

Community Group Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. Read Proverbs 7:1-5, 24-27 and chapter 8. Take some time to discuss the differences between wisdom and folly. List and contrast the qualities of each.
3. Contrast the two invitations/feasts offered by wisdom and folly in Proverbs 9. Who are these invitations given to? Who are they NOT given to?
4. How do a scorner and a wise man differ in the way they receive reproof and rebuke?
5. What is the relationship between fearing God and obtaining wisdom? How does this correspond to James 1:5-8?
6. Is there a way to use Proverbs 9 in sharing the gospel with others? If yes, share in what way.

Living on Mission

1. How would you answer someone who asks, "How can I be wise?"
2. What is your "R.S.V.P" to wisdom's invitation? Are you aware that apart from Christ, you are "simple" and foolish, in great need of God's wisdom? How does your life prove this to be true?
3. What is the source of wisdom? What is the source of folly? What choices are you currently facing that might parallel the choices seen in Proverbs 9? Which invitation would you say you are answering?
4. Consider these verses: Proverbs 14:12, 16:25, and 21:2. What is our "default" setting for making decisions? Where do these decisions lead? In what form does God's grace come to us that we might be wise?
5. What practical things can you do to cultivate wisdom in your life and to uproot folly?

This Week's Reading:

Monday: Proverbs 7

Tuesday: Proverbs 8

Wednesday: Proverbs 9

Thursday: Isaiah 5:20-21, 55:1-3,6-11

Friday: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Saturday: James 1:5-8, 3:17

Additional Resources:

The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God by Tim and Kathie Keller

Practical Wisdom for Pastors: Words of Encouragement and Counsel for a Lifetime of Ministry by Curtis C. Thomas and John F. MacArthur Jr.

Trust in God – True Wisdom by Charles Spurgeon (sermon),
<http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/0392.htm>

Next Quarterly Members Meeting – Sunday, July 22

Summer Movie Express – CONNECT WITH US – Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the summer – email daniel@martinsburgchurch.org to get involved.

How will you serve at C@M? Go to volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org or drop your completed form in one of the giving boxes today.

Boston Mission Trip: Total cost is \$500 - Initial deposit due now – Email dan@martinsburgchurch.org or go to missions.martinsburgchurch.org to register.

Student Community Group: Meeting at Culbertson's Home – throughout the summer - Contact Justin at justin.j.culbertson@gmail.com with any questions.

Interested in Membership? Our next Gospel Class will be offered on Saturday, July 21. Email tammy@martinsburgchurch.org to register.

Baptism Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, July 22. Sign up at baptism.martinsburgchurch.org or call the church office at 304-596-9330 to register.

Discipleship Opportunity:

Men's Bible Study begins July 21 – meets every other Saturday – Contact Ray Borden at rtjml@msn.com or Dan Edman at dan@martinsburgchurch.org with any questions. Workbook needed. Sign up in the lobby today!

Pastor On Call: If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

Missionary Toolbox:

"There's no question in my mind that we live in a world of fools. In fact, everyone born into this world comes in with congenital foolishness – otherwise known as the sin nature. Proverbs 22:15 says, 'Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.' Since we live in a world of fools, let's look at a few of their characteristics.

A fool denies God. Psalm 14:1 says, 'The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.' I call this practical atheism. A fool lives as if there were no God – denying God with his actions.

A fool becomes his own god. Proverbs 12:15 says, 'The way of a fool is right in his own eyes.' No man can live without a god. It isn't a question of, does he worship? It's a question of, whom does he worship? If a person doesn't worship the true God, he will worship a false god – which inevitably will be a reflection of himself. He becomes the one who determines truth and error, articulating his own standards for living.

A fool mocks sin. Proverbs 14:9 says, 'Fools mock at sin.' Since a fool makes his own rules, he wants to justify his own behavior to make sure he's going to be all right in the end. He attempts to eliminate sin along with its consequences. A fool, then begins by living as if there were no God, substituting himself as god and determining his own style of life. Then he denies the existence of sin because he cannot tolerate guilt. When God saved you, you stopped your foolishness and became His wise child. Be encouraged, knowing God will continue to help you grow in wisdom through your understanding of and obedience to His Word."

John MacArthur. <http://www.gty.org/resources/daily-devotion/ST1117/living-in-a-world-of-fools>