

Session 6

Gaining Wisdom from the Bible

❖ OPEN IN PRAYER

Suggestion: *We thank You, Yahweh, for revealing more of Yourself to us through Your Son, Yeshua/Jesus; for teaching us that in Him we know You because the two of you are One. Help us today to learn how to use Your Word in the Bible. We ask that through Your Holy Spirit, you will guide us to see the wisdom contained within. Help us to learn from the histories of the lives of others who have experienced everything we can imagine. Let us see how you have always shown us what is the right way to live; in freedom and love through Yeshua. Amen.*

❖ DEFINING THE TOOL

>>><< W I S D O M >>><<	
Definition	The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise. The soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment
Synonyms	intelligence, sense, common sense, shrewdness

- **Think about your own life. When and how have you gained wisdom in your life?**

- **Think about a person who once gave you wisdom. What is it about them that had caused them to be wise?**

❖ DIGGING IN

Read aloud from your Bible: Proverbs 2

- **What are some of the things that will come to you if you look for wisdom?**

- **Read verse 6 again. Who gives wisdom?**

Read aloud from your Bible: Proverbs 9:10-12

Group Leader Read:

We know Creator/Yahweh/God is loving. To “fear” Him is to know how holy He is. It means knowing we need Him and can never do anything to deserve Him, but that in spite of that, He loves us in His holiness and cares for us and wants our best as a good Father. Fearing God includes not wanting to dishonor Him. It isn’t a fear to stay away from Him, it is a fear of not wanting to be away from Him.

Walking in the knowledge of His presence within us, and knowing how beautiful and holy He is, helps us to desire His wisdom in life and to seek His answers in when we are in need of help. We need His guidance in every part of our lives, and He is strongest in our weakness. What does it mean to have a child-like faith? We come to Him like children needing to learn and gain His wisdom for each of our days and situations.

Read from your Bible:

James 1:5

Isaiah 55:7-12

2 Timothy 3:15-17

- **If you are comfortable, share a time in your life when you have needed wisdom.**

Our lives are filled with situations in which we have need of wisdom, for example:

- Decisions that impact our lives or others around us
- Advice on how to best handle a relationship
- Instruction on how to overcome in times when evil is trying to influence us

❖ THE WORD OF WISDOM

There are many times we need draw from a source of wisdom. Jesus/Yeshua demonstrated His strongest source of wisdom when He fought off Satan's temptations:

- **Jesus spoke God's Word to Satan and Satan left, defeated.**

Knowing the Word of God and speaking it is wisdom to handle situations. Jesus was tired after His time in the wilderness. He had fasted for 40 days there. Fasting is choosing to go without food, or something else we regularly enjoy, for a period of time in order to focus on the will of God and seek more of His fullness or provision. Some people fast while looking for answers to prayer, or before they serve Him or have a big event in their lives.

When Yeshua chose to fast in the wilderness, He was just about to start His ministry in a public way (which would lead to the cross and our forgiveness, and victory over the condemning schemes of the devil). Satan tried to tempt Jesus away from His focus; he tried to trick Him by taking God's words and twisting them out of context. Jesus wouldn't allow the Word of God to be twisted. His wisdom came from knowing and understanding the Word, holding it deep within

His heart. If you want to read more about Jesus' time of temptation, you can find it in your Bible later in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.

In Jesus' time, few people owned written copies of the Hebrew Bible (the books of our Old Testament). Most people were taught God's Word by word of mouth. Students memorized whole books at a time, and spent time discussing their meaning so they could deepen their understanding of God and what He said. They stored God's Word in their minds and hearts, so that it could instruct them every day and in every way that they lived their lives.

Of course, young Jesus had a special advantage over the other students, being the Son of God and One with the Spirit that wrote the scriptures. Have you ever heard the phrase, "The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us?" In fact, scripture tells us that ***Jesus IS the Word!***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

- **Do you recognize Yeshua/Jesus in the passage above? What clues help you to identify that this scripture refers to Him?**

Today, we have an advantage over learners in Bible times: printed Bibles that are widely available. We can hold in our hands the complete collection of the books of God's Word, from histories and covenants to prophecies and wisdom. Old Testament to New Testament, creation to salvation, and every word recorded from the time when The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We can read our Bibles, storing God's words and meanings in our hearts, then read again and find the Holy Spirit guiding us to new understandings that we hadn't known

before. In this way, we see that God's Word is alive, and is at work in the lives of each one of us!

❖ **GOD'S WORD AND OUR PRAYER: GOOD MEDICINE**

The Word of God is good medicine. It is pure and holy. There are a lot of things in this world, but not everything is a good thing. God's Word is good.

Read aloud from your Bible:

Numbers 23:19

Hebrews 6:18-20

The combination of learning God's Word and coming close to Him in prayer will lead you with wisdom. In Isaiah 37:14 a King named Hezekiah received bad news, and scripture says that he took his letter and laid it out before God and prayed.

The Word of God is filled with stories of people and their experiences. It shows what they did wrong and what happened, and it shows what they did right and what happened. It shows how loving the Creator is even in our mistakes, and how He continues to forgive and give grace and more chances. As we learned in the story of the Prodigal Son, it is only by our own will that we walk outside of His blessing and wisdom. It is also by our own will that we look for His best will for us, and always when we seek, some wisdom we shall find.

When God speaks to you through the Word, in dreams or visions, or through other believers and you want to be sure you understand His meaning, pray and ask Him to reveal it to you. Ask Him for a confirmation of that truth. A confirmation is another way for Him to show that the message is from Him and that what He means is true for you. It is okay to ask Him for that. It helps you to know for sure and not doubt. It helps build your faith.

Group Leader: *Share with the group a time when you received a confirmation of wisdom or direction in your life.*

There are times when we are not acting in wisdom because fear consumes us. If we do anything out of fear except for the fear of God, we will not be acting wisely. Go to God for His peace. Think about how your actions might influence others (the children who are watching?). Wisdom will often include the good for other people, not just ourselves.

❖ **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

Suggestion: *Yahweh, we thank You for this time in Your good Word. We thank You that You say You will give us wisdom generously when we ask You for it. Thank You for that. We want Your wisdom and we ask for it. Help us to find Your perfect wisdom in Your Word and through the ways You choose to guide us. We are grateful for how good You are. Amen.*