

#GetOverYourSelfie: Wisdom Over Foolishness

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God — truly righteous and holy. Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT

How do I get over myself and experience God's best?

1. Focus on Jesus.
2. Get rid of the old.
3. Put on the new (God's righteousness).

Icebreaker

I CHOOSE This game is a way for your group members to get to know each other a little better and have a few laughs along the way. Out loud, read both choices for each category, then ask group members to put up their hand to indicate their preference.

I CHOOSE ...

Coffee	or	Tea
Tim Hortons	or	Starbucks
The Leafs	or	the Raptors
An SUV	or	a convertible
Dog	or	Cat
The beach	or	the ski hill
Disney Plus	or	Netflix
Star Wars	or	Lord of the Rings

Video

Watch this week's video – Wisdom Over Foolishness

<https://www.lifegroupleaders.ca/studies/getoveryourselfie/>

Study

#GetOverYourSelfie has been all about choices. It has been about choosing one thing over another—choosing to experience God’s best over choosing to serve ourselves. Each week we have explored a theme that has reflected two ways to live:

1. Truth Over Lies
2. Contentment Over Greed
3. Generosity Over Selfishness
4. Humility Over Arrogance
5. Eternity Over Temporary

Each of these themes demonstrate both a wise way and a foolish way to live. As you look back over these themes, why would we say that one way is wise and the other foolish?

Foolishness

No one intentionally sets out to live foolishly. We don’t want to think of ourselves as foolish, but God tells us that our sinful nature means that we have a propensity to live foolishly. It is our natural inclination.

“Foolishness is the result of a person misusing the intelligence God has given him. A fool uses his reasoning skills to make wrong decisions.” J.I. Packer – Knowing God

- What do you think of Packer’s definition of foolishness?

Only fools say in their hearts, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good! The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. But no, all have turned away; all have become corrupt. No one does good. Not a single one! Psalm 14:1-3 NLT

One way we are foolish is by denying God exists. We may say we believe God exists, but then live as if He doesn’t.

- What are some insights you get from Psalm 14:1-2 about what it means to be foolish?
- What do each of these passages teach us about what it looks like to live foolishly?
 - Proverbs 14:16-17
 - Proverbs 15:5
 - Proverbs 19:1
 - Proverbs 19:3
 - Proverbs 22:15
 - Proverbs 24:9

It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you. Mark 7:20-23 NLT

- How does Jesus' perspective on foolishness help you understand it?
- In our culture many of us have a narrative about ourselves, "I'm basically a good person. Yeah I mess up sometimes but I'm going in the right direction." How does this narrative contrast with what Jesus teaches in Mark 7?
- Why is it important for us to realize our propensity to be foolish?

Get over foolishness by choosing wisdom

To get over ourselves, we must realize our propensity to be foolish and we must intentionally choose wisdom over foolishness. This battle takes place in our thoughts, desires, and actions. Let's explore what God teaches us about wisdom.

The dictionary defines wisdom as "the ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting."

- Do you think every person has this ability? Why or why not?

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. James 1:5 NLT

- Wisdom is a gift from God. Is it not something we develop on our own. How does this insight help you understand wisdom?

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10 NIV

- What do you think it means that the "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom?"
- How does the second half of this Proverb help us understand what it means to be wise?

Understand and live in the fear of the Lord

God tells us that fearing him is the first step toward being a wise person. An honour, respect, and elevation of God over everything helps us order our lives in a way that is wise in every

dimension of how we live. Let's explore together what it looks like to fear God and the blessings that come when we choose to live wisely.

Define the fear of the Lord

Isaiah 6:5 is the prophet Isaiah's response when he is overwhelmed by being in God's throne room.

Then I said, 'It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies.' Isaiah 6:5 NLT

- What key words or phrases in this verse might help us understand what it means to fear the Lord?

In the Bible, the word translated as "fear" can mean several things. It can refer to the terror one feels in a frightening situation ([Deuteronomy 2:25](#)). It can mean "respect" in the way a servant fears his master and serves him faithfully ([Joshua 24:14](#)). Fear can also denote the reverence or awe a person feels in the presence of greatness ([Isaiah 6:5](#)). The fear of the Lord is a combination of all of these. Got Questions

- What do you think of the description of fear (above)?
- In our culture, fear is typically seen as negative. Fear is something we want to get out of our lives. What might an unhealthy fear of God look like?

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 1 John 4:16-18 NLT

- Based on these verses, how would you define the kind of fear God wants to help us get over?
- How would you contrast this fear with the fear He wants us to cultivate?

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body. Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this too. 2 Corinthians 5:10-11 NLT

- How do these verses help you understand the importance of living in the fear of God?

The blessing of fearing the Lord

I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and for the good of their children after them. Jeremiah 32:39 NIV

- There are blessings we receive when we fear the Lord. What are the blessings we see in Jeremiah 32:39?

“I will give them singleness of heart and action ...”. We can live singly for God or we can try to live in ways that are divided. As a group, contrast these two ways of living.

- What does it look like to live with singleness of heart and action?
- What does it look like to live in a divided way?
- How have you experienced the truth of this verse?

“Those who fear the Lord have a continual awareness of Him, a deep reverence for Him and a sincere commitment to obey Him.” Got Questions

- What might it look like for you to cultivate a healthy fear of the Lord this week?

Pray

For your prayer time this week, ask God to help you choose wisdom over foolishness. Ask Him to empower you to cultivate a healthy fear of Him.