

5 • “What’s the Wise Thing To Do?”

“What is WISDOM?” The simple definition we’ve used throughout this study is “**knowing which way to go.**” God has provided us with a treasure chest of written wisdom:



Your _____ is a lamp to my feet and a light to my _____. (Psa 119:105)

Our Creator has made known to us “the path of life” (Psa 16:11), and he rightly expects us to listen to him as our Guide:

Whoever _____ instruction is on the path to life... (Prov 10:17)

So what sort of questions should we be asking if we really want to know which way we ought to go? How can we figure out what the wise thing to do is at different moments of everyday life? Here are four really important questions to consider:

■ “Has God told me anything about ‘ _____ ’ or ‘ _____ ’ in this situation?”

The _____ of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov 1:7)

So whoever _____ the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.
(James 4:17)

■ “How does this pass through the **Philippians 4:8** _____?”

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is _____, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is _____, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.



■ “How would ___ like to be treated in this situation?”

“So whatever you _____ that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 7:12)

■ “This may be a ‘good’ thing, but can I _____ it in without sacrificing the ‘ _____ ’ things that matter most of all?”

“And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and _____ it... they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.” (Luke 8:7, 14)

“What’s the wise thing to do?” It’s one of the most important questions we learn to ask!

For Class & Family Discussion:

Let's think through those questions that were highlighted in the video.

- ▶ **“Has God told me anything about ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ in this situation?”**
 - Can you think of a few examples? What situations might we find ourselves in where God has clearly communicated to us, “This is right”?

 - On the flip side, what situations might we find ourselves in where God has clearly communicated to us, “That is wrong”?

 - What about **James 4:17**? Can you imagine a scenario where you know the right thing to do, but decide for some reason *not* to do it? Is that a big deal?

- ▶ **“How does this pass through the **Philippians 4:8** filter?”** What comes to your mind when you hear... how should these concepts impact and shape our decision-making...
 - True?

 - Honorable?

 - Just?

 - Pure?

 - Lovely?

 - Commendable?

 - Excellence?

 - Worthy of praise?

- ▶ **“How would I like to be treated in this situation?”**
 - What difference does this “golden rule” make in our decision-making?

- ▶ **“This may be a ‘good’ thing, but can I fit it in without sacrificing the ‘best’ things that matter most of all?”**
 - Wise decision-making involves more than choosing between right and wrong. Sometimes, it involves choosing what's best from a whole lot of good things. Can you think of some practical examples? How might lots of “good” things come to crowd out and choke what is “best” in our lives?

- ▶ If I'm struggling to determine what the wise thing to do is at different moments in life, what should I do?