

Module 6 Overview: In this module, we will discuss the value of Godly wisdom and discernment and how people-pleasing impairs both.

Key terms: Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge, experience, and understanding to make God-honoring decisions; discernment is the ability to perceive the true nature of a situation; and discretion is the ability to exercise caution and restraint.

Module 6: Week 1

This week, we will discuss God's definition and provision of wisdom and the dangers of self-deception and pride.

1. In **Proverbs 3:13-18**, we learn this about wisdom: *Those who find wisdom are fortunate; they will be blessed when they gain understanding. With her right hand, Wisdom offers long life—with the other hand, riches and honor. Wisdom will lead you to a life of joy and peace. Wisdom is like a life-giving tree to those who hold on to her; she is a blessing to those who keep her close.*

Question: According to these verses, how does Godly wisdom impact our lives? Wisdom helps us gain understanding about God and experience joy and peace.

2. In **James 1:5**, we read: *If any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to God, who will give it to you, because God gives generously and graciously to all* and **Proverbs 4:6** reads: *Don't turn away from wisdom, and she (wisdom) will protect you. Love her, and she will keep you safe.*

Question: How do we find wisdom and why should we seek it? By praying to God and asking for wisdom, which He gives generously and for our protection.

3. In **Jeremiah 17:9**, it tells us: *The human heart is the most deceitful of all things and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?*

Question: In what ways do our "hearts" mislead us or cause us to be self-serving? When we are only focused on our own needs and wants, not on loving God and others, we will make selfish decisions.

4. In **1 Corinthians 3:18a**, we read about self-deception: *Be careful! Do not think that you are better than you really are. Maybe you think that you are wise, like people today want to be wise.* And **Proverbs 26:12** warns us against thinking we are already wise and have nothing left to learn.

Question: What is at the core of self-deception and what are the warnings given in these verses? Pride is at the core of self-deception, and we are warned not to be wise in our own eyes and not open to correction or learning.

5. In **Proverbs 3:5-6**, we read how to battle against pride and self-deception: *Trust in the LORD completely. Do not think that you understand things well enough for yourself. Whatever you are doing, remember that the LORD is with you. Then He will show you the right way to go.*

Question: According to these verses, how do we battle against pride and self-deception? By trusting the Lord instead of our own understanding and seeking Him in prayer and His Word.

Let's Talk About It:

- What's the difference between "following your own heart" and having Godly wisdom?
- How can wisdom be a source of pride?
- In what ways does our culture value intellect and/or knowledge over Godly wisdom?
- How has this week's lesson encouraged you to seek God's wisdom over worldly knowledge?

Challenge: Spend time alone in prayer, reflecting and meditating on **Proverbs 3:5-6**.

Module 6, Week 2: The Benefits of Godly Discernment and Discretion

Last week, we talked about the difference between "following our own heart" and having Godly wisdom. This week, we will talk about discernment and discretion and why these help us make wise and careful choices.

1. In **Proverbs 14:8**, we read: *A careful person understands what is right and does it. But a foolish person's silly thoughts deceive him.*

Question: What two types of people are described in this verse and how do their thoughts impact them? A "careful" person understands and does what is right, and a "foolish" person is deceived by their own thoughts.

2. In **Colossians 2:8**, we read: *Be sure you are not led away by the teaching of those who have nothing worth saying and only plan to deceive you. That teaching is not from Christ. It is only human tradition and comes from the powers that influence this world.*

Question: What is the purpose of "human tradition," and why should we be on guard against this? Any teaching that is not from Christ is rooted in deception and is not for our well-being.

3. **Philippians 1:9-10** reads: *This is my prayer: I pray that your love will grow more and more. I pray that you will have better understanding and be wise in all things. I pray that you will know what is the very best. I pray that you will be true and without blame until the day Christ comes again.*

Question: What are the core features of this prayer? For us to grow in love, to be wise, and rooted in the truth of God.

4. In **Proverbs 2:11**, we learn the value of discretion as the ability to use "wise planning" to avoid pitfalls through careful consideration. And **Proverbs 5:2** says: *Be careful to use good sense. Watch what you say.* And **Proverbs 19:11** tells us: *A person's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is to his credit that he ignores an offense.*

Question: According to these verses, how are we to act with discretion? We plan wisely and with careful consideration, we watch what we say, and we control our anger without wanting revenge.

Let's Talk About It:

- How does an openness to learning and a recognition of personal limitations guard against pride?
- How does humility protect us against arrogance and the assumption that our own reasoning is always correct?
- Why should we trust and rely on God to provide truth and clear discernment?
- Does this week's lesson help you to see the value of God-given discernment and discretion?

Challenge: Invite a friend to youth group this week and reach out to a friend with an encouraging word/Bible verse.

Module 6, Week 3: The Trap of People-Pleasing

For the last two weeks, we have talked about the value of Godly wisdom, discernment, and discretion. This week, we will talk about how people-pleasing impairs our ability to hear from God and make wise decisions.

1. **John 12:43** warns against *"being more concerned about what people thought of them than about what God thought of them,"* and **Jeremiah 17:5** tells us that when we put our trust in people and depend on human strength, we stop trusting in the Lord.

Question: How do these verses describe people-pleasing? It is being concerned about and dependent on what people think of us.

2. In **Galatians 1:10**, the Apostle Paul writes: *Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Question: According to this verse, how does people pleasing impact our ability to serve Jesus? There is a choice to be made: try to win the approval of people OR serve Jesus, we cannot do both.

3. In **Psalms 40:4** we read: *Blessed is the person who places his confidence in the Lord and does not rely on arrogant people or those who follow lies* and **Psalms 32:10** warns: *Tormented and empty are wicked and destructive people, but the one who trusts in the Eternal is wrapped tightly in His gracious love.*

Question: According to these verses, what are we protected from when we rely on God and His plan for us rather than other people? We are protected from pride, following lies, torment and destruction.

4. **1 Thessalonians 2:4** reads: *For we speak as messengers from God, trusted by him to tell the truth; we change his message not one bit to suit the taste of those who hear it; for we serve God alone, who examines our hearts' deepest thoughts.*

Question: After reading this verse, what do we learn about how God sees us? He trusts us to share the good news of Jesus and to always speak His truth, no matter what it costs us.

Let's Talk About It:

- In what ways does people pleasing impact our ability to make wise and God-honoring decisions?
- Why are we tempted to seek the approval of others over the approval of God?
- How do we know when we are people pleasing and what can we do about it?
- How has this week's lesson prepared you to seek God's way instead of "winning" the approval of others?

Note: Remember to plan for next week's **INSPIRE WEEK** by preparing a student to share a faith story and the gospel message (on the INVITE WEEK lesson) and downloading RESPONSE cards (on the yclprograms.org website under the STUDENTS tab).

Challenge: Invite 2 new friends to next week's INSPIRE meeting.

Module 6, Week 4: INSPIRE Week

Welcome to our group! We are so glad you are here [Introduction of student leadership team].

We get together every week to talk about God, what He says in the Bible, and discuss different life topics. Even though we are a student-led Christian group, all students are welcome here, no matter their belief system or background. This is a reliable and safe place to make friends and feel connected.

Now, let's open the meeting in prayer [student leader prays].

Introduction of INSPIRE Week:

For the last few weeks, we have been talking about the value of Godly wisdom, discernment, and discretion, and how people-pleasing can impair our ability to hear from God and make wise decisions. In the Bible, the book of **John, verse 12:43** warns against "*being more concerned about what people thought of them than about what God thought of them,*" and in **Jeremiah 17:5** we are told that when we put our trust in people and depend on human strength, we stop trusting in the Lord. With these verses in mind, we will hear a student's faith story today and how God has been working in their life.

Student leader's faith story NOW

Prayer and invitation:

We will now take a minute to talk to God through prayer. In the quiet of your heart and mind, I invite anyone here who wants to begin a relationship with God through faith in Jesus, to agree in your heart and mind with what I am saying because God hears our private thoughts. I will pray out loud and I invite you to pray this in your head:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you with an open heart. I acknowledge my selfishness and how it has separated me from you. Even though I may not fully understand, I believe that Jesus is the way back to you and want to place my trust in Him today. Help me to turn from doing things my way and release my life over to you. Thank you for promising to hear and answer my prayer.

In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen

Pass out Response Cards NOW

If this is your prayer today, know that God welcomes you into His family, and you can begin walking in a new relationship with Him right now. And please join us for next week's meeting when we will start a new module.

Challenge: Remember to follow up with first time attendees, and with those who made a decision to follow Jesus or have questions.