



New International Version is used for questions

1. A big mile-marker of spiritual growth is when we change our thinking and admit that everything we have is God's and comes from God. Why is this such a hard concept for us to learn?
2. Pastor Rick said that the first navigational aid that God gives us is wisdom. A definition of Biblical wisdom is the following: Wisdom is knowing the difference between what God says is right and wrong, discerning the difference between what is good and what is the best, and then choosing to do the best. According to this definition, why is it essential to know what God's word says in order to be wise? Why do you think it is necessary to discern between good and best in order to be wise? What is the last and essential step to actually be a wise person?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. This passage says that there is another "wisdom" besides God's wisdom, what is it? What do you think is the difference between the two? Can you give an example of worldly wisdom that contradicts God's wisdom?
4. Read Matthew 25:14-26. Pastor Rick explained how this story teaches us that God gives all of us opportunities to prove ourselves faithful to him. What are some opportunities in the past that God has given you that you were able to prove yourself faithful to him? What is an opportunity that you have in 2026 to prove yourself faithful to God?
5. How does embracing God's guidance in our lives produce clarity and reduce confusion? Are there any areas of life that are causing you confusion at this point and what can you do in order to get clarity?
6. As we ask God for his wisdom and pray for his guidance, he promises us his peace. Read Philippians 4:6,7. What do you think it means to have God's peace in your life? How does God's peace "pass understanding"?

essence. The idea that we owe everything to God goes against the way our rational minds work. We worked hard for what we have and so it belongs to us.

2. *If we do not know God's word, we cannot know what God says is right or wrong, so something that God says is sinful might seem wise to our human minds. You must be able to discern between what is good and what is best because there are things that are not morally wrong to do but can be a waste of our time, for example watching tv for 8 hours a day or being on social media extensive amounts of time. These are not the best use of time. You are not wise until you not only know what is the best thing to do, but you actually choose to do it.*
3. *There is a "wisdom" that comes from the human rational mind that is not based on the absolute truth of God's Word. It might seem wise to a person to hoard all they have, but God's wisdom teaches that it is best to give and be generous with what he has blessed us with as an example. The difference is how we view everything in life which is corrupted by our sinful natures and what God says is true about everything.*
4. *Get your members to recognize that all Christians are given opportunities to be faithful in our service to him on a daily basis and set goals on how we can be faithful to him in the coming year. God will someday judge us on how we used these opportunities. The only ability that counts with God is availability. Are we making ourselves available for God to use?*
5. *Embracing God's guidance produces clarity because it defines for us what is the best decision to make in every situation we face and warns us what the wrong decisions would be that would actually harm us. If we are willing for God's will to be what we strive to accomplish, his word reveals to us what that will is and how to be wise in our decisions. This removes the confusion of what we should do.*
6. *To have God's peace does not mean that all turmoil is removed from your life, but it does mean that you can have a deep sense that no matter what happens to you, God is going to make the outcome be for your best and he is going to give you everything you need to weather the storms of life. Romans 8:28 tells us that he will cause everything that happens to us to turn out in the end for our benefit if we will respond to our circumstances with faith in God and a commitment to love and serve him. It passes understanding in that there is no reason externally for us to have peace in the middle of the worst thing this world can throw at us.*