



AWAKEN TO WISDOM

May 9 | Discussion Guide

(~90 minutes needed)

Begin with Scripture, silence + prayer (5-10 minutes)

Read all of Psalm 37 to begin your time together. *This week's topic is "Awaken to Wisdom" so the purpose of this reading is to soak in the practical wisdom offered here by David so that we might learn to live wisely!*

After you finish reading the verse, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation, your words, etc. will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

Recap from last week's devotions and practice as a large group (5 minutes)

Spend some time talking about what resonated with you from your devotions this past week.

After a week of engaging in Dan's challenge to make a mark on your hand anytime you disparaged anyone with your words or allowed unwholesome talk to come out of your mouth, what have you noticed about your speech? What have you noticed about your heart?

Split into smaller co-ed groups for Scripture and a debrief of the sermon (30-40 minutes). *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

- Where do you go when you need wisdom in your life? What does it mean or look like for you to go to God for wisdom?
- Who is someone that, in your opinion, lives wisely? What about them makes you think of them as wise?
- What resonated with you from this week's sermon? What challenged you?
- **Read James 3:13-17.** What specific parts of these verses most challenge you personally? Why?
- In these verses, James connects wisdom to right living, not specifically one with the most life experience or the person with the most information. How does this challenge your view of who is wise in our world? What do you think wise living looks like? Where do you go to determine this?

- In his sermon, Dan mentioned how “Wisdom is the ability not only to discern the grain of the universe that God created, but to live your life with the grain of the universe as God originally intended.” When in your life have you gone against the grain of the universe? What were the consequences?
- Spend some time making two separate lists. For your first list, think about “Wisdom of the World.” What kinds of things would fall under a category like that? What actions, ideas, thought-patterns, etc. would you expect to see there? Next, make a list of actions, thought-patterns, ideas, etc. that you think would fall under the category “Wisdom of Heaven.” Where do these two lists align? Where do they differ? What is one area you are leaning in to worldly wisdom?
- How have you seen wisdom/wise-living/going with the grain of God’s universe lead to flourishing or a “harvest of righteousness” in your life? How have you seen foolish living lead to chaos or a harvest of unrighteousness in your life?
- When was a time you succumbed to foolishness? What happened? What did you learn from that experience?

Transition back to one large group for recap (5-10 minutes)

- What were some of the things that came up during your individual group discussions? Have each smaller group share something that stood out from their discussions.

Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (10-20 minutes) *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don’t feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- In what ways have you lived unwisely this week? Where did you choose foolishness instead of prudence?
- In what ways are you most prone to foolishness?
- What has prayer time been like for you this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.