



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: Life Hacks
Message Title: Who is Wise?
Scripture: James 3:13-18
Speaker: Pastor Kevin Myers
Date: November 15-16, 2014

Icebreaker:

At the beginning of the service they showed the "life hack" of cooking sweet corn in a microwave? Have you tried any of the "life hacks?" With what results?
What person in the world is considered to have wisdom (such as Oprah, the President)? What do you think of their "wisdom"?

Message Overview:

Today's message is the sixth in the series LIFE HACKS. Life hacks are free or inexpensive tips and tricks to make your life simpler and easier. The Bible is full of practical ways that we can improve our lives. This week, Pastor Kevin Myers (PK) shared a lesson from the Book of James about the wisdom that comes from above and the wisdom that comes from below..

Need to Know: Two life Truths

- 1) There are two kinds of wisdom (above and below).
- 2) The two cannot be mixed (without double-minded disorder)

Need to Do: Three Life Hacks; before you act.

1. **Stop** – Stop to care about the one.
2. **Look** - At what you have.
3. **Listen** - To your Father first.

In week 6 of the series Life Hacks, PK tells us that James speaks about wisdom that is from heaven vs. wisdom that is from the earth and asks the question "How do we become wise? James is helping us discern who is wise and who is "the fool" so to speak. The reality is that we are all navigating tough times and rough relationships and you can help prevent them if you can engage in some real wisdom.

Discussion:



(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week's primary Message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. Remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self-awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit results in revelation and...transformation!) There are more questions than you will need. Select the ones that will best help your group.

Read James 3:13-18

The first truth we need to know: **There are two kinds of wisdom (above and below).** One is from heaven and one from the earth. PK sets this context. We were created from above by God our Father as spirit beings wrapped in a physical body. We are from this world below & we identify with it. Unfortunately, we sinned against God our Father & brought spiritual death to our relationship with Him which brought about a Spiritual Blindness ... like turning out the lights. It's hard to discern real wisdom.

- Read verse 13 again. What is linked with wisdom in verse 13?
- Define *humility*.
- Why is "true wisdom" humble?
- Read verse 15 again. What words are used to describe wisdom from the earth? Put them in your own words.
- It's easy to get caught up in the world's wisdom. Where are you tempted to listen to the world (such as GET MORE stuff)?

PK showed the clip of one of his new favorite commercials: GEICO & the Horror Movie. We all think people in horror movies make stupid decisions. "WHY can't we just get into the running car?" Are you crazy? ... let's go behind the chain saws ... "smart"! ... That's a perfect picture of a horror movie. James would say this is also a picture of wisdom from down below. God says, "Take the running car with lights." The world says, "Are you crazy?" When we follow the world's advice we end up in a nightmare: nightmare marriages, families, finances. All of us have made these kinds of foolish mistakes.

- PK mentioned examples of his 2 accidents, his parent's moral foolishness, and the economic foolishness we are in. Where have you ended up in a nightmare?
- What nightmare situation are you dealing with right now?

The 2nd truth we need to know: **The two cannot be mixed (without double-minded disorder).** This means you can't mix wisdom from above with wisdom from below without Disorder and Discontent. He used the diagram showing the voices that speak into our lives. God, Jesus, the Bible are from above. The earth includes parents, teachers or professors, friends, screen media, social media, polls, politics and the church. Many of us are living out of a blend of these where it becomes about me.

- In the world, which voice in your opinion is screaming the loudest?
- Which one is influencing our children the most?
- How can we help our children listen to God rather than the world?
- Which voice do you need to work harder to ignore?



- How have you concluded that all voices are equal and as a result you have created a “mix for me?”
- James warns us about selfish ambition. What is a good definition of selfish ambition?
- How might envy or selfish ambition be exhibited in relationships?
- How has this mix of voices from the world led you down the path of selfish ambition?
- Where have you fallen into the trap, “If it feels right to me...?”

James gives us some to dos. Stop, Look, Listen

Read James 3:17-18 from “The Message” if possible.—God’s wisdom is pure, considerate and full of good works.

The first Need to Do is STOP – Stop to care about the one.

PK says we need to deal with our own selfish ambition. In the High Paced High-Pressure of life, we all deal with the tendency to put ourselves at the center. The purpose of ONE MATTERS cards is to help us put others first.

- Tell stories about how you used cards like these (such as Random Acts of Christmas) in the past.
- Has anyone used a card on you? How?
- PK challenged us to use the “One Matters” card at home. Did anyone have a chance to take the challenge?
- Have you used one in the community yet? How?

The second Need to Do is LOOK. – At what you have. Instead of what you do not have. Live in a world that stirs discontent. So we become “Getters instead of Givers” (wisdom from below). Your life is shaped more by what you GIVE than what you GET. We must be CONTENT with GETTING and DISCONTENT with GIVING. It will change your life.

- Let’s have a “Go God” moment: What do you have?
- What is something that you have been trying to get but now seems less important?
- Has anyone taught you how to dream about giving more? How?
- How do you need to give more in your life?
- How can we teach our kids to be givers?

The third Need to Do is LISTEN. – Listen to your Father first. Seek fist the Kingdom of God.

- How are you seeking the kingdom of God first?
- What helps you to keep this a priority? (Time alone with God, Small Group)
- How can you help your children seek God first?

Read Verse 18 again (NIV).

- What is the end result of true wisdom (verse 18)?
- How has God rescued you out of a nightmare of wisdom from below bringing you peace and righteousness?



- How do you have the dream that God has for your life through His wisdom?

Wrap-Up/Close:

PK asked us several questions at the end of the service. Will you apply God's wisdom? Will you stop to care about others? Will you look at what you have vs. what you don't have? Will you listen to you Father First?

- Which one of these areas do you need to work on the most?
- What will you do this week to strengthen this area?

Pray for each other in this area of wisdom.

Challenge:

Use the "One matters" card at home.

Use the "One Matters" card in the community.