

DAY 6

“If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.”

James 3:13 NLT

What do you think of when you hear the word “wise?” Maybe a good student? Or a doctor? Possibly an engineer? Well, in God’s eyes, being wise does not mean that we are smart, successful, or rich. In God’s eyes, wisdom is measured differently. No matter what we do in life, if we don’t show God’s love through things like kindness, humility, and respect, we aren’t experiencing the full wisdom God promises to give us. This is how we know we are wise—not from the things we know or the success we achieve, but by the way we show God’s love and light through the way we live.

Today, go on a walk and think about three ways you can show more of God’s love through kindness, goodness, and respect this week.

DAY 7

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13 NLT

When we have difficult or challenging choices in front of us, one of the best things we can do for ourselves is to find wisdom. And the only place to look for the real, lasting wisdom we need? God’s Word!

Reach out to a friend in your small group this week! Ask them to work on memorizing this verse with you, challenging each other daily to keep going.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE WHOLE POINT / WEEK 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

“For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6 NLT

Have you ever learned about something that you really wanted to try, but then realized that actually doing that thing would be much harder than just thinking or talking about it? Using wisdom can be a lot like that! It’s one thing to talk about being wise, but it’s a lot harder to actually use wisdom to make good choices. Remember that God gives us all the wisdom we need to make the next right choice.

Think about one decision you have to make this week. Ask God to give you the wisdom you need to make the next right choice.

DAY 2

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” James 1:5 NIV

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to make a decision, but you didn’t know which option to choose? In those moments, a little extra wisdom can definitely help! Well, the good news is, God wants to give you the wisdom you need to make every decision. The more we want to grow in faith, the more wisdom we’ll need. And James tells us in this verse that all we have to do is ask. When we do, God will give us wisdom generously.

What is one thing that you could use some wisdom about right now? Take a moment to ask God to give you wisdom (and generously!) in that specific area of your life.

DAY 3

“For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it.”

Proverbs 8:11 NLT

Fun fact: The author of this Proverb is a guy named Solomon. And when Solomon was young, he became the king of Israel. At that time, God offered to give him anything he asked for. Instead of wealth or long life, the new king asked for wisdom. Why? Because Solomon knew something important: Wisdom is the most valuable thing we can have. We can use it in any area of our lives! It's what helps us experience freedom, which is the whole point of this faith stuff!

Ask a trusted friend, adult, or small group leader how they've used wisdom from God to make important decisions in their own lives. Let their stories be an example of how valuable wisdom can be in your own life.

DAY 4

“So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.”
Ephesians 5:15 NLT

Do you have someone in your life you consider to be wise? Maybe a parent, a small group leader, a grandparent, a teacher, or even a best friend? One of the best things you can do for your life is to surround yourself with wise people. Their influence has the potential to change the direction of your life. It has the potential to impact your faith in a real and helpful way!

So, if you have those people, take time this week to thank them! Let them know you appreciate their wisdom and the way it has helped you in your own life. And if you can't think of anyone, start with your small group leader! They're a great person to turn to for help with wisdom as you grow.

DAY 5

You will always harvest what you plant. Galatians 6:7b NLT

Written by Matthew, age 16, from Sanford, Florida, USA

Have you ever studied hard for a test and got the grade you worked so hard for? Or maybe, you didn't study at all for a test, and you got a horrible grade. What we put our time, energy, and hard work toward is what we typically do well in. This past year, my tennis team and I practiced and trained together a lot. We pushed each other to do better throughout the season, and we saw great results in the post-season tournaments because of our hard work!

Our relationship with Jesus is just the same. We need to spend time with and learn about Jesus in order to get to know Him more.

As the writer of Galatians says, “You will always harvest what you plant.” This means that what we put our time and energy in is what we will end up with. If we put our time and energy in our relationship with Jesus, we will build a strong relationship with Jesus.

But if we don't, chances are that relationship won't be as strong.

So today, I challenge you to continue building a relationship with Jesus by learning about Him. Ask your small group leader or a parent to share something that they've learned about Jesus or one thing Jesus said they want you to remember, too!