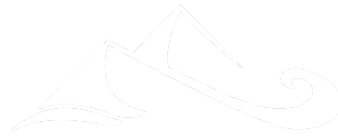


Church on the Rock Homer
Tuesday Training



Church on the Rock Homer
Tuesday Training

Wisdom

Wisdom and Decision Making

(Once you understand wisdom, you'll understand decision making)



Church on the Rock Homer
Tuesday Training

Wisdom

Training Outline

- Jan. 10 - Wisdom: understanding the word
- Jan. 17 - Wisdom's vocabulary: prudence, discernment, etc.
- Jan. 24 - Wisdom, faith, and worldview
- **Jan. 31 - Teaching wisdom and living with it**

Wisdom

Today's Goal

Understand how we can teach wisdom and live it out in our daily lives



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Tuesday Training

Wisdom

Examples of Wise Sayings

Prov. 14:8

Prov. 27:14

Prov. 29:20

Job 13:5

Wisdom

Wisdom, Prudence, and Discretion

Wisdom is godly, biblical **foresight** believing what God says about everything. This foresight has a long-term view looking as far ahead as eternity.

Prudence is short-term in its view. It is focused on the next steps needed in order to get to the long-term goal. In daily life, the best route is not always direct.

Discretion is measuring our response to the decision we need to make. Do I go all in right now, or do I restrain my time, energy, and other resources?

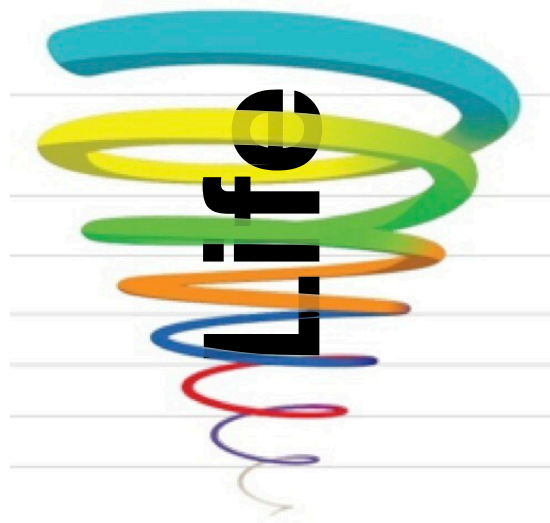
Wisdom

Faith, Wisdom, and Worldview

Biblical Worldview

- God is trustworthy
- Eternal perspective
- I believe what He says about ... everything
- I am accountable to Him
- Given what He says about ____ (my knowledge and understanding), I see that the godly choice is ____

James 1:2-8



Worldly Worldview

- God doesn't matter
- Lifetime perspective
- I believe what I can understand
- I am accountable to ?
- Given my knowledge and understanding, I see that the best choice is ____

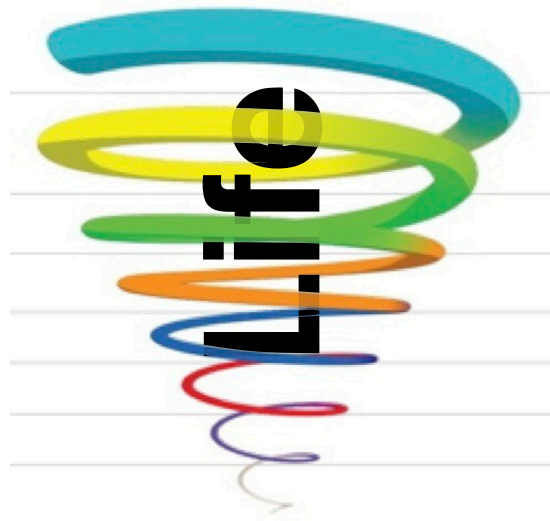
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Faith, Wisdom, and Worldview

Biblical Worldview

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James 1:2-8



Lacking Wisdom

- Wisdom is directly linked to faith, so James warns about doubt
- Remember sources of wisdom: observations and experience, instruction, mistakes, God
- Identify the need and find help

“let him ask of God” = “I don’t have the knowledge and understanding to discern this...”

Wisdom

Faith, Wisdom, and Worldview

Applying understanding and discernment in light of God's Word, having eternal values and eternity itself in view, wisdom makes its choice. Faith looks to the future with confidence that God is trustworthy. He will fulfill His promises. Wisdom acts on that belief, trusting that the outcomes of decisions will be as God promised, even if we don't see the eternal outcomes in our lifetime (Heb. 11:13-16). Through faithful dependence on God and His Word, we can ask for wisdom when we're not sure which choice is best.

Wisdom

Wisdom Understands All of Life

- **Proverbs**
 - Instructions and insights for life
 - Principles about people, situations, and topics
- **Ecclesiastes**
 - Finding fulfillment of all biblical values while “under the sun” isn’t going to happen in this lifetime; true fulfillment is a reality for heaven
 - It is best to live wisely
 - Enjoyment in life is found in not expecting too much “under the sun”
- **Job**
 - There is more to life than we can imagine
 - Humility before God is our best response to life
- **Ephesians 3:10 - It isn’t about US**

Wisdom

A Model for Teaching Wisdom

- “I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.” (4:11)
- Not the end of the lessons but sufficient to understand what wisdom is and how it works
- Between Proverbs 1 and 4, what do we learn of wisdom?
 - Its focus is on outcomes (ch 1)
 - Wisdom’s lessons are conspicuously evident in daily life (ch 1)
 - Apply your heart to understanding and pray for discernment (2:1-9)
 - Seeking wisdom results in knowledge of God, righteousness, justice... (2:1-9)
 - Wisdom entering your heart brings knowledge, discretion, and understanding because of knowing the final outcomes of decisions (2:10-22)
 - Wisdom has a perspective beyond the immediate and temporary (ch 3)

Wisdom

Teaching Wisdom

- Follow Wisdom's example and keep calling attention to lessons that should be learned
 - What did you think was going to happen?
 - Why did that happen?
 - What is the lesson here?
- Point to good examples
- Teach wise sayings, witticisms, etc, and weave them into daily life so that children/others learn to think abstractly, in concepts and principles

Wisdom

Teaching Wisdom

- Wit consists in knowing the resemblance of things that differ, and the difference of things that are alike. (Madame De Stael)
- Wit is the salt of conversation, not the food. (William Hazlitt)
- Anger can be an expensive luxury - Italian Proverb
- The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them - Albert Einstein.
- Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please - Mark Twain.
- Television has proved that people will look at anything rather than each other. – Ann Landers

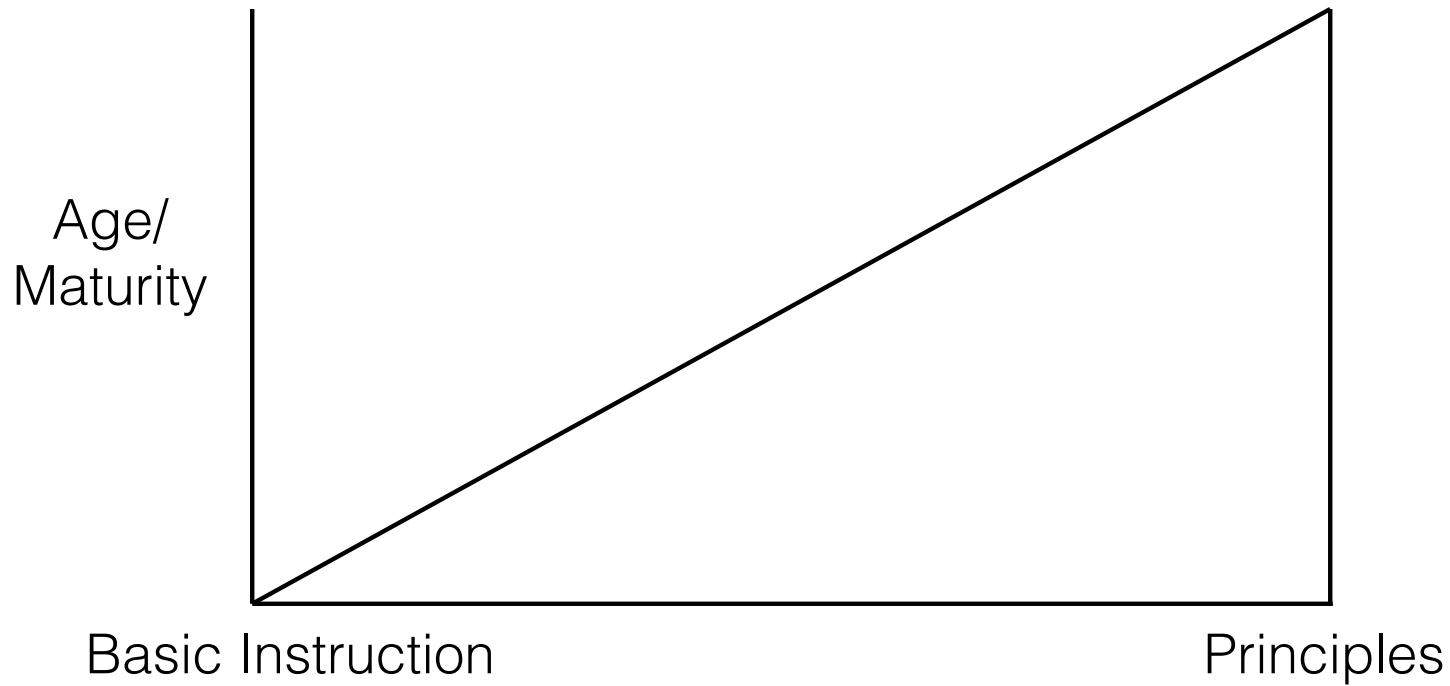
Wisdom

Teaching Wisdom

- Explain specifics of examples and how the outcomes were obvious
- Ask questions that lead to principles
- Study proverbs and then read them to others, asking them to think through the lesson
- Appropriate lessons for appropriate ages
 - Youth - instruction and examples
 - Growing in understanding
 - Focus on principles from instruction
 - Ask lots of questions
 - Maturing - Discussions about principles and ideas/ideals

Wisdom

Teaching Wisdom



Wisdom

Putting the Definition to Work

- ***Being wise*** is living for a godly future, with both a short-term and long-term perspective. Think through things carefully, looking at the outcomes.
- Acting ***wisely*** is behaving in the way that will result in God's blessing, no matter when that blessing will come.
- Making ***a wise decision*** is making a choice based on an anticipation of what will bring blessing, what will help avoid a twisted or dark path, and what reflects walking in faith.

Wisdom

Six Observations

1. Decisions will have consequences, both short- and long-term.
2. Gaining more knowledge and understanding **after** making a decision (exercising wisdom) should not be cause for anxiety.
 - Prov 3:5,6 – Trusting God and not relying on your own understanding is a scriptural principle requiring faith and wisdom.
 - Keep in mind the difference between prudence and wisdom. Better informed decisions might lead to different steps of prudence, but wisdom anticipates the final goal and can be attained by different (but God-honoring) paths.
3. Keep learning and seeking after wisdom: it's a lifelong pursuit

Wisdom

Six Observations

4. Making a decision without sufficient information or no information: don't do it alone. Seek expertise; otherwise, delay the decision.
 - Prov 11:14 - in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.
 - Pro 15:22 - Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.
5. Growing in wisdom means you learn what information/understanding/discernment is needed in order to make a decision.
6. Wisdom does not stand alone as some kind of “thing” detached from knowledge, understanding, insight, discernment, and prudence. It is the result of applying all of those elements to a situation or event or decision, taking God's perspective and believing his promised outcomes.

Wisdom

Some Thoughts

Some areas of focus for spiritual maturity (and there are others):

1. Relationships
2. Finances
3. Sexuality
4. Emotions
5. Health
6. Intellect
7. Career

I don't know yet what the long-term plans are that God has for me regarding _____, but I can learn biblical principles in this area. I can talk to others who have wise advice to give; I can take tests/assessments; I can pray; I can wait.



Wisdom shouts in the streets ... and from the highest places she cries, “Turn in here!”
Proverbs 1:20; 9:3



- Wisdom is godly foresight based on God’s Word, believing the outcomes He has promised
- Faith and wisdom look to the future in confident dependence on God
- We learn wisdom from instruction, from observation and experience, from our mistakes, and from God Himself
- We grow in knowledge and understanding, develop deeper insights and discernment, and exercise wisdom progressively
- Prudence sees the short-term path to the long-term outcome, and discretion is the measured response
- Wisdom does not operate separately from knowledge, understanding, and discernment
- Wisdom itself instructs us, beginning a new cycle of knowledge, understanding, and discernment