

WISDOM / THE PATH TO THE GOOD LIFE

WISDOM: THE PATH TO THE GOOD LIFE

Read the text: Proverbs 2:1-8

My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.

In the midst of our complex and fallen world, we are faced with so many decisions and often have no idea which way to go. More than anything else, we need God's wisdom. Wisdom is how God leads us into the good life, which is the only life that brings glory to God. The good life is life as it was created by God to be lived, according to His definition of good and evil. And we can't walk in wisdom if we're not filled with wisdom. We need to get wisdom into our life so that wisdom comes out of our life.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

As Pastor Alex shared, we need to “get wisdom into our life so that wisdom comes out of our life.” He then shared five keys to gaining wisdom. We’ll reflect on four of these in more detail below:

1. First, we must bind our heart to the bundle of the Gospel. Alex shared, “The only way that we can stay on the path to wisdom - in a fallen world - is if my heart is progressively convinced of the truth of the Gospel that God love’s me, has forgiven me, and will never forsake me.” He invited us to engage in practices, like reading the Bible, prayer, and solitude with God, that will help our hearts remember God’s love for us in the Gospel. *Are you engaging in spiritual practices that remind you of God’s love for you and make it tangible to you? What does that look like? How would you like to grow in this? If you’re not, what keeps you from this? Encourage one another in this; not to make each other feel guilty, but to invite each other into deeper relationship with God.*
2. The second key to gaining wisdom Pastor Alex shared is to “Face our flaws.” Alex said, “If you want to be wise, you must face where you’re a fool!” We’re all foolish in different ways. The wise person will see this and confess it to God, knowing He is quick to forgive us, and ask for His transforming work. *Are there areas of foolishness in your life where God has brought conviction? Take time time to confess those. Often, we can’t see these areas because they are blindspots. Your DNA group (or MC) can be helpful here. If you feel comfortable and trust each other, invite your brothers or sisters to share areas of your life where foolishness may exist. Its okay, we all have them! Ask for help to see them and then take time later to ask the Spirit if these are true.*

3. The third key to gaining wisdom is to stay connected with Christian community. According to the Proverbs, wisdom meets us in community. COVID has disrupted community for all of us. *Even in this disruption, what would it look like to stay connected to community? How is God calling you to pursue that?*

4. The last key to gaining wisdom is to “be willing to be wounded.” Pastor Alex shared, “Sometimes, we receive wisdom from God when we are wounded by God.” Some wounds warn us, protecting us from destructive decisions. And some wounds re-form us, shaping us more and more into the image of Jesus, who was wounded for us. This kind of wounding, or suffering, from the Father helps us deepen our dependence on Jesus, our affections for Jesus, our groaning for heaven, our resolve to obey the Gospel, and our desire for His glory to fill the whole earth. *What are some wounds you’re currently experiencing or have experienced in the past? Were, or are, they wounds from God meant to warn you or re-form you? What was God warning you about? How did God re-form you through this suffering, or how is He currently doing that work?* (NOTE: Be careful as you think about this; some wounds are the result of the sin of others and attack of the Evil One. God can still use them to form you, but He is not the one wounding you and He is so sad to see you hurt by others.)