



SERMON NOTES:

25 OCTOBER 2020

Title: *The Wisdom of God*

1. The perfection of God's wisdom

Proverbs 8:22-31; Psalm 104:24; Daniel 2:19-22; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-36

2. The pinnacle of God's wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 & 30; 2:6-9; Ephesians 3:8-11

3. The promise and pursuit of God's wisdom

Proverbs 2:2-6; 3:13-18; 9:10; Psalm 19:7; 119:97-104; James 1:5

4. The proper response to God's wisdom

Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 131; Lamentations 3

COMMUNITY:

★ = Zoom Friendly

★ Tell about someone you know who is wise. What does that look like?

"Hindsight is 20/20" Since we lack God's ability to see the beginning, end and everything in between, we sometimes do things that, in retrospect, we shouldn't have. What's something you would do differently if you'd known the "end" of the story?

This does not have to be super serious. As a leader, you can go first in answering these openers to help people think of possible answers. You could share something silly and have a co-leader give a more serious answer. This models for people the range of what they could answer.

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

(Italicized notations are for leader info)

Are there ways that you are looking for rest in God as you see him and not as he truly is?

Pastor Brian keeps returning to this idea that our view of God needs to be rooted in Scripture and truth, not in how we imagine him. Keep working with your group to uncover our faulty or inaccurate views of God.

★ **What portions of Scripture do you use to root yourself in who God is?**

There have been some great ones in this series so far. This is a great time for some review.

Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and discuss how this supports the definitions Pastor Brian suggested for God's wisdom.

God's wisdom is him achieving "the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time" or that he "devises perfect ends and achieves those ends by the most perfect means." He acts with perfect and complete knowledge.

★ **Read Daniel 2:20-22. What does this tell about God's interaction with COVID? The 2020 Election? Does that bring you peace and hope? Or just more fear and anxiety? Think back about God's love, holiness and mercy and put God's wisdom in the context of who God is.**

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION: *continued*

Read Psalm 19:7-11. What should be our source of wisdom? How should we go about seeking wisdom? What if my opinion doesn't agree with what the Bible says? Can you think of examples of this in our culture or your own life?

Scriptures should be our source of wisdom. We should read, memorize, think about scripture. We should also ask God for wisdom. If I think something sounds right or someone else told me it was right, but the Bible says something else, I need to decide if I'm going to trust God's wisdom or my own. Acknowledge that trusting God's wisdom is easier said than done. This is a BIG DEAL in our culture. If people are willing to seek out Scripture and form views from that wisdom, this will be disruptive to our fitting in culture. It will make us stick out and look different.

★ **What are the ways Pastor Brian talks about that we can receive wisdom? Share a time you knew you had received wisdom from the Lord.**

1. *Fearing the Lord (Proverbs 9:10)*
2. *Being rooted in Scripture (Psalm 119:97-104)*
3. *Asking for it (James 1:5)*

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What does it mean to "acknowledge him" (from verse 6)? How does our posture toward God impact how we trust in his wisdom?

If we are not in the right heart place with God (fearing him by acknowledging him - admitting He's God and I'm not - respecting him - deferring to him), then we will have a hard time trusting him on specifics. We need to stop leaning on our own understanding and admit that God knows better. After our heart is right about this, we will be open to God's direction (straight paths). The sequence of steps in Proverbs 3:5-6 is important.

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS:

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION

How does it make you feel to know that God's wisdom is perfect, that He acts with perfect knowledge all of the time?

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Who in your life needs wisdom from God? Pray for that person each day to seek after God's wisdom.



PRACTICING PRAYER

Think of one area of your life where you need to trust God's wisdom instead of your own. Pair people up and have them pray for each other to look for and trust God's wisdom with that one specific thing.

VERSE MEMORY

Psalm 119:97-98

Oh how I love your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
Your commandments makes me
wiser than my enemies, for it is ever
with me.

english standard version

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Think of a hat you wear throughout the week (employee, mom, husband, etc...). What would relying on God's wisdom instead of your own look like while you wear that hat?

Consider Proverbs 3:5-6. How does this Scripture function in the way you act in these roles?

To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.