

# Wise Up

What is wisdom and how to obtain it

# What is your superpower?

- ✦ If you had the ability to have one superpower, what would it be?
- ✦ Why did you choose that superpower?
- ✦ What would you do with that power?
- ✦ The Bible has a story about someone who chose their superpower wisely.
- ✦ Solomon chose wisdom as his superpower.

# What is wisdom?

- ✦ Do we really understand wisdom?
- ✦ Do we know what it looks like?
- ✦ Where do we find it?
- ✦ Why do we need it?
- ✦ How do we get it?

So why  
do I need  
wisdom?

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# Understanding Wisdom

- ✦ Wisdom is mentioned in the Bible in 222 verses!
- ✦ Job, Psalms, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes are all about it!
- ✦ It must be “kind of a big deal”.
- ✦ Wisdom is the ability to distinguish right from wrong.
- ✦ Wisdom can bring you wealth and a long life.
- ✦ Let’s take a look at King of Wisdom: Solomon

# Wisdom = Good!

## ✦ **Proverbs 2:12**

Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,  
from men whose words are perverse,

## ✦ **Proverbs 4:6-7**

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;  
love her, and she will watch over you.

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.

Though it cost all you have, get understanding

## ✦ **Proverbs 8:11**

For wisdom is more precious than rubies,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.

# Wisdom = Good!

- ✦ **Proverbs 19:8**

He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;  
he who cherishes understanding prospers.

- ✦ **Proverbs 24:3**

By wisdom a house is built,  
and through understanding it is established;

- ✦ **Ecclesiastes 7:12**

Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter,  
but the advantage of knowledge is this:  
that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor

# Solomon: Wisest King Ever!

## **1 Kings 3:7-10**

“Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.

So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.

For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.



Wisdom  
requires the  
heart of a  
servant child

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# Luke 18:15-17

People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.

But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

# What is the heart of a child?

- ✦ Asking for things
- ✦ Admitting you don't have all the answers
- ✦ Having an open mind, not jaded by adult things
- ✦ Innocence: lack of guilt or wrongdoing
- ✦ Realize that Jesus takes away our guilt if we confess our wrong doing to Him

# What is the heart of a servant?

- ✦ Having an attitude of obedience
- ✦ Being a good worker
- ✦ Diligence and perseverance
- ✦ Taking pride in one's work
- ✦ Being humble in one's person
- ✦ **Proverbs 11:2**  
When pride comes, then comes disgrace,  
but with humility comes wisdom

Wisdom  
distinguishes  
right from  
wrong

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# Genesis 2:9 and 3:6

The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

# Telling Right from Wrong

- ✦ Telling right from wrong is sometimes easy!
- ✦ **Example**
- ✦ Most of the time it is not an easy task
- ✦ **Example**
- ✦ Only humans have the capacity for wisdom
- ✦ Animals must be taught, they cannot discern
- ✦ **Example**

Wisdom  
only comes  
to the  
selfless

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# Selflessness

- ✦ Solomon was not thinking about himself
- ✦ Solomon was thinking of helping everyone
- ✦ He realized that government is to be used for good
- ✦ He realized that it takes wisdom to run a nation
- ✦ What should the focus of our government be?

# The Constitution of the U.S.

We the People of the United States, in Order to

- ▶ form a more perfect Union,
- ▶ establish Justice,
- ▶ insure domestic Tranquility,
- ▶ provide for the common defense,
- ▶ promote the general Welfare, and
- ▶ secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves
- ▶ and our Posterity,

do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

# Phillipians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

God is  
pleased when  
we ask him  
for wisdom

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# Let's look at what God said

## **1 Kings 3:11-12**

So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked.

I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be."

Wisdom is  
easy to find,  
but hard to  
obtain

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# Proverbs 1:20

## **Wisdom should be easy to find...**

Wisdom calls aloud in the street,  
she raises her voice in the public squares;  
at the head of the noisy streets she cries out,  
in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:  
“How long will you simple ones  
love your simple ways  
How long will mockers delight in mockery  
and fools hate knowledge?”

# Job 28:12-14

**...but it's like finding a needle in a haystack**

But where can wisdom be found?

Where does understanding dwell?

Man does not comprehend its worth;

it cannot be found in the land of the living.

The deep says, "It is not in me";

the sea says, 'It is not with me.

...it is worth more than any precious metals

or jewels. They easier to find than wisdom.



# Proverbs 28:23-28

God understands the way to it  
and he alone knows where it dwells,  
for he views the ends of the earth  
and sees everything under the heavens.  
When he established the force of the wind  
and measured out the waters,  
when he made a decree for the rain  
and a path for the thunderstorm,  
then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;  
he confirmed it and tested it.  
And he said to man,  
“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,  
and to shun evil is understanding.”

# Fear of the Lord

- ✦ Fear of God... what is that?
- ✦ Perhaps it's like "meeting your maker"
- ✦ Perhaps that's why older people are wiser
- ✦ They understand the fragility of life
- ✦ Fearing and respecting God will bring you wisdom
- ✦ Only God can grant wisdom