

# PT. 7: TRUE WISDOM

**SCRIPTURE:** JAMES 3:13-4:2

**MAIN POINT:** THE WISDOM YOU USE  
DEFINES THE PATH YOU CHOOSE.

## WHAT IS WISDOM?

1. Wisdom is a blend of knowledge, experience, and understanding.
2. Wisdom is "skillful living."
3. Wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_ to all.

- ...give your servant a discerning heart... to distinguish between right and wrong. (Solomon, 1 Kings 3:9)

## TWO TYPES OF "WISDOM" (v.3-12)


  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

→ \_\_\_\_\_
→ \_\_\_\_\_
→ \_\_\_\_\_


→

  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

→ \_\_\_\_\_
→ \_\_\_\_\_
→ \_\_\_\_\_


  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW MOST PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS

Most people ask:

- Is it moral
- Is it ethical
- Is it legal

## THE BEST QUESTION EVER (ANDY STANLEY)

Based on...

...my \_\_\_\_\_ experiences

...my \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances

...my \_\_\_\_\_ hopes, dreams, and goals

...what is the wise thing for me to do?

## OTHER NOTES

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# PT. 7: GROUP GUIDE

## THEME:

Real faith chooses the wisdom from above, not the wisdom that centers on self.

## SCRIPTURE:

James 3:13–4:2

## ICE-BREAKER

1. What's one decision you made that seemed small in the moment but had a big impact later?
2. If wisdom had a "warning label," what would it say to you right now?

## REFLECT (Read James 3:13-4:2 TOGETHER)

3. James asks, "Who is wise and understanding among you?" (James 3:13). How does James define wisdom, and how is that different from just being smart? (See also Proverbs 9:10)
4. James contrasts two kinds of "wisdom" (James 3:14–17). What stands out to you most about the difference between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above?
5. James says envy and selfish ambition lead to disorder (James 3:16). Where do you most feel that inner "battle" show up in real life: relationships, work, money, comparison, control, or something else? (See also James 4:1–2)

6. James says, "You do not have because you do not ask God" (James 4:2). Why do you think asking God is such a key part of living wisely? (See also James 1:5)

## TAKE ACTION

7. Look at the "wisdom from heaven" list in James 3:17. Which one quality do you most want to grow in right now: pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, full of good fruit, impartial, sincere? (See also Galatians 5:22–23)
8. This week, try asking the "best question ever": "In light of my past experiences, my present circumstances, and my future hopes, dreams, and goals, what is the wise thing for me to do?" Where do you most need that question right now: time, money, relationships, habits, or a major decision?
9. Think of one decision you're facing. What would "wisdom from above" look like in the next step, and what would "earthly wisdom" look like? What is one small move you can make toward the wise path this week?
10. James says peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness (James 3:18). What would it look like for our group to be a community of peacemakers, and how could that change our homes and friendships?

## CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Each morning this week, ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) and then practice one "wisdom from above" trait from James 3:17 on purpose that day.
- Prayer: Pray for hearts shaped by heaven's wisdom, not envy or selfish ambition, and for peace to grow wherever we live and lead.