

# #wisdom

applying the gospel in everyday life

## Opening Up:

Tell us a humorous or typical story of how the lack of wisdom manifested itself in you when you were younger. (We are not looking for a tragic story, but a cute or funny one.)

## Read: Proverbs 1:1-7

## Discuss:

1. God said to Solomon, the Author of Proverbs, "Ask what shall I give you." If God were asking you that question, how would you answer it?
2. Solomon asked for wisdom. James 1:5 tells us to ask for wisdom if we lack it. Where do you need wisdom in your life right now?
3. In light of Proverbs 1:1-7, what is wisdom? Why is it hard to get?
4. Read Proverbs 26:4-5. How does the proverb illustrate the difficulty and necessity of wisdom?
5. Read Proverbs 25:11. The word "fitly" or "aptly" refers to the timing of our speech. Do you struggle with saying the right thing at the right time? Why is it hard to say the right thing at the right time? Read Proverbs 25:15. A "gentle word" is an empathetic word or a word spoken in the right way. Do you struggle with saying the right thing in the right way? Why is it hard to say the right thing in the right way?
6. The beginning of wisdom is the "Fear of the Lord." (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Job 28:12,28; Proverbs 1:7, 9:10) How is the "Fear of the Lord" different from being afraid of the Lord. Why is the distinction important?
7. How does "fear of the Lord" help us to repent? Read Psalm 130:4. How could forgiveness make you fear the Lord? Read Romans 2:4. How does kindness lead to repentance?
8. What does John Newton mean when he says, "It was grace that taught my heart to fear...?"

Amazing grace!  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear...  
- John Newton

9. Colossians 2:3 says, "in [Jesus] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." How can this be true?
10. Wisdom recognizes the limits of our own ability to save ourselves and Jesus' overwhelming grace that rescues us.
11. Pray.