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The Anatomy of a Wise Decision

Proverbs 3:1-26

Although knowledge will help us in making decisions, it is even more critical that we choose wisely. Wisdom combines good judgment, knowledge, experience and understanding, but it is different than any of these.

GROUP DISCUSSION. Ask each member of the group to write a definition of wisdom. After listening to each definition, discuss how you would now change your answers.

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Who do you consider to be wise? How has his or her wisdom been demonstrated?

The book of Proverbs offers practical advice through poetry; short, pithy sayings; and vivid comparisons. The main point of the book is that we should always seek the wisdom of God. *Read Proverbs 3:1-26.*

1. This passage describes many benefits of wisdom. Which of them are most attractive to you?

2. According to verses 1-12, what characterizes a wise decision?

3. Why is a commitment to “love and faithfulness” (v. 3) important to making a wise decision?

4. Some people would argue that it is unwise to trust anyone but yourself. How would you answer them after reading verses 5-8?

5. Why is it wise to “honor the Lord with your wealth” (v. 9) instead of spending it on yourself?

How have you done this?

6. How do people today “despise the Lord’s discipline” (v. 11)?

7. What role has God’s discipline played in making you wiser (vv. 11-12)?

8. What makes wisdom so valuable (vv. 13-18)?

9. How can you “embrace” wisdom (v. 18)?

10. According to verses 19-26, what can wisdom accomplish?

11. In what ways are you like and unlike the person described in verses 21-26?

12. What can you do to become more like the wise person pictured here?

13. What have these proverbs taught you about wisdom and how to find it?

Pray for godly wisdom in the decisions you face.

Now or Later

Read Jesus' parable about wisdom and foolishness in *Matthew 7:24-27*.

The wise and foolish man both faced the same decision—where and how to build a house—but they made very different choices. What factors do you think influenced their decision-making process?

Why are so many foundations built on sand?

What does this parable teach you about making wise choices and avoiding foolish ones?