

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

JAMES 3:13-18

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – NOVEMBER 12, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

James 3:13-18 ESV

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

How does someone's behavior illustrate whether they are living foolishly or wisely?

SERMON RECAP

Wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her (Proverbs 8:11).

There is a path... a way of life... a skill... that you can use to make better decisions, resulting in less drama, and fewer regrets. And that path is paved in WISDOM. It is not a suppressor of life; it is a suppressor of unnecessary regret.

Wisdom is more than knowledge or information.

- A wise person can be knowledgeable, but a knowledgeable person is not necessarily wise.

Wisdom is more than right and wrong.

- Wisdom helps you know what to do when there is not a clear right or wrong.

Wisdom is skillful living according to God's design and purposes.

- Wisdom is your life, your conduct, your decisions and whether those day-to-day decisions are grounded in God's good design and flow out of God's glorious purposes.

Wisdom is what people see when they see the fruit of the practice of our lives.

- We can practice worldly wisdom (comes from below), which leads to disorder and every vile practice (jealousy, self-ambition, pride, etc.), or
- We can practice godly wisdom (comes from above), which equips us to pursue peace and wholeness in our lives and relationships.

Worldly wisdom leaves carnage in its wake. Godly (true) wisdom is something we live out. It's the path that leads to a life well-lived and it leaves behind a legacy for others to follow.

Four steps to increase wisdom:

- Be Reverent,
- Be Repentant,
- Be Reading the Written Word,
- Be Requesting More Wisdom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read James 3:13-18 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What do you notice about wisdom and behavior in James 3:13?
 - What are the hallmarks of worldly wisdom? (James 3:14-16)
 - What are the hallmarks of godly wisdom? (James 3:17-18)



- How would you summarize James 3:13-18 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read James 1:5, Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 4:11-12, Proverbs 8:11.
 - What is wisdom?
 - Why does God's Word place such great value in wisdom?
 - What are some examples of biblical wisdom that you can find in the Word?
2. Worldly wisdom is in conflict with godly wisdom.
 - What examples of worldly wisdom have you seen or experienced?
 - What results did you see from worldly wisdom?
 - What examples of godly wisdom have you seen or experienced?
 - What results did you see from godly wisdom?
 - Why is it more important to practice godly wisdom than worldly wisdom?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Be reverent and be repentant.
 - How specifically does your life show reverence for God? If not, why not?
 - How would someone watching you see your reverence for and adoration of Jesus? If not, why not?
 - Where might you be practicing worldly wisdom rather than godly wisdom? Is there carnage in your wake, or are you laying down a legacy that could be emulated?
 - Where might you need to repent from a lack of practicing godly wisdom? How can your Church Group support you in prayer?
2. Be in the written Word and be requesting more wisdom.
 - What exactly are the parameters of your time in the Word – Once or twice a week? When you feel like it? Daily devotions? How?
 - What drives you to the Word? – Do you do it to fulfill an obligation or routine? (Only) when things or circumstances are challenging? Do you turn to the Word out of a sincere need to hear from God and to spend time with Him?
 - How can the Word become your true source to request more wisdom from God?
 - How can your Church Group encourage and support you in your time in the Word and in your quest for more wisdom?

LEADER NOTES

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST | Friday, November 17 at 6:30 AM at Anita's Restaurant in Leesburg. Good food, good community, and really good news! Sign up on our [events page](#).

ROCK PARENTS NIGHT | Wednesday, November 15, 7-8:30 PM at the Douglass Community Center in Leesburg. Parents of MS and HS students, we invite you to a session with Pastor Britten and KC Weidhaas, Director of Rock Student Ministry, as the share about "Listening and Communication with Your Teen." Sign up on our [events page](#).

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT PROJECT BELONG | This season, we are purchasing gifts for 20 local teens in foster care. Take a tag on Sunday, purchase and wrap the gift and bring back to church on Sunday, December 3. Questions, contact Loudoun@mcleanbible.org.