



## Message Discussion Guide Week of June 4, 2023

**Message:** Word to the Wise, Part 1: The Search for Wisdom

**Key Scriptures:** [Proverbs 1:1-7, 9:9-12](#)

**Preacher:** Pastor Tom Parkinson

### Message Highlights:

Wisdom is practical knowledge that helps us navigate the twists and turns of daily life. Wisdom is knowing what to do and how to do it in response to a wide variety of scenarios life throws our way.

In ancient cultures, wisdom was prized above all else, but our culture doesn't value wisdom. Yet, we all need wisdom, and whether we realize it or not, we are all searching for wisdom.

The Bible is full of wisdom. Three books in the Old Testament – Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes – are called the Wisdom Literature.

- Proverbs is a collection of wisdom sayings from a variety of people and places that was passed down over time.
- Proverbs addresses a variety of topics from friendship to parenting, to managing wealth, to cultivating self-discipline.

The first nine chapters of Proverbs expound an overarching principle that is the key to attaining wisdom: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom." There are three components of cultivating a healthy fear of God:

1. Respect for God's power and authority
2. Reverence for God's glory
3. Humility before God

Our culture today lacks wisdom because we have lost the fear of God. In arrogance, we think we know what's best for ourselves. The result is confusion, division, and discord.

Wisdom begins not with what you know, but with who you know. Cultivating a relationship with God that is built on a healthy fear of the Lord is the wisest thing you can do.

### Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Who is the wisest person you have ever known? What was it about them that made them so wise?
- 2.) Do you agree with Pastor Tom that our culture does not value wisdom? Why doesn't our culture value wisdom like cultures of the past?
- 3.) [Read Proverbs 1:1-7, 9:9-12](#)
  - a. What is the purpose of the book of Proverbs?
  - b. What do these verses say about wisdom?
  - c. Why does the Bible have so much to say about wisdom?
- 4.) Do you fear God? What does it mean to fear the Lord? How can you cultivate a healthy fear of the Lord in your life?
- 5.) What is your primary takeaway from this message? How will this message challenge, inspire, and impact your faith this week?

**Abundant Life Tip:** If you want to be wise, cultivate a healthy fear of God. Respect God's power, revere God's glory, and come before God in humility.