Small Group Guide: QUESTIONS-WISDOM-THEOLOGY - When You Want To Make Wise Decisions

Opening Question

What is one harmless or funny "it seemed like a good idea at the time" moment you can laugh about now?

Opening Prayer

God, thank You for bringing us together. As we talk about wisdom, help us to be open to Your Word and honest about where we need Your guidance. Teach us to seek You first, trust Your truth, and live in a way that honors You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

Wisdom is incredibly valuable. Proverbs describes wisdom as more precious than silver, gold, or rubies. It is worth pursuing like hidden treasure.

Wisdom is not the same as intelligence or education. It is not based on IQ, degrees, or life experience alone. Biblical wisdom comes from God and is available to those who seek Him.

Wisdom gives us power to change, lead, and live differently. It helps us make better decisions in our homes, workplaces, families, and relationships.

Wisdom begins with accepting God's Word. Instead of asking only, "How will this make me feel?" wisdom asks, "What does God say?"

We must ask God for wisdom. God gives wisdom generously to His people when they ask Him.

Wisdom must be practiced, not just known. Jesus said the wise person hears His words and puts them into practice. Truth that is not obeyed does not transform us.

The world offers many competing voices. Culture, emotions, selfishness, and peer pressure can carry us away. God calls us to live carefully and wisely.

Wise people seek godly counsel. We turn first to God and His Word, then seek counsel from believers who are grounded in Scripture.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Proverbs 4:7.** Why do you think Scripture places such a high value on wisdom?
2. **Read Proverbs 2:1-6.** What words or phrases in this passage show that wisdom must be actively pursued?
3. Pastor Dan compared seeking wisdom to a treasure hunt. What are some ways people today commonly search for wisdom in the wrong places?
4. **Read Psalm 19:7.** This verse says God's instruction is perfect and makes the inexperienced wise. How does God's Word help us make better decisions?
5. **Read Matthew 7:24-27.** What is the difference between simply knowing God's Word and building your life on it?
6. **Read Ephesians 5:15-17.** What does it look like for believers to live carefully and wisely in today's culture?
7. Pastor Dan said unwise people often ask, "What is everybody else doing?" or "How will this make me feel?" What are better questions Christians should ask when making decisions?
8. When giving or receiving advice, why is it important to distinguish between personal opinion and biblical wisdom? How can our Community Groups help one another seek wisdom in a healthy, God-honoring way?

Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

1. **Read one chapter of Proverbs each day this week.** As you read, look for one practical wisdom principle to apply.
2. **Ask God for wisdom daily.** Begin each morning with a simple prayer: "Lord, give me wisdom to honor You today."
3. **Evaluate one decision through God's Word.** Choose one area - finances, priorities, relationships, parenting, work, or character - and ask, "Am I being shaped more by the world or by Scripture?"
4. **Seek godly counsel.** If you are facing a decision, talk with a mature believer who will point you back to God's Word, not just personal opinion.
5. **Move from knowing to doing.** Identify one truth from the sermon or discussion that you already know but need to put into practice this week.

Memory Verse for This Week

> **Ephesians 5:15-17** - 'Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.'

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for reminding us that wisdom comes from You. Help us not just to hear Your Word, but to obey it. Give us discernment when the world pulls us in different directions, and help us seek Your wisdom in our decisions, relationships, and priorities. May our lives reflect Jesus more clearly this week. In Jesus' name, amen.