

Growth Teams

Week Beginning
Sunday 19th October 2014

Going deeper

1 Corinthians was written by Paul to the church that he had helped found in Corinth. It was a church with many problems, not least of which was a tendency to glory in human abilities – often comparing one Christian preacher against another (1 Cor. 1:11-12). In this passage Paul reminds them that the gospel when evaluated in human terms seems to be a non-sense and yet for those who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18)

Please read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

4. What does God aim to do with ‘the message of the cross’? (1:18-20) What does this tell us about human based wisdom?

5. Considering what Jews and Greeks are said to look for, why is the message about Christ crucified so problematic to them? (1:21-23)

6. Why can we be confident that the Christian message is better than man’s wisdom? Why is it important to believe this?

7. What is God trying to show and achieve by choosing the ‘foolish things’ of the world? (1:26-29) How does this help us to put our faith in God?

8. What is the key difference between the ‘wisdom of the world’ and the ‘wisdom from God’?

Growth Teams

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday.

This is the last in our series looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. It is a book that forces us to take a much deeper look at life. In this section the focus is on wisdom, the ability to make good decisions in life. Wisdom is of great benefit, but how do we find true wisdom?

Tue. (New!) 7:30pm
Wed. 10:30am
7:30pm
Thu. 9:00am



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.

The Search for Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 7:1-8:1 (page 672)

Space to take notes on the talk

The _____ of wisdom:

- _____
- _____
- _____

The _____ of true wisdom:

- **Avoid:** _____
- **Face up to:**

your _____

your _____

your _____

Starter question

- ❖ What qualities do you think of when you think of a wise person?

Responding to the talk

1. If you were to be asked by a TV crew on the way out of church what you learnt from this week's talk, what would you say?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 7:1- 12 again:
 - a. What do these verses say is good about wisdom?
 - b. How does focussing on death or 'the end of the matter' help give us wisdom?
 - c. Why can being rebuked by a wise man be helpful?
 - d. Why are 'sorrow', 'rebuke' and 'mourning' better than 'having a good time'?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 7:13-8:1
 - a. What do these verses say is good about wisdom?
 - b. In what sense is it wrong to be over-wise or over-righteous? (vs. 16, cf. vs. 18).
 - c. How do these verses stop us becoming over-confident about what we can achieve as humans?
 - d. What do these verses teach us about sin?

If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 9 and 10.

Applying it to our lives

9. In what ways do we try to avoid facing up to the realities of life? What attitudes or habits might we need to change to actually face up to the realities of life?
10. What steps can we take to ensure our wisdom is rooted in the fear of God (vs. 18, cf. Prov. 9:10) and not human arrogance?