

PRAYER AND FASTING

As our church enters 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, spend a few minutes talking through these questions as you encourage one another in this journey:

- Why do you think prayer is important in the life of a believer, and what purpose does it serve in your own life?
- What do you think is the spiritual purpose of fasting, and how does it differ from other spiritual disciplines?

WARM-UP QUESTION

Who is the wisest person you know and what makes them so wise?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read Proverbs 9:1-18

If it has been a while since you studied Proverbs or it's a new book of the Bible for your group, watch this short overview video from The Bible Project.

- How is wisdom personified? What do you notice about her actions?
- How is folly personified? What do you notice about her actions?
- On your own, spend a couple minutes comparing and contrasting wisdom and folly and write down what you notice. Then, as a group, discuss what you observed.
- What is difficult about verses 7 and 8? How can you discern who to correct and who would be unwise to correct?
- Reflect on a time when you responded to correction in a way that was unwise. After studying Godly wisdom, what would you have done differently? What steps can you take to respond to correction in a wise way?
- What does it teach us about God when we know He is the source of wisdom? How is God's wisdom different from worldly wisdom?

Read <u>James 3:13-18</u>

If it has been a while since you studied James or it is a new book of the Bible for your group, watch this short overview video from the Bible Project.

- Compare and contrast wisdom and selfish ambition. What specific words or phrases do you notice from this passage?
- Verse 16 reminds us that selfish ambition leads to chaos. How can pursuing wisdom over selfish ambition make Christians stand out in our current culture? What steps can you take to ensure you are not contributing to the chaos but rather being a source of hope and a pursuer of peace?



- Read verse 17 again. What does this teach us about our heart posture when it comes to wisdom? How would your interactions with others look different if you displayed this posture?
- Who in the Bible displayed godly wisdom as described in this passage? Who displayed foolishness?

TAKE ACTION

Over and over in Scripture, we see the importance of knowing and doing. Take some time to make an individual commitment statement (I will...) based on what you've learned this week.

- Who do you need to seek wisdom from?
- Who can you offer wisdom to?
- What are areas of your life that you need to practice greater control over your words? What actions can you take to move towards that?

Spend a few minutes praying as a group, asking God to show you what He's saying and what you need to obey your "I will" statement. Then after praying, share your "I will" statements, keeping them as simple and practical as possible.