

MAIN POINT

True wisdom is found by letting God guide the way we live and the decisions we make each day.

INTRODUCTION

Who did you most want to be like when you were growing up?

What does it mean to imitate someone? When is imitation a positive thing? When might it not be?

We must model Jesus' love and sacrifice in order to daily live a lifestyle that is changed from the inside out. Lifestyle change begins and ends with the love of God, manifested through His Holy Spirit in our lives, and practiced daily in discipline. If we want to display wisdom and make better decisions in our lives, we will seek and follow God's wisdom and not our own.

DISCUSSION

> **READ PROVERBS 27:12 AND EPHESIANS 5:15-21.**

What might it look like to see danger and hide yourself in your life?

How does sin tempt us toward danger each day? How do we hide ourselves in this regard? Why is it impossible to do this well in our own power?

This week, we were reminded that a decision doesn't have to be wrong to be unwise. How have you experienced this reality?

How would you define wisdom? What do you know about how the Bible defines wisdom? What is the difference between these two?

This week, we also heard that wisdom is gained by evaluating our past experiences as well as our current circumstances. How do these two things help us navigate the areas we need wisdom most?

How does God use our past experiences to help us gain wisdom for the future?

Why is wisdom necessary if we want to live in the light and imitate God's love? Give some practical examples of what it looks like to live as wise people.

What commands did Paul give the Ephesians in verses 17-21? Why are each of these actions examples of wise living? How do they help us ensure we are living as imitators of God (5:1)?

What comes to mind first when you hear the phrase "be filled with the Spirit"?

Are you seeking to be filled by the Spirit daily? Why or why not? If not, what needs to change?

APPLICATION

Where do you currently need wisdom? How might you seek to live according to God's wisdom this week? What changes might that require in your daily life?