



WISE UP

KNOWLEDGE VS. WISDOM

WISDOM MUST BE PURSUED / PROVERBS 1:1-10,13:20

1. If you could spend an hour with any person alive today who is not a family member, who would it be? Why?
2. Today's lesson focuses on the need to choose our friends wisely. Pastor Mark suggests that we become like the people we hang out with. Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?
3. Read Proverbs 1:1-10. Why are parents so concerned about who their children are spending time with? How can parents give children the freedom to choose their friends, but still limit their exposure to relationships that might be a bad influence on their child?
4. Pastor Mark points out that the Biblical instructions to choose your friends carefully and avoid people of "bad character" seems to be at odds with the Christian responsibility to be light in a dark world and be a positive influence on others. How do we manage this tension?
5. According to researchers, the average person has enough relational bandwidth (time, emotional energy) to develop 5 really close friends. How can we be thoughtful, strategic and wise in developing our "inner circle?"



WISE UP

KNOWLEDGE VS. WISDOM

WISDOM MUST BE PURSUED / PROVERBS 2:1-11, 4:8-9

6. What do you think is the biggest barrier from building strong and meaningful relationships today?

7. Read Proverbs 3:20. What qualities should someone look for in a close friend?

8. How would you gracefully create reasonable boundaries to limit your time with people who wanted to build a closer friendship with you, but you did not have either the time or interest?

9. Pastor Mark points out that there are some toxic people in the world, people who drain us and who are not good influences on us. How do you go about avoiding those types of people without coming across as a judgmental snob?

10. Read Philippians 4:8. How might this passage help you identify the kind of person who could be part of your inner circle of friends?