



WISDOM WORKSHEETS INTRODUCTION

Do you need some Wisdom? You may be thinking:

- Life is really TOUGH right now!
- I am at a crossroads in my life
- I need to make an important decision and I don't know what to do
- Uh-Oh, I made a big mistake, what do I do now?
- Is where I am today...where I want to be in 5 years?
- I have a friend who really needs help.
- I feel lost, does anyone have a roadmap for life?

Here are 3 worksheets on Wisdom. Take 15 minutes to read through this first worksheet to begin finding purpose in wisdom.

There will be Bible verses referenced for you to read and mediate on. Remember that in Joshua 1:8 in the Bible, God promises that meditation on His word will give you prosperity and success.

Why the Bible?

It's a special book. No one person wrote the Bible. It's actually a collection of books, some fairly long and some pretty short. The books in the Bible were written by about 40 authors over a span of a couple of thousand years, written in many different places to many different people groups.

It covers a span of about 4000 years. There is history, poetry, prophecy, parables and vast amounts of real-life stories with principles attached.

The Bible has been the bestselling book of all time and continues to be.

The "YouVersion" Bible app now has over 2 million downloads.

The collection of 66 books in the Bible all point to Jesus who predicts his death, burial and resurrection and then actually pulls it off, proving that he was who he said he was. Now that's someone who knows what he's talking about and you can trust his wisdom.

There is an earthly wisdom and there is a heavenly wisdom. We believe that wisdom apart from God's insights will leave you shallow and less fulfilled in life. But look at the promises of what heavenly wisdom will be like...

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

-James 3:17

Pause, wait, maybe even close your eyes and take a deep breath. And then listen. Sometimes God will speak into our mind and sometimes He will speak into your heart. Do you hear Him? If not, that's okay.



WORKSHEET #1

WHAT IS WISDOM & WHERE CAN I GET IT?

Wisdom is for everyone and is available all of the time, though it might not always be obvious. Through wisdom we can live a fulfilling transformative life.

Wisdom affects my words, relationships, work, money and self-worth.

Let's define Wisdom

Highlight a couple of these that interest you

- Wisdom is an attribute of God that I can access.
- Wisdom is the right use of knowledge.
- Wisdom is seeing and responding to life's situations from God's frame of reference.
- We can hear wisdom calling out to us at life's intersections by reading the Bible.
- We can build our life on wisdom and repair broken foundations of our life with wisdom.
- Wisdom is living without regrets by doing the right thing today.
- Wisdom is a treasure **-Proverbs 2:1**
- Wisdom is found by asking God for it.

-James 1:5

Where can I get Wisdom?

1. Borrow it: Ask other wise people for some of theirs as well as learn from the stupid mistakes you have seen others make.
2. Buy it: Invest in yourself through research, reading, gaining knowledge and even getting coached in wisdom.
3. Wait for it: take time , don't rush, pause and recognize the right time for your decision. Doing the right thing at the wrong time is not wise.
4. Expect it: wisdom is a gift and when you ask God for it, He promises to give it to you. - **James 1:5,6** (read it Amplified version for more depth).

Write out what you need Wisdom for:

Now read what you wrote out-loud but put the words.... God, I need wisdom at the beginning of your need.

Keep asking and listening. When it's the right time,
He will speak.

Do this every day this week.

Write down any thoughts you get, but don't share
them with anyone yet. Wait and then wait well.

Don't be in a hurry. When we hurry our own sense of
urgency can keep us from hearing clearly.

Praying for wisdom is simply asking God for help.

Asking for directions may be tough for you -
following them may be another whole issue and that
is when you must rely on the wisdom that comes
from God.

WORKSHEET #2

WISDOM CAN BE FOUND IN THE WAITING

There is waiting and then there is waiting well.

Ever have one of those experiences when you order your coffee, go to the pick-up counter and you're tapping your foot and drumming your fingers on the counter while thoughts of "Does this barista even have a brain?" are filling your emotions. That is not waiting well!

Everyone has to wait for things in life. And the things we have to wait for may be different for each of us. Some may be waiting to achieve financial goals (like buying a house) while others, who may have plenty of finances, may be waiting for a disenfranchised family member to return back to the family. And we all have the option of waiting...or waiting well. A couple of characteristics of waiting well are having a good attitude and responding with joy while we wait. But don't misunderstand, waiting isn't ever easy or pleasant. So the good attitude and joy are as much a result of a conscious decision on our part as anything else.

Wisdom has so much to do with timing and waiting.

Read this...

"Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we

don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun."

-Romans 8:26-30 The Message Bible

One of the ways to make waiting so much better is to realize that God is in the waiting with you. If you have ever had to wait in an airport for a delayed departure, it is much more fun when you are with

someone. At least you can take turns sitting with the luggage while the other person gets food. When you realize that God is actually right there with you in the waiting then you can have a greater sense of peace. God isn't wasting your time in making you wait. Even though you may not physically see it, he's putting everything together behind the scenes to set you up for the greatest chance at success and happiness.

When we don't understand why we are waiting we must recognize that the understanding usually comes on other side of obedience. Uh-oh, did she just say obedience? Yep! Obedience is a lifelong class. It's not just a school for your puppy to graduate from or a book to read on raising toddlers or some kind of training required in order to get a brokers license, it is a lifelong opportunity and test that each of us get to take over and over in our lives.

Waiting may not be sexy but it can bring great fulfillment in life. Doing the right thing at the wrong time is asking for trouble just as much as doing the wrong thing at the wrong time is. But doing the right thing in God's time is beautiful!

Waiting well is the response of obedience. It is a deep, valuable, beautiful, response of wisdom.

1. What have you been desiring, but have not sensed the grace to wait for?
2. Write out a couple of times when waiting was a good thing in your life.
3. Can you begin to see that understanding will come on the other side of your obedience as you follow after wisdom?

WORKSHEET #3

WISDOM WILL SET YOU APART

Do you know someone who is SO smart and intelligent but yet they are really naïve and lack common sense? They may be socially awkward or so insecure they are trying to be someone they are not. You may want to say...*"Read the room pal, you are making a fool of yourself"*.

Well guess what...we all have been that "someone". Maybe not totally awkward or naïve, but we have all tried to be someone we are not. This is not our best self and it's unwise to try to be someone that you are not. Others see right through it. It's foolish.

In the book of Proverbs in the Bible you will find the word "fool" listed in about 20 different verses. One simple interpretation for this word is "independent". It is the antithesis of wisdom. The foolish person thinks and acts on their own selfish desires and it becomes a cycle in life that can resemble a cyclone.

It would be a great study to just go through the book of Proverbs and see all that it has to say about a "fool" or "foolishness." Replace the word foolish with "independent" and see if any of those verses apply to your life.

"forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding"

-Proverbs 9:6

"the foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the Lord"

-Proverbs 19:3

One other key verse on this topic of foolishness is in **Psalm 53:1** - *"The fool has said in his heart, There is no God."* It would be the height of arrogance to think and believe that. For to do so is to say that there is no being that exists anywhere in the universe higher, smarter or greater than us. And yet Wisdom doesn't walk down that road. Wisdom walks down the road of Humility. Wisdom realizes that it has a lot to learn and can do so by asking, seeking and observing.

Look at this quote from Andrew Murray, a pastor who lived back in the mid-1800's....

"Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of every virtue. And so pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil."

We could do another whole study on humility, and maybe we should, but think of humility as your secret sauce to making wise decisions over the course of your whole life.

Here is a quick checklist for practicing humility:

- It's good to know what you know but even better to know what you DON'T know. Then you know what to look for. What is it that you don't know?
- Ask the right person for directions. Someone who has been there in life before. Don't ask another lost person for directions.
- Be a whole-hearted listener. When you ask a friend or coach, listen, don't defend your actions, but listen and take notes. Be receptive and willing to be adjusted.
- FOLLOW THRU...Wisdom requires some hard moments. You were made for them and you will come thru them better than you thought was even possible. But don't rush or hurry. Time is usually your friend, not your enemy.
- Trust in God... When your dependence in Jesus erases your independence then you are living in the power of wisdom. Your simple daily prayer for wisdom is going to give you breath that you never even knew you needed.

.... "we know not..."

"And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. For example, at times we don't even know how to pray, or know the best things to ask for. But the Holy Spirit rises up within us to super-intercede on our behalf, pleading to God with emotional sighs too deep for words."

-Romans 8:26 The Passion Translation

"I pray that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would impart to you the riches of the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of revelation to know him through your deepening intimacy with him."

-Ephesians 1:17 The Passion Translation

Here is one very practical exercise that I learned from Andy Stanley:

Ask yourself, "Based on my..."

- Past experiences
- Current circumstances
- Future hopes and dreams

What is the wise thing to do?

When you really take inventory of your life and ask these 3 questions, it will keep you from making the same mistake over and over again.

Practice asking yourself these 3 questions routinely, whether it be wisdom that you need for everyday life situations or even when you are wanting to marry the "love of your life" but you just met them last week. Ask them when you are trying to decide if you should go on an expensive vacation with friends when your future hope and dream is to buy a condo? If you think that you might regret the consequences of hanging out with certain friends, is it wise to spend every Friday night with them?

STOP and ask...what is the wise thing to do!

Invite hard questions and live out the answers.

Invite wisdom into your life and you will find you walk with wise people in every season of your life.

A life of wisdom will set you apart from all the ordinary people just getting through life.

And remember, while it's great to have a mentor in life that you can borrow wisdom from, that does not mean that you need to meet with them routinely, or even at all! Those kinds of relationship sometime exist but it's entirely possible to be mentored by someone from afar, by their books, their podcasts or their biographies. Or you may be able to meet with a mentor or coach just periodically as the need may arise.

We hope you will consider wisdom in every aspect of your life, it is a great way to live.

These are excerpts from POP Talks...there is much more content. If you would like to dive in deeper then let's set up a wisdom coaching session
Coaching is available for an individual, small group or an event.

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