



A 4-WEEK SERIES FROM PROVERBS AND THE EPISTLES ON

LIVING WISELY

A WISDOM SERIES FROM GROW'S ANNUAL TEACHING STRATEGY

The main graphic features the words "GOOD CALL" in large, white, textured, 3D-style letters with an orange drop shadow. To the left is a blue and white basketball. To the right is a red circular whistle with the word "WISDOM" repeated around its perimeter. The background is a dark chalkboard with faint white chalk drawings of circles and arrows. At the bottom left, there are seven circular portraits of diverse people. At the bottom right, the text "CREATED WITH . . ." is followed by the names of the creators in white capital letters.

GOOD CALL

CREATED WITH . . .
**ROBBY SMERNOFF, CARLY BARTLETT, GEOFFREY LAWSON,
GARRET SHELSTA, KENDALL SMITH & NIK WALBORN**

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ABOUT THIS SERIES

Coaches help their teams by guiding them towards good decisions. They create the strategy, put together a game plan, and send their players out to make it happen. Wouldn't it be nice for someone to do that for all of our decisions? Thankfully, God gives us wisdom whenever we feel like we could use a good coach. In this 4-week series from Proverbs and the Epistles, we'll learn more about the wisdom God offers us whenever we want to make godly decisions. We'll see that **wise people practice what God has said** and **share what God has given them**. We'll also look at how the Holy Spirit helps **wise people follow God's guidance** and how **wise people's words show God's love**.

WEEK 1

This week, we'll look at the start of Solomon's reign as king when he prepared to make decisions on behalf of the people he served.

- **BIG IDEA:** Wise people practice what God has said.
- **BIBLE:** 2 Chronicles 1:7–13; James 1:22–25; Proverbs 1:7

WEEK 2

This week, we'll look at one of John's letters as he coached his church to follow the example of Jesus.

- **BIG IDEA:** Wise people share what God has given them.
- **BIBLE:** 1 John 3:16–20; Proverbs 22:8–9; Matthew 25:35,36,40

WEEK 3

This week, we'll look at one of Paul's letters when he advised a church to listen to the Holy Spirit God gave to them.

- **BIG IDEA:** Wise people follow God's guidance.
- **BIBLE:** Ephesians 1:15–23; Proverbs 1:20–33; Luke 2:52

WEEK 4

This week, we'll hear from James as he helped inspire his church to think differently about the words they say to each other.

- **BIG IDEA:** Wise people's words show God's love.
- **BIBLE:** James 3:13–4:3; Ephesians 4:29–5:2; Matthew 12:34

MEMORY VERSE: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."
— James 1:22 (NIV)

HIGH SCHOOL HACKS

REVISE

To make this week more accessible for high schoolers, here's what to adjust ...

In Week 1, focus your attention on wisdom rather than knowledge. This is an important distinction for your teenagers. Help them see that wisdom is applying shared knowledge and experience by giving them ample time to think about applying God's wisdom to their lives.

Let teenagers lead "Bible or Coach" (Week 2) and "Weird Call" (Week 3) modules instead of adults.

Rather than having an adult lead the group in these activities, recruit a few older teenagers to lead the rest of the group—especially if you have a few teenagers who like to be the center of attention. This will help the rest of your teenagers stay engaged and help you avoid any accusations of cheesiness.

During Week 4, keep in mind that love is a crucial idea for teenagers. At this stage, middle and late adolescents are more equipped than ever to think about and verbalize what love means. Help them define it and allow Godly wisdom to help expand or challenge how their words can show God's love.

Every week, encourage high schoolers to think about their future. Because you're talking about Godly wisdom, your high schoolers may want to discuss how this applies to their future vocations or callings. If you think your teenagers may want to explore that subject, go for it!

Every week, don't skip the application points. The subject of this series is making good calls in your life, which is very practical and applicable. To help your group implement what you're talking about, give plenty of examples of embodying the application steps each week.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else ...

Replace the weekly video modules with longer opportunities for group discussions, reflection, and responses. There are multiple video modules throughout the series. If you need to make space to give more time to help teenagers think about how they can create strategies to make Godly decisions in their lives, swap these out to make more time out for those other types of modules.

REMEMBER

Encourage high schoolers to be honest about applying Godly wisdom to their life. To create tangible change in their lives, they must be honest about where they are starting. Help them see that we all mess up, so it's important to stop pretending we don't. Wisdom is where we can take shared knowledge and experience from God's people and let it shape our lives. So, give them space to ask questions about how to do that in a judgment-free environment. Be prepared for anything, though, and don't be afraid to table a question for a later conversation.

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Wise people practice what God has said.

BIBLE

2 Chronicles 1:7–13; James 1:22–25;
Proverbs 1:7

ABOUT THIS WEEK

We have to make so many daily decisions, and without someone to coach and guide us, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. This week, we'll look at the start of Solomon's reign as king when he prepared to make decisions on behalf of the people he served. He chose to learn from God and trust God to coach him as he led the nation, reminding us how **wise people practice what God has said**.

- **Have any of you had a great coach in your life? What makes a great coach?**
- **How would you define "wisdom"? Who is someone you know personally or know of that you would consider wise?**
- **What would you say is the difference between being "smart" and being "wise"?**
- **If God told you to ask for whatever you wanted, what would you ask for?**
- **What keeps you from doing the wise thing, even when you know it's what's best for you?**
- **What does it look like to connect having wisdom to actually acting wisely?**
- **Read Proverbs 1:7. In this passage, "fear" is another way of saying "awe" or "respect." In other words, it is characteristic of someone who lives out Godly wisdom. What are some other characteristics you have seen in people who have wisdom and live it out? What would it look like for you to apply one of those to your life?**
- **How is saying "wise people practice what God has said" different from wise people doing what God has said?**
- **What steps could you take before the actual action that would help set you up to do what's wise?**
- **What is one thing you can start doing this week to "practice" doing what God says?**

GOOD CALL PLAYBOOK: WEEK 1

WISE PEOPLE PRACTICE
WHAT GOD HAS SAID.

THE PLAY: REMEMBER SCRIPTURE

One of the ways you can practice what God has said is through reading and memorizing Scripture. Spend a few minutes each day repeating and remembering this Bible verse this week. Then, ask God to help you make good calls for a few minutes today.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5

CHECKLIST

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

DAY 6

DAY 7

Write down any moment this week when you needed to make a good call and put into practice what God said. What was the result?

GOOD CALL PLAYBOOK: WEEK 1

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Write down any moment this week when you needed to make a good call and put into practice what God said. What was the result?

WEEK 2

DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Wise people share what God has given them.

BIBLE

1 John 3:16–20; Proverbs 22:8,9;
Matthew 25:35,36,40

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Great coaches are full of insight on how to play our favorite games, and they don't keep it to themselves. This week, we'll look at one of John's letters as he coached his church to follow the example of Jesus. Like a great coach, John passed on the wisdom and gifts he had received and showed his church how **wise people share what God has given them.**

- **What's the best gift you've ever received? What's the best gift you've ever given?**
- **What has it felt like to be on the receiving end of someone else's generosity?**
- **What would it look like for you to live generously even when you don't feel like it?**
- **When John talks about how Jesus demonstrated love, why do you think giving is the thing he asks of us more than anything else?**
- **What keeps you from being generous? Fear? Feelings of inadequacy? Comparison? Busy schedules? Past hurt? If you could erase those barriers to generosity, what are specific ways you'd like to be generous with what you have?**
- **If you could erase those barriers to generosity, what are specific ways you'd like to be generous with what you have?**
- **What do you think when the Bible says that the generous will be blessed? How does this challenge how you follow Jesus?**
- **What are some of the ways you could be generous that don't just include money?**
- **How have you experienced generosity from someone that did not involve money? What about the generosity shown you made it so impactful?**
- **What is one way you could share what God has given to you this week with a stranger? Someone in your family? To a friend? What is stopping you from making a plan to follow through on that this week?**

THE PLAY: REFLECT ON SCRIPTURE

Each day this week, read this Scripture below and write a short reflection on how the scripture helps show you how to wisely share what you've been given.

DAY 1: 1 JOHN 3:16-18

This is how we know what _____ is: Jesus Christ laid down his _____ for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has _____ and _____ sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with _____ and in _____.

REFLECTION:

DAY 2: PROVERBS 22:8-9

Whoever sows _____ reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. The _____ will themselves be blessed, for they share their _____ with the _____.

REFLECTION:

DAY 3: PROVERBS 19:17

Whoever is kind to the _____ lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have _____.

REFLECTION:

DAY 4: LUKE 6:38

_____ and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the _____ you use, it will be _____ to you."

REFLECTION:

DAY 5: HEBREWS 13:16

And do not forget to do _____ and to _____ with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

REFLECTION:

DAY 6: ROMANS 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is _____, then give _____; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

REFLECTION:

DAY 7: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows _____ will also reap _____ and whoever sows _____ will also reap _____. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful _____. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

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REFLECTION:

WEEK 3

DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Wise people follow
God's guidance.

BIBLE

Ephesians 1:15–23; Proverbs 1:20–33;
Luke 2:52

ABOUT THIS WEEK

You can have the best coach in the world, but does it really matter if you don't follow their advice? This week, we'll look at one of Paul's letters when he advised a church to listen to the Holy Spirit God gave to them. His message about trusting God's leadership and learning to rely on the Holy Spirit helps us see that **wise people follow God's guidance.**

- **What's the worst advice you've ever gotten? What's the best advice you've ever gotten from the most unlikely place?**
- **How do you determine whether the advice you are being given is good or not?**
- **Who are the people you can usually depend on to give you good advice? What about them makes you think you can trust them?**
- **How do you think making wise choices helps you know God better?**
- **What part of Ephesians 1:15–23 surprised you? Why?**
- **Can you think of a time when following God's wisdom seemed the opposite of what everyone else told you to do? What did you do? What was the result?**
- **Read Luke 2:52. How does knowing that Jesus grew in wisdom encourage your growth in wisdom?**
- **If you were going to teach someone how to follow God's guidance, how would you tell them how to do it?**
- **What would it look like for you to take your own advice?**
- **What is an area where you can continue to grow in wisdom and follow God's wisdom in your life? What's one thing in your life that you could change that would help you do that?**
- **Today, what is one step you will take toward following God's guidance?**

THE PLAY: PRAY SCRIPTURE

This week, you will hear messages that go against God's wisdom. When this happens, use this to help guide you through a challenging moment or difficult decision. Read the passage of scripture and pray those words as if they were your own. Then, ask the Holy Spirit for help, trusting you are empowered and equipped to make a good call.

WHEN YOU FEEL GOD'S WAY IS TOO DIFFICULT...

PRAY: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13)

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW IF FOLLOWING GOD'S IS WORTH IT...

PRAY: "Whoever listens to me will live safely and be at ease, without fear of harm." (Proverbs 1:33)

WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE ELSE IS FOLLOWING GOD'S WAY...

PRAY: "Have nothing to do with fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (Ephesians 5:11)

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GOD DOESN'T CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO...

PRAY: God, I trust you mean it when you say "For I know the plans I have for you..." (Jeremiah 29:11).

WHEN YOU FEEL YOU ARE NOT BRAVE OR STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE A GOOD CALL...

PRAY: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God..." (Isaiah 41:10).

WHEN YOU FEEL UNSUCCESSFUL OR FEEL LIKE YOU FAILED THIS WEEK...

PRAY: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived – the things God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Cor. 2:9).

WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ARE ALONE TRYING TO NAVIGATE THROUGH CHALLENGES...

PRAY: "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation ..." (Ephesians 1:17).

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WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Wise people's words
show God's love.

BIBLE

James 3:13–4:3; Ephesians 4:29–5:2;
Matthew 12:34

ABOUT THIS WEEK

The right words from a coach can inspire us to finish the game strong and overcome any obstacle in our way. This week, we'll hear from James as he helped inspire his church to think differently about the words they say to each other. James wanted to make sure everyone knew the power of their words and how **wise people's words show God's love.**

- **What's your favorite sports drink?**
- **What do you think keeps us from offering encouragement to others?**
- **What makes kind words so impactful? What makes unkind words so hurtful?**
- **What do you think of the way James says that wisdom and humility are connected? How does this challenge the way you follow Jesus?**
- **If you could think of one word to describe a wise person you know, what would it be? Thinking about the adjectives Paul uses in Ephesians, what are some common qualities the wise people in your life all have?**
- **Why do you think we tend to tear others down with our words when we feel down ourselves?**
- **When you notice envy or the temptation to tear others down come up, what is something you can do to try and change course and use your words to build up instead?**
- **In a moment where you used your words to tear someone down, how did you feel immediately after? What about when you encouraged someone?**
- **Read Matthew 12:34. How have you seen it be true that words reflect what's already in someone's heart? What are some things you can do to make sure what's going on in your heart is worth coming out in your words?**
- **Today, what's one change you can make to be someone whose words show God's love?**

GOOD CALL PLAYBOOK: WEEK 4

WISE PEOPLE'S WORDS
SHOW GOD'S LOVE.

THE PLAY: LIVE OUT SCRIPTURE

Read James 3:17-18 from the Message version of the Bible, underline a word or phrase that you want to be your focus for the week, and then answer the questions below.

"Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor."

James 3:17-18 (MSG)

WHAT ARE A FEW
WAYS THAT YOU COULD
SPECIFICALLY LIVE OUT
THE WORD OR PHRASE
YOU CIRCLED?

WHEN WOULD BE A
FEW TIMES YOU COULD
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DEVOTIONAL

for volunteers



Coaches help their teams by guiding them towards good decisions. They create the strategy, put together a game plan, and send their players out to make it happen. Wouldn't it be nice for someone to do that for all of our decisions? Thankfully, God gives us wisdom whenever we feel like we could use a good coach. In this 4-week series from Proverbs and the Epistles, we'll learn more about the wisdom God offers us whenever we want to make godly decisions. We'll see that **wise people practice what God has said** and **share what God has given them**. We'll also look at how the Holy Spirit helps **wise people follow God's guidance** and how **wise people's words show God's love**.

To get ready for this teaching series, spend a few minutes each week **studying** the passages of Scripture we'll be **teaching**, praying about what God wants to do in and through us in the next few weeks, and **growing** by putting God's words into practice in your own life.

WEEK 1 Wise people practice what God has said.

2 Chronicles 1:7–13; James 1:22–25; Proverbs 1:7

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, ask God to help you grow in wisdom.

GROW

So what's your next step? Do you need to put God's words into action? Is there a situation where you need help? Can you memorize God's words for the times you need guidance? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 2 Wise people share what God has given them.

1 John 3:16–20; Proverbs 22:8,9; Matthew 25:35,36,40

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, ask God for the chance to use your gifts to help someone.

GROW

So what's your next step? Do you need help identifying the gifts God has given to you? Is there someone you could help right now? Can you invite your friends to live generously with you? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 3 Wise people follow God's guidance.

Ephesians 1:15–23; Proverbs 1:20–33; Luke 2:52

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, ask God for guidance in a difficult situation.

GROW

So what's your next step? Can you ask for help with discerning God's wisdom in your life? Do you need to talk to someone about a situation you're experiencing? Can you ask others to share wisdom with you? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.

WEEK 4 Wise people's words show God's love.

James 3:13–4:3; Ephesians 4:29–5:2; Matthew 12:34

STUDY

Take a moment to read the passages we're covering this week.
What stands out to you in this passage and why?

PRAY

This week, ask God to help you use your words to show love.

GROW

So what's your next step? Do you need to reconsider the words and tone you use with others? Is there someone you could encourage and lift up today? Do you need to ask someone about the messages they interpret from your language? Whatever your next step is right now, take it.