

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

TWO GOSPEL WISDOM VS. GOSPEL FOOLISHNESS

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

Discuss and reflect on how we can make more wise vs. foolish decisions in our lives.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where/what does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

Where this week did you see people act wisely or foolishly? What were the results of these decisions?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

Proverbs 1:7

⁷The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

I Corinthians 1:30

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

What is our source of wisdom?

Possible answers: Jesus/Bible, not our giftedness, but through grace

How do we make wise decisions? What influences our decisions?

Possible answers: pray, seek advice from others, remember outcomes from previous life events. Influencers may include: parents, spouse, roommates, friends, culture.

Which voices are speaking into your decisions too quietly or too loudly?

Answers will vary.

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How does this passage/discussion fit into the story of the Gospel?

Story of the Good News of Jesus.

Creation

God makes all things and they are good

Fall

God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.

Redemption

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.

Restoration

Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus.*

How does the gospel allow us to make wise decisions?

Possible answers: the gospel changes our view of people, God, ourselves; our decisions are no longer based on personal motivation, but reflect our changed hearts and Holy Spirit's guidance.

How do we slow down and listen versus overreacting or overreaching?

Answers will vary.

Leader note: If you can, share a time you didn't make a wise decision and instead overreacted or jumped to an unwise decision and the effects that had on your heart, attitude, etc. What could you have done differently (or now do differently with decisions you make)?

How can we be a faithful presence to encourage wisdom over foolishness?

Accountability/Reflection

Share and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion? Possible questions to consider:*

Consider what God is telling you to stop, start, change, or continue.

What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?

Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?