

Sermon Discussion Questions

Week of Sunday, March 13, 2016

“Living Wisely”
James 4:13-17

In preparation for your home group this week:

Read and Talk

1. Ask for two or three volunteers to share a really dumb decision they've made. Looking back, how might you have made a better decision? (Limit this discussion to seven minutes; it could take all evening!)
2. Read James 3:13-18. Why are these wisdom killers? Identify more wisdom killers in these verses: 2 Peter 2:3, Proverbs 1:19, Proverbs 28:22, Mark 7:20-23.
3. What does it mean to have eternity in mind? Why is this perspective essential to making wise decisions? James 1:9, Proverbs 27:1, Psalms 90:1.
4. God's will is clear in regards to His moral law (Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). We must often make non-moral wisdom decisions: Do I buy this car? Do I attend this school? Do I accept this job? Should I make this trip? How do I respond to an unfair accusation? Do we have to know God's exact will before making these kinds of decisions? Psalm 40:8, Psalm 119:11, Psalm 143:10, Matthew 26:39, John 7:17, Acts 18:21, Romans 1:10, 1 Corinthians 4:19, Hebrews 6:3, 1 Peter 4:2.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-21. Why does godly wisdom confound the world? Can you think of any examples you've seen in others? That you've experienced in your own life?
6. James 1:5-8, 4:17. What keeps you from doing wise (good) things? What keeps you from seeing opportunities to do good?

Pray

- That God would be glorified.
- That you would be a blessing in your group.
- That people's needs would be met.
- That friendships would be built and strengthened.
- That the group would serve God's purposes.

Discuss

Choose one or more of the Wisdom Decision situations below to discuss together. Or break up into smaller groups, each choosing one of the Wisdom Decision situations. What biblical commands and principles should be applied? If you do break out groups, choose someone to report back to the full group. Allow about 15 minutes for breakout groups.

Wisdom Decision 1

You are thinking about moving to a less expensive area, maybe even out to state. Your extended family is close by and you are in a great church (GCO, of course!). Your job in technology lets you work from home, so that's not an issue. What biblical principles should you consider and apply to make a wise, God-pleasing decision?

Wisdom Decision 2

Your daughter has a great opportunity to attend a university in another part of the country. She would have a full scholarship and most of her expenses would be paid. She knows no one there and you have no idea if there are any faithful churches in the area that she could attend. Your daughter is a godly young woman and is looking to you to help you make a wise decision. What would you do?

Wisdom Decision 3

You have a great opportunity to invest in an exciting new business. The owner is a casual friend and you want to help him out. Besides that, it looks like a sure thing. Your funds are limited and you are thinking about expanding your family room so you can welcome more people into your home group. How do you decide what is best?

Wisdom Decision 4

Your friend has come to you for advice. He is thinking about leaving his current church and coming to Grace Church. He is looking for a better youth program for his kids and more Christ-centered music. Of course you are excited about the possibility of his family attending Grace – what better church could they possibly find? But then you realize that he has been involved in his church for many years and this would not be an easy decision. What questions should you ask? How would you advise your friend? Who else should you advise him to consult?

Wisdom Decision 5

Your friend needs a new car. Actually, an SUV or van to accommodate his growing family. The local dealer has just what he's looking for on sale this weekend. His wife is asking him to wait and do more homework, maybe consider saving up for a larger down or even paying cash for a used vehicle. But he doesn't want to miss out on this really great deal. And besides, it comes with a five year bumper to bumper warranty. What counsel would you give?

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