

5. How could embracing the “foolishness of God” help lead to making better decisions in your life?

6. What work are you neglecting lately when it comes to growing in wisdom?

7. How will delighting in the fear of the Lord lead to better choices in your life?

8. Looking back over this week’s sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

ADVENT SERIES: Anticipating the Coming King

SERMON 2: “The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding”

TEXT: Isaiah 11:1-9

DATE: December 16/17, 2017

3 Overlooked but Necessary Factors in Gaining Wisdom

Our choices, the decisions we make, big and small, _____ our lives every day.

C_____: Rather than objectively look at the facts, we go looking for facts that confirm the decision we really want to make, and we ignore the facts that don’t.

The Bible’s answer to this is _____.

1. F_____

Isaiah 11:4-9

God’s _____

1 Corinthians 1: ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing... ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles... ²⁴ Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

We gain wisdom through the _____ of God—Christ, the wisdom of God.

“If you will live like no one else, later you can live like no one else.” (Dave Ramsey)

2. W_____

We don’t _____ for wisdom, we _____ to gain wisdom.

We’re obsessed with _____ and _____ for making better decisions rather than gaining the wisdom we need to make better decisions.

"I always say prayer is a very big part of what it means to become a wise person. ...[But] as far as the Bible is concerned, here's how you discern God's will. You become a wise person through years of training, through learning, through getting to know God, getting to know the Word, getting to know your own heart, going through suffering, being corrected by people. You slowly become a discerning, insightful, prudent, wise person." (Tim Keller)

3. F _____
Isaiah 11:3a

The fear of the Lord is a reverence for God that leads to _____.

How do you _____ in that kind of fear?

It's not a _____ fear; it's an _____ fear.

How does the Fear of the Lord make us wise?

- We'll do the _____ it takes to know God well.
- We'll live to _____ to God, not the people who consider God's way foolish.
- We'll _____ of our own biases and motives.
- We'll work at _____ new desires that reflect the desires of the God we revere and love.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Can you think of ways confirmation bias shapes your decisions (big or small)?
3. Read Isaiah 11:1-3 and Luke 2:40. How do these passages speak of Jesus gaining in wisdom?
4. What do you think is the Spirit's role in gaining in wisdom?