



PART 2: Musical Chairs

INTRODUCTION

Solomon, the third king of Israel, wrote more about wisdom than any other biblical writer. He was considered by some to be the wisest man who ever lived. In his writing, he laid out three kinds of people who lack wisdom: the simple lack experience; fools know the difference between right and wrong, but don't care; and mockers not only know the difference between right and wrong but are critical of those who choose to do right.

Eventually, people in each of these categories need wisdom . . . but they may not find it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **If you could go back in time ten years and tell your younger self one thing, what would it be?**

(Look at the mistakes and opportunities of the past and ask – what better decision could I have made? Did I bring God into that decision? Did I pray and read what the Bible advises about this? Matt. 6:33; Prov. 3:5-6; James 1:5-6)

2. **In what ways have you seen simple or foolish behaviour in people around you? How did those people's choices affect your life or influence your choices?**

(Examine the outcome of the foolish choices that others have made. Consider how the Bible speaks into this – Prov. 1:10-19. Learn from the mistakes of others and treasure the enlightenment that God brings to your understanding, since we now have 'the mind of Christ' – Psa. 16:11; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; 1 Cor. 3:19. What do these verses teach us about the Holy Spirit's work in our life when it comes to knowing what to do? See also John 16:13)

3. **What do you think is the relationship between knowledge and wisdom? How are they similar and how are they different?**

(Check out Col. 2:2-3; John 14:6. What does this tell us about the resources we have in Christ? There is no essential truth that is outside Christ. For making life's decisions, where do we go for wise advice? – see Matt. 7:24-27)

4. **Read Proverbs 1:20–33. Does this passage bother or offend you in any way? If so, how?**

(In Proverbs, 'wisdom' is often personified. Read this passage through, substituting 'wisdom' and its pronouns with 'Jesus'. Does this impact you in a different way?)

5. **During the message Jason challenged us not to make the mistake of exchange something you want now for something you really want later. Have you ever made that mistake, what did you learn from that experience?**

6. What is an area of your life where you tend to behave like a simple person, a fool, or a mocker? What is one thing you can do this week to change your behaviour in that area? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

The path of wisdom offers a way to live in safety, peace, and without fear of harm. But to leverage all that wisdom offers, you have to ask the best question ever: In light of my past experience, current circumstances, and future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing for me to do?

(If we have the mindset that pleasing God or doing His will results in the best outcome in all of life's choices, how does this influence our need to know what He wants us to do in reading His Word every day? See Eccl. 2:26; Eccl. 7:12; Eph. 5:10, 15-17)

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

Proverbs 1:32–33