



Discussion Guide
Navigate – Part 1
LEADER GUIDE

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Hey small group leaders! In our NEW series, “**Navigate**”, we’ll discover that in an age of endless information, TRUE wisdom is not always available. This series will be about discernment: learning to filter voices, making wise decisions, and aligning with God’s truth. Through various passages about the life of Solomon, we’ll explore how to think critically, seek wisdom, and renew our minds in a noisy world. When we cultivate discernment, we don’t just survive—we thrive in the amazing life God has for us!

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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“Wisdom is the art of living skillfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves.”

[Eugene Peterson]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - In this passage, we see Solomon taking the reigns of leadership from his father, King David. The exchange of prayer between God and Solomon shows us the priority that having a discerning heart must be in our own lives and that we must get that from Him. God’s affirmation reinforces this priority and also reveals that God works through people ... transformed people.
- **1 Kings Ch. 3 Commentary & Leaders Marked By Humility**
 - Use the commentary and article for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **Tune Into the Work of the Holy Spirit**
 - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.

If you could look into a crystal ball and see the outcome of one major life event, what would it be and why would you choose that?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“A scoffer seeks wisdom and finds none [for his ears are closed to wisdom],
But knowledge is easy for one who understands [because he is willing to learn].”*

[Proverbs 14:6, Amplified]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.

God's way is not a crystal ball ... His way is wisdom!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud 1 Kings 3:1-14. Consider having another person read it aloud again.

1. In the sermon we heard, *“Wisdom and discernment fills the gaps between the ways of life and the Word of God so that we walk as people of God.”* What “gap” in your life has God recently filled with His wisdom? Let's celebrate and praise God for His wisdom! *This is a good opportunity to go FIRST!*
2. Why is Solomon's request for wisdom and discernment significant? How does God respond to Solomon's request? *This is significant because he prioritizes God's wisdom over personal gain, showing humility and a desire to serve well. God is pleased with his request and grants him wisdom, along with riches and honor. This highlights that when we seek God's priorities, He provides beyond what we ask.*
3. Why does God choose to lead through wisdom, rather than simply revealing the future? *Answers will vary: God's way is about transforming us into wise, discerning people rather than just removing risk. He wants us to trust Him daily rather than obsess over knowing every detail about the future.*
4. What causes you to prioritize safety and certainty (based on fear) over making decisions based on wisdom? What is a recent example of this in your own life? *Answers will vary: fear makes us seek quick, risk-free solutions, while wisdom requires trust, patience, and personal growth. Many of us prefer certainty because it feels more secure, even if it's not God's best.*
5. *Have someone read aloud Proverbs 2:6-7.* Solomon's request shows that wisdom is about seeing things from God's perspective. How does this differ from worldly wisdom? *Worldly wisdom often prioritizes personal success, control, and comfort, while God's wisdom focuses on righteousness, justice, and transformation.*
6. In the sermon we heard, *“No area of life is beyond the need for God's wisdom, off-limits to God's wisdom, or unaffected by the absence of His wisdom.”* In what specific area of your life do you need more wisdom and discernment right now? Be vulnerable with one another!
7. *Have someone read aloud James 3:17.* God's wisdom flows through transformed people. What is a practical way that God is inviting you to grow in wisdom to be transformed? *Answers will vary: through regular prayer, studying Scripture, seeking godly counsel, practicing discernment, and learning from life experiences. Wisdom grows through a relationship with God, not just knowledge.*
8. What's one practical way our small group can pursue wisdom-centered living together in the next month? *Answers will vary: this could include reading a book on biblical wisdom and sharing highlights, committing to a prayer challenge, serving in a ministry that requires faith, or studying Proverbs together. Wisdom is developed in community, not isolation.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Solomon's story reminds us that wisdom is a gift from God, not just human intelligence. The good news is that God puts us in certain situations and positions, and then He *empowers us to reflect Him wherever we are!* Here are a few questions to consider as we seek, live by, and apply God's wisdom ...

- Will I **PRIORITIZE** God's wisdom by ...
 - changing at the heart level?
 - accepting Holy Spirit conviction?
 - seeking relief that comes from the Lord?
- Am I willing to **PRAY** ...
 - Does this align with your will and purposes?
 - What is the wise thing to do and/or the wise way to be?
- Who am I really **BECOMING**?
 - Do I reflect God's goodness onto people and into situations?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || **Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompts below!*

Seeking and Living by God's Wisdom

- God's way is the path of wisdom that guides us step by step and helps us navigate life's complexities with discernment, humility, and grace. Take a moment to thank God that He so generously gives us wisdom when we humbly ask for it.
- As we pray, let's ask God to fill us with His wisdom. Let's seek His guidance in our decisions, invite His truth into our everyday lives, and commit to applying His wisdom in how we love, lead, and live. May we be a people who reflect His wisdom in all we do.