

September 2 | Sunday

Shaped by God's heart...discerning and wise

Read [1 John 4:1-6](#)



03 | Mon – What's more valuable than gold? | Read [Proverbs 16:16, 21](#)

In difficult economic times, people rely on the money they have saved in more prosperous times. But there is something much more valuable than your investments or bank accounts which, by the way, can be stolen/embezzled/lost in the stock market. King Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs to teach his son that wisdom is more precious than gold or silver. What is the wisest piece of advice you have ever received? What wise things have you learned and could pass on to the younger people in your life?

04 | Tue – Two kinds of wisdom | Read [James 3:13-18](#) / [Proverbs 16:25](#)

When you have a problem, there are all kinds of experts who claim to have wise advice on how to fix it. Everything from weight loss to increasing your income to successful parenting, you will find the answers in their latest book. Here James describes two kinds of wisdom. Can you recognize the difference between God's life-giving and man's self-promoting wisdom when you see them? Think about where each will eventually lead you; that is called discernment.

05 | Wed – Wisdom modeled | Read [Luke 2:39-40 and 46-52](#) / [Matthew 13:54-56](#)

Many characteristics come to mind when thinking about Jesus as a person but one not often mentioned is his wisdom. According to Luke, it was something Jesus grew into. His wisdom and understanding surprised people as a child and amazed them when he became an adult. As a committed believer, is wisdom a noticeable and growing attribute of your character? How will you know when it is? Consider reading the gospels again to find specific examples of Jesus' wise words and actions. What is one thing you can start doing this week?

06 | Thu – You can take that to the bank! | Read [James 1:5](#)

Most people have some measure of wisdom, often learned through life experiences, but there are times when you absolutely do not know what to do. What then? The key is found in these words from James. It starts with the humble admission that you do *not* have it all together, that you need help. Then you ask for wisdom. See the promised results? Try it.

07 | Fri – Foundations matter | Read [Matthew 7:24-27](#) / [Proverbs 17:24](#)

Jesus offers a word picture to describe what wisdom/foolishness look like. Wisdom builds a house on a rock; foolishness builds it on the beach. If you want a life that will weather the inevitable storms, what is the 'rock' you build on? (Hint: verse 24) How well do you know what Jesus taught? How often do you apply the wisdom his words reveal? In what area of life are wisdom and discernment needed right now? What would Jesus say to you about it?

08 | Sat – Sorting it out | Read [Philippians 1:9-11](#)

Sometimes you face choices which are neither right or wrong, they are just different. While either might be good, one may be more God-honoring than the other. Isn't that the goal of your life as God's greatly-loved son or daughter? Could this be the time to ask, "What is the wise choice?" in light of your past experience, present circumstance and desired future? Read Paul's prayer for the people in Philippi to see if this is what you would ask for yourself.