



WISDOM

Heavenly Virtues: **Wisdom** | Connection Group Discussion Guide | Week 1

Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

Come together to build relationships through fellowship and sharing about this week's worship.

- Take a few minutes to share your thoughts about worship this week.
 - What aspects of worship did or did not connect with you?
 - What story or illustration made an impact on you?
- What are you looking forward to most about this Connection Group series?

Context (30 to 40 minutes)

Dig deeper into the videos and scripture for this week through questions and discussion.

- Before watching the video, share what you believe your greatest virtue is. Why do you think this?
 - How would you describe a virtuous person?

Watch the first half of the video for this session on your DVD or online.

- Do you agree that we focus more on resume skills or “achievement values” than virtues? Why or why not?
 - Do you think this is a problem? Why or why not? What would you do to change this in our culture?
- How do you respond to the idea that virtues are like a narrow path with vices on either side?
 - If you have thought of virtues as an all-or-nothing reality previously, how do you think of them now?
- Would you consider yourself a wise person? Why or why not?
 - Share about people or experiences that have helped you to develop wisdom. How have they impacted you?
 - Share about one area of your life that needs wisdom right now. How could you make efforts to gain wisdom for this purpose?

NOTES

Watch the second half of the video for this session on your DVD or online.

- How do you think virtues are cultivated in a person's life? Do you agree we have to “opt-in” or actively seek them out? Why or why not?

Read Proverbs 2:6-11

Wisdom is spoken of in the book of Proverbs almost as a person or a spiritual being. Scholars debate about whether this personification of God's wisdom might be discussion of the Holy Spirit or Christ. Which do you think the author might have been talking about?

- How do you respond to the designation between wisdom and knowledge? Which do you think you are more gifted in and why?
 - Where do you think there are places that the Bible discusses knowledge? What does scripture teach us about knowledge verses wisdom?
- Describe the relationship between wisdom and the first vice, arrogance. When do you struggle against falling into this vice?
 - Verse two of this reading instructs the reader to “make your ear attentive to wisdom.” How does arrogance go against this instruction?
 - What are some active steps you can take to avoid falling into arrogance in your life?

NOTES

Read Psalm 111

- After listening to the video and hearing this scripture, do you agree that ignorance is a sin for Christians? Why or why not?
 - What do you think the sin of ignorance practically looks like in the life of a Christian?
- Listen to or read the words of this psalm carefully again. Where do you see the writer praising God's wisdom?
 - How do you see God calling us to wisdom and away from ignorance in this scripture?
- Share about a time in your life when wisdom was offered to you and you ignored or avoided it.
 - Why did you do this?
 - What did you learn from this experience?

Call (10 minutes)

We believe that God not only shows us who God is but invites us to participate in God's ministry by answering unique calls in our own lives. Join together in discovering how we can actively respond to scripture and God's presence.

- Which of these two vices do you currently struggle with the most? Why?
 - How are you experiencing God's forgiveness for this sin?
 - What is one thing you can do to avoid this temptation this week?
- We believe in our ability to live as virtuous people when we do the simple work of practicing virtues in our everyday lives. If you are participating in the “call to action” shared in our weekly worship services for this series, share with the group which action(s) you chose and why. (Please refer to the Call to Action handout for weekly calls to action.)

Closing (5 minutes)

God calls us into community by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer and supporting one another in our walks with Christ. As we share testimony and stories of our lives, let us listen to where God is working within our community and how we can build each other up in Christian love.

- Share joys and concerns with one another.
- Close in prayer, either by inviting a group member to pray or by using the prayer provided below.

Closing Prayer

Wise and instructive God, we are so thankful that You did not make us to function like robots or puppets. Instead, You made us with minds, hearts, and souls to use in our lives and decisions, and You give us the gift of Your wisdom. Help us not to become arrogant in our own knowledge, but to realize all wisdom comes from You. Help us to actively seek out Your wisdom, instead of falling for the lie that ignorance is easier. Thank You for Your grace in the midst of our failures. Amen.