



Week 3
Discipleship Study
Questions



Foolproof

As we begin a new year, what goals or resolutions are on your mind? Many of us have resolutions about becoming thinner, richer, or more organized. But have you ever considered setting a goal to become wiser? Proverbs says to get wisdom at any cost. Why? Because wisdom is the practical art of living Biblically, skillfully and honorably toward God and others. What a great way to live! In our series Foolproof we will learn why wisdom is so incredibly valuable and how it applies to every aspect of life. We will also see how Proverbs compares the life of the wise person vs. the foolish person to help us avoid “suffering” fools or living as one. And in every message we will look to Jesus, the embodiment of all wisdom, to learn how to live as wiser disciples of our savior.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

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Background: This is one of the most famous stories from the Gospels, a wonderful example of how Jesus balanced grace and truth. Adultery was taken very seriously in Gospel times and the Pharisees were following the Law of Moses when they told Jesus she should be stoned. Jesus, however, wants the Pharisees to understand not just the letter of the Law, but the purpose and spirit of the Law.

Read: John 8:1-11

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

Stubborn fools do not submit to authority. How do you see evidence of this foolishness in the Pharisees, if they were just obeying the law?

Knowledge is having information; wisdom is knowing how to apply that knowledge. How do we see that lack of wisdom in the Pharisees?

How does Jesus show both grace and truth to this woman? How does he show grace and truth to the Pharisees?

What authorities do you struggle to submit to? How might God be calling you away from that foolishness?

End this time with a prayer.

If you aren't sure what to pray, try praying the Scriptures you studied today. For example, "Father, thank you for being a God of both grace and truth. You don't give us what we deserve, but instead you call us to leave our lives of sin and you promise to give us what we need to do that. Help us to recognize foolishness within ourselves and give us the courage to name the foolishness we see in others. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."