

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Wisdom for Life

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Who is the wisest person you know/ why? **OR** What was the best advice you ever received?

Reading: Proverbs 1:1-7

Outline:

- I. Biblical wisdom is practical. (v 1-4)
 - a. It helps us achieve “wise dealing” (navigating the complexities of life, relationships, and decision-making well, while also seeking to level the playing field for everyone).
 - b. It helps us live good lives; many people, even the non-religious, agree with Jesus’ teachings and Biblical wisdom because it is good, practical advice on how to live well.
Q: How can we define “righteousness, justice, and equity?”
- II. Biblical wisdom requires humility. (v 5-6)
 - a. Pride is the death of wisdom: instead of being proud of what you do know, strive to learn more from a place of humility. Continue to seek more wisdom.
 - b. The wise gladly accept correction, so welcome Biblical correction in all areas of your life.
Q: How can the words of the wise be “riddles?”
- III. Wisdom begins with our relationship with God. (v 7)
 - a. We cannot be wise without attentiveness to our relationship with God. Either God and His Word will be the central truth in your life, or something else will be.
 - b. Jesus not only demonstrates a life of wisdom, but He is wisdom incarnate. Following His life and teachings leads to living a good life.
Q: What does it look like to fear the Lord?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can you center your actions around God’s wisdom this week?
- 2) What is a “complexity” in your life? How can you approach it from a place of wisdom?
- 3) Where do you struggle with pride in your life?
- 4) When was the last time the Scriptures corrected you?
- 5) What are some things you tend to put in place of God as the central truth in your life?

Suggestions for further study:

- James 3:13-18 **Q: Why must wisdom from above first be “pure”?**
- 1 Corinthians 1:20-31 **Q: What is “the folly of what we preach?”**
- Matthew 7:24-27 **Q: How are the two men similar? How do we embody the wise man?**

Closing Prayer: “Gracious God, so often our hearts are bent towards foolishness. Right now, in the midst of pandemics, protests, and even riots, what we need is Your wisdom. Wisdom that causes us to seek not only our own welfare but the welfare of those around us. Wisdom that You made known, not in high and lofty ideals, but in the suffering of your Son for the life of the world. Grow in us the wisdom that leads us to love, serve, and lay down our lives for others so that they might know Jesus. We pray all this in His name, Amen.”