



Unwrapped

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Christmas Eve December 24, 10:30AM Vic Juba Theatre
- New Year's Eve December 31, 10:30AM Vic Juba Theatre

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- The Spirit to grant you wisdom as you enter into the new year.
- Mosaic Downtown plans and strategies.
- Many guests to come to our Holiday worship events and make decisions to receive Jesus.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

WISDOM IS A GIFT THAT SHOULD BE DESIRED AND RECEIVED. IN THIS STUDY, WE WANT TO UNWRAP THE GIFT OF WISDOM MADE AVAILABLE FOR US BY JESUS.

I Corinthians 1:30, *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

Christmas is a season of gifts, that's because God chose to gift us with the presence of His Son, Jesus. We receive the ultimate gift of God when we personally accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. When we accept Jesus we also receive the numerous gifts that God has for one (read John 1:16). One of those gifts is, wisdom. The dictionary defines wisdom as "the ability to discern, judge or decide on what is true, important, right, or lasting." It is different from knowledge. Knowledge can exist without wisdom, but wisdom cannot exist without knowledge. One can be know a lot of information without being wise. Knowledge is knowing how to use a gun; wisdom is knowing when to use it and when to keep it holstered. Wisdom is an important aspect of living because it saves us from heartaches, expensive mistakes and escapable failure; it also leads us to success, victory and a life of joy. "Philosopher" comes from two Greek words meaning, "the lover of wisdom." The ancient Greek philosophers used that word to identify the "smart" people amongst them. But most of the philosophers are not so much in love with wisdom as they are with their own fame! They are not so much interested in how to live wisely before God, but rather in showing how wise they are in being able to win arguments. Wisdom is not about winning arguments, it's about living for God.

YOU MUST SEE YOUR NEED FOR WISDOM. By nature, all of us are self-sufficient know-it-alls. In North America, it's the spirit of rugged individualism, or the self-made person. Every culture idolizes the strong, independent person who seems to have it all together by himself, because pride is endemic to the human heart. But we learned last Sunday that we need to learn from other people's experiences and ultimately, invite God into our lives to give us the wisdom we need for life.

To come to God, we must humble ourselves and admit that we do not know what we need to know in order to live joyfully in the face of trials. By nature, we won't ask for anything we don't think we need. In fact, a main reason that God sometimes allows trials is to humble us from our pride, and help us realize that we need Him. So a prerequisite to obtaining wisdom from God is to recognize our lack of wisdom.

GOD IS THE SOURCE FOR ALL WISDOM. To ask God for wisdom implies that He can deliver what we ask. The Bible plainly states, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Prov. 2:6). It warns, "There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the Lord" (Prov. 21:30). In other words, if worldly "wisdom" contradicts or goes against God, it is false "wisdom." Only God's wisdom stands.

GOD REVEALS HIS WISDOM BY HIS SPIRIT THROUGH HIS WORD. God's wisdom does not come as a sudden revelation or impression that hits out of nowhere. God's wisdom comes directly from God and is revealed in His Word. It especially centers in the knowledge of Christ, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3; Col. 1:9; Eph. 1:16-17). God reveals His wisdom by the Holy Spirit to those who are focused on Him (1 Cor. 2:6-16). That wisdom has to do with knowing how to apply biblical truth to particular situations in life. Thus if you are not spending consistent time learning God's Word, you will not have the wisdom that you need when trials hit. The time to seek wisdom from God is before the calamity hits (Prov. 1:20-33).

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

What has been the best adventure you have had so far?

What is the most foolish thing you've ever done that cost you a lot of embarrassment, shame or pain?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Read Matthew 2:1-12

1. Who were the wise men?
2. What impresses you the most about the magi?

[**Trivia:** Did you know that the word Magi is where we get the word "magic" from?]

3. What Christmas activities detract you from having this sense of urgency, joy, and worship?
4. What Christmas activities draw you into a closer sense of urgency, joy and worship?
5. What one thing will you do consistently year-round to enhance these three attitudes urgency, joy and worship toward the Lord?
6. What did the wise men discern from Herod's heart, and what did they decide to do as a result?

Read I Corinthians 1:20-25

What differences are there between the Jews and Greeks when it comes to seeking wisdom?

When you seek wisdom from someone or something, what are your criteria (and prejudices) before you go to them?

Why is it important to affirm that God, not man, always begins the seeking process (I Cor. 1:26-31)?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Why do believers turn quickly to the world's wisdom (psychology, self-help programs, etc.) when God offers His wisdom?

Why is it important that believers do not mingle worldly wisdom with God's wisdom in dealing with trials? What's at stake?

Why is it important that believers seek wisdom from godly mentors and disciplers and not just through self-help books? (Do you consult with deep, trusted Christians before you make major decision?)

Why is it important to look to God's Word for wisdom, rather than trusting impressions or feelings?

How would you counsel a doubting Christian to get back to faith in God? Where should he/she begin?

What major decision do you need to make for yourself soon? How can you apply what we've learned in doing so?

NOTICE:

We will not issue study guides for the weeks of December 24th and 31st. We suggest a 2-week study break during the holidays.

We will resume our DGroups on the week of January 7th 2018.