



**INTRO:** Wisdom is found in enduring hardship, in wading through quagmires; in reminiscing over the past only to be struck by the fact that we cannot re-do what has been done; and in planning for the future only to realize it is utterly out of our control. Proverbs describes wisdom as “a woman to be chased after”. Anyone who remembers the experience of a young relationship, both insecure and unsure, knows the experience of chasing after wisdom. Yet, like a strong marriage, wisdom is well worth the chase and well worth the effort.

1. Tell us a story about a time you were courting/chasing after someone.

### **READ Ecclesiastes 7:1-14**

1. How do you balance “frustration is better than laughter” and “Eat, drink and enjoy your work” (Ecc. 5:18)?
2. What does it mean that the end is better than the beginning?
3. What does it say about God that he made both good and bad times? (Is that troubling?)

### **SERMON QUESTIONS:**

1. Do you find yourself more apt to long for the past or plan for the future?
2. What does wisdom mean to you?
3. Share an experience where you feel like you gained wisdom through struggle.
4. Would you choose a life of hardship and wisdom or ease and folly? Why?
5. For you, what does it look like to seek wisdom in any circumstance?

**OUTRO:** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Prov. 1:7). We grow in wisdom when we acknowledge who God is and who we are. God is in control, we are not. God is powerful, we are not. God is good, we are not. God sees the end, we do not. God knows the reasons, we do not. Do not try to be more than you are or do more than you can. A better life is not a life of prosperity and ease but a life of wisdom. It is in wisdom that the person you are becomes more and more like the person of Christ. Don’t miss it. Seek wisdom.

**PRAY TOGETHER.**

(Pray for God’s Spirit of wisdom to rest on you in all times.)