



PART 6: The Beginning of Wisdom

INTRODUCTION

You are painting a picture entitled Your Life. It's made up of a series of decisions. And you don't get to hide your early endeavours in the attic. You get only one canvas. Will you do it yourself or will you let someone guide your hand?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Talk about an important teacher or mentor in your life. What qualities did that person possess to make him or her a key influence on you?**
- 2. Our lives can be compared to works of art, paintings created by a series of decisions. Do you think most people believe they can paint a life that's a masterpiece? Why or why not?**
- 3. Talk about a time when you tried to make a wise decision, but things didn't work out. Did you lack understanding of the rules governing that arena of life, or were you unable or unwilling to submit to them? What would you do differently if you could go back and make that decision again?**
- 4. Read Proverbs 9:10. Does the idea of "fearing" God bother you? Why or why not?**
- 5. What obstacles stand in the way of you saying yes to God in order to understand his wisdom in a particular area (as opposed to understanding his wisdom before submitting to him). How might your life and faith be different if you had submitted to God in that area?**
- 6. In what area of your life do you need to open your hand to God? What is one step you can take this week to do so? How can this group support you?**

MOVING FORWARD

There's one important question that we hope you will ask the rest of your life: In light of my past experience, current circumstances, and future hopes and dreams, what's the wise thing for me to do? But asking that question will clarify what you should do . . . not what you will do. Whether or not you have surrendered yourself to the Author of wisdom will determine what you actually do.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10