making the most of the time” means taking every opportunity, what opportunities might God be placing in front of you during these evil days?
2. The sermon said redeeming the time is about priorities, not productivity. If someone looked at your calendar, what would they conclude about your priorities? Where does mission fit?
3. Colossians 4:5 echoes Ephesians 5:16: “Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time.” How does “acting wisely toward outsiders” look different from simply being nice?
4. Acts 9:31 says the church lived in the fear of the Lord, was encouraged by the Holy Spirit, and *grew in numbers*. What connection do you see between reverence for God and the spread of the gospel?
5. How does the fear of man most often keep you from sharing your faith? What would change if God were “big” in that moment?