



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Two

Pastor Angela picked up our Wisdom from Above series with a look at what the Bible says about true wisdom. Just as Adam and Eve had a choice between the wisdom given to them from God and the lies of the serpent in the garden, we face these same choices on a regular basis. The promise is that we can ask for God's wisdom from above and we will receive it.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*God of Wisdom,
We desire knowledge and are tempted to do anything to acquire it.
But the knowledge that we need for life is what you want to give us for free.
Help me to choose your wisdom over the wisdom of this world.
Amen*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JAMES 1.2-8

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

- The relationship between joy and times of testing and trials doesn't make sense on paper, but has been proven to be true over and over. This is more than a "hang in there" philosophy. It's not about merely surviving difficult times but actually thriving and maturing through them. This can happen only with the gift of wisdom that God makes available to us just for the asking.

- *Boldly ask God for wisdom from above, and for strengthened belief that it will come.*

TUESDAY: GENESIS 3.2-5

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

- The voices that we hear when choosing which way to go can be confusing. The serpent is saying what he thinks Eve wants to hear. The serpent is promoting the idea that God withholds from us. When in fact, God wants us to have wisdom to discern good and evil, but wisdom is not something to be claimed, rather it is a gift.
- *Pray for a pure heart that discerns the subtle temptations of the evil one.*

WEDNESDAY: JEREMIAH 33.2-3

“This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name:³ ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

- In a world with so many options for searchable information, God still offers to tell us about the things that are unsearchable. The search engines of our day can only scratch the surface. The God who made everything will always be bigger than a list of information. A humble posture before this God reveals that there is always more to know about God.
- *In prayer, call out to God and spend your day listening for great and unsearchable things.*

THURSDAY: PROVERBS 4.7-9

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom.

Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

⁸ Cherish her, and she will exalt you;

embrace her, and she will honor you.

⁹ She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.”

- When we experience true wisdom from above we have to embrace it. Proverbs speaks of wisdom as ‘she’. She is something to be embraced and cherished, and when she is embraced, we will receive a glorious crown. What do you make of this personification of wisdom? What images does this bring to mind? How do you cherish wisdom?
- Pray for the willingness to give up everything that is your own for the sake of wisdom.

FRIDAY: JOB 28.20, 23-24

*Where then does wisdom come from?
Where does understanding dwell?*

*God understands the way to it
and he alone knows where it dwells,
²⁴for he views the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.*

- The story of Job is one in which humans are trying to reason and understand suffering. From God's perspective, the ends of the earth are visible. He can see everything there is to see, that is why His wisdom is far greater than our own understanding.
- Pray for the comfort that comes in knowing that God sees farther than you do, and that God desires to give you wisdom and a strengthened faith.

SATURDAY: JAMES 3.17-18

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

- James gives us a great picture of what heavenly wisdom looks like. This gives a helpful tool for discerning the kind of wisdom we are going after. Is it pure? Is it peace-loving? Considerate? Submissive? Full of mercy? Does it bear good fruit? Is it leading you towards being a peacemaker?
- *Pray for a clear view of the wisdom that comes from heaven, and the discernment to reject the wisdom of this world.*

- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Angela shared how God's wisdom came to her during great stress and upheaval. When did God show up and show you a path to joy even in the midst of trials?