



INTRODUCTION

Part 2 - A Wisdom Essential: Listening

The series, Wise Guy, explores wisdom from the biblical book of Proverbs. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule God's nation, and He granted the request. We could all use a little more wisdom, insight, knowledge and understanding, too.

Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, penned the Old Testament book of Proverbs to address our need to know and understand life. His insights can help us navigate relationships, work, pleasure, and a host of other challenging situations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think most people listen well? Explain your answer. Do you think you listen well?
2. Why do you think we are not better listeners?
3. Read Proverbs 1:5, 8-9 and 15:22. Why do you think we should listen to and get advice from other people, especially if they are wise or they are our parents or someone else in authority? What are some of the benefits of listening well?
4. Do you think we ought to listen to our "enemies?" Explain your answer.
5. Read Proverbs 13:10; 15:5 and 29:1. Why do you think most of us don't like being corrected by someone else? What happens if we don't learn from the correction we receive from others? (Consider examples of correction from a boss, a friend, a family member or an enemy).
6. Have you ever learned something significant from the correction you received from someone else? What happened and what did you learn?
7. Read Proverbs 13:10 again and Proverbs 18:2. Where do pride and arrogance fit into this discussion about listening?
8. A fool is basically someone who is not wise because he or she is either naïve or he or she refuses to learn. Read Proverbs 26:1-12. Why is being wise in our own eyes worse than being a fool?
9. How can we learn to listen better?
10. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

APPLICATION

One of the most essential practices we need to incorporate if we want to be wise is to practice listening to other people. Listening means taking seriously the instructions, warnings, and advice of people we consider to be wise and out for our best interests. We should take advantage of the wisdom of others before moving ahead on our own.

Learning to listen better, receive correction, and receive advice from others will help us to pay attention so we don't find ourselves paying the price for poor decisions. Solomon's counsel in the book of Proverbs offers us a wealth of wisdom, and God has provided it to us as a part of His guidance.

KEY VERSES

Proverbs 1:1-9	Proverbs 18:2
Proverbs 15:5, 22	Proverbs 19:20
Proverbs 29:1	Proverbs 26:1-12
Proverbs 13:10	