



STUDY GUIDE June 11, 2023

Message Series: SWAG

Message Title: Where does wisdom come from

Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (5 - 10 min.)

Who is the wisest person you've ever known and why?

Pray:

Lord, We praise You for Who You are - omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, holy, wise, and perfect in all Your ways. Yet in all Your greatness and power, You love us so tenderly and so sweetly. We ask that You help us to direct our hearts and minds on You and to help us absorb all that You have to teach us. We thank You that that is Your desire and that it is a prayer we know You will answer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

*"God wants to give you the gift of wisdom. And the key to that door is found right here: **Understand what the Lord's will is.** What God wants defines wisdom. The opposite of what God wants defines foolishness. Look, friends, this is super unpopular in the world we live in today. In fact, what I'm about to say might just get me canceled. Here it is: What the world says is right and good is not always what God says is right and good. Doing what God wants will often put me at odds with what culture wants. And here's the thing - and this is going to make me sound like a real jerk - I. Don't. Care. My goal is to live the way God wants me to live, champion what God wants me to champion, and love people with Truth. So if what I do or say or think or believe gets me in trouble with culture but makes me right with God, that's ok. I'm not trying to make everybody happy with me, as long as God is happy with me."* - Pastor Brian Hughes

- Do you agree or disagree with the statement that what the world says is right and good is not always what God says is right and good? What would be some examples?
- Do you live your life trying to make everybody else happy with you or God happy with you? Explain.

Read Ephesians 5:15-17.

- How might you go about trying to understand what the Lord's will is?

Read James 1:5, Proverbs 3:5-6, and Romans 12:2.

- What additional insights about wisdom and understanding God's will can you glean from these verses?

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 8:34 min, 20 minute discussion)

In the message on Sunday as well as in the follow up video, Pastor Brian shares the definition of wisdom as being *"the ability to see through the details to the big picture and then apply the big picture to the details."*

- Share an example from either your own life or from someone you consider to be wise where you've observed this in action.

Proverbs 4:7 says "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."

- What were some of the ways mentioned in the video to "get wisdom"?
- How might getting wisdom and understanding "cost all you have"?

Reflect and Commit: (20 min.)

"THIS is how we become wise. Wisdom is a gift God wants for you, but you have to pursue it. We do that by looking at our lives, aware of what is happening, understanding God's will, with the words of the Bible as our guide. You want to be wise? It's available to you at your fingertips if you will fill your life with the desire to do what God wants you to do." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Proverbs 9:10.

- If fear in this context is another word for reverence or respect, what do you think this verse is saying?
- How has your lack of appropriate respect for God led you to make unwise choices in your life OR conversely, how has your reverence and respect for God led you to make wise choices? Share briefly.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:30.

- What is the correlation between God's son, Jesus, and God's wisdom?

"Seek God's perspective. Apply that to every situation in your life. And over time, you will find that a defining characteristic for you will be found in a simple, single word: Wise." - Pastor Brian Hughes

** For a deeper dive into the wisdom of God, try reading from the book of Proverbs. Pick a few chapters and journal the following: 1) What do I observe? 2) What does it mean? 3) How does this apply to my life?

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You that You offer us the gift of wisdom. Help us to diligently study Your Word, to pray for Your wisdom, and to seek You with all our heart. Help us to see situations from Your perspective and make choices that are pleasing to You. Fill our hearts and lives with the desire to do what You want us to do. And thank You that You have provided a way to do all of this through Your son Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.