

SERIES GRAPHIC

How do you **NAVIGATE** life?

{one slide ... can use split/2-sided screen if needed}

What food should we eat?

What school should my kids attend?

Do I take this job or that one?

Should I stay in this relationship or go?

Should I buy this or not?

How do I know for sure?

There are times in our lives when we just want God to tell us what to do.

There are times in our lives when we just want to do what we want to do.

We all want the best/most preferred future.

Acts 1:6-8 (NLT)

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are **not for you to know**. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you will be** my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth**.”

There is information that we do not get to know, nor do we need to know.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NLT)

The Lord our God has **secrets known to no one**. We are **not accountable for them**, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that He has **revealed** to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, “Let Us make man **in Our image**, according to Our likeness. They will **rule** the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

²⁸ God **blessed** them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, **fill the earth**, and subdue it. **Rule** the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

God gives strategic **direction more than tactical **details**.**

Today:

- More information than ever before ... at our fingertips.
- More choices than ever before ...

“Our brains are busier than ever before ... facts, pseudo facts, jibber-jabber, and rumor ... all posing as information.”

{Daniel Levitin, neuroscientist}

Remember: it was the **enemy** who offered **additional** information!!

{bullet points come up one at a time; line by line}

God’s purpose for people in creation (Genesis) and redemption (Acts) is that we be/become a **type of person**:

- Capable of empowered **initiative**
- Dignity of **responsibility**
- With a healthy sense of **accountability** to God.

I Kings 3:1-3

Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt by **marrying Pharaoh’s daughter**. Solomon brought her to the city of David until he finished building his palace, the Lord’s temple, and the wall surrounding Jerusalem. ² However, the people were **sacrificing on the high places**, because until that time a temple for the Lord’s name had not been built. ³ Solomon **loved the Lord** by walking in the statutes of his father David, but he also sacrificed and burned incense on **the high places**.

{bullets come up one at a time; same slide}

Solomon:

- Navigating just like us
- He’s not perfect ... not even close.
- Compartmentalized his relationship with God
- God’s Will: position vs. type of person ...?

I Kings 3:4

The king went to **Gibeon** to sacrifice there because it was the **most famous high place**. He offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

I Kings 3:5

⁵ **At Gibeon** the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “**Ask**. What should I **give** you?”

We just need to be amazed (again and again) by God’s unending grace and always “in play” grace.

Psalms 42:8

The Lord will command **His lovingkindness** in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the **God of my life**.

God remains committed to His plan for people ... and His people need His grace.

I Kings 3:6

And Solomon replied, “You have **shown great and faithful love** to your servant, my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, righteousness, and integrity. You have continued this great and faithful love for him by giving him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today.

I Kings 3:7-8

“Lord my God, you have now made your servant king in my father David’s place. Yet I am just a youth with **no experience in leadership.**⁸ Your servant is among your people you have chosen, a people **too many** to be numbered or counted.

{one at a time; same slide}

Solomon at the crossroads with humility, a sense of his limitations, and the size of his new role.

- ***Will he succumb to paralyzing fear & insecurity?***
- ***Will he shrink from initiative, responsibility & accountability?***
- ***Will he DQ himself?***
- ***Will he make a “comfort zone” request?***

I Kings 3:9a

So give your servant a **receptive heart** to judge your people and to **discern** between good and evil. ...

{one slide; all together}

Solomon asks for a specific grace to be the type of person God created & redeems.

- ***Receptive, open, teachable heart***
 - ***Discernment; wisdom***

Important Observation:

- **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.**

Wisdom/Discernment:

capacity to see things from God’s perspective and then respond according to the principles, purposes and ways of God, which He has revealed primarily through His Word.

→ Fills **the gaps** between the **ways of life** and the **Word of God** so that we **walk** as people of God.

I Kings 3:9b

... For **who is able** to judge this great people of yours?"

... only the person who prioritizes receiving the **grace of personal transformation**.

- vs. immediate gratification; relief; escape
- vs. being right, validated, approved of

I Kings 3:10-13a

Now it **pleased the Lord** that Solomon had requested this. ¹¹ So God said to him, "Because you have requested this and **did not ask** for long life or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies, but you asked **discernment for yourself to administer justice**, ¹² I will therefore do what you have asked. I will give you a **wise and understanding heart**, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again. ¹³ **In addition**, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor ...

God wants to put us in certain situations & positions and then empower us to reflect Him wherever we are!

Wisdom from God = **grace of discerning how best to reflect God's goodness onto people and into situations.**

1) Who am I **becoming?**

{one slide if possible; keep formatting OR put each bullet point under the header question and use 3 different slides}

2) Am I ready to **prioritize God's wisdom ...?**

- ***Even if, I have to change at the heart level?***
- ***Even if, I have to accept Holy Spirit conviction at the wisdom level?***
- ***Especially when, I am tempted to retreat or seek immediate relief and/or gratification?***
- ***Always for the good of others and the glory of God?***

{all together; same slide}

3) Am I really ready to pray ...

→ **Lord, **in this** what is the **wise thing to do** and/or the **wise way to be** ...?**

- ***That aligns with Your revealed will?***
- ***That aligns with Your purposes?***
- ***That reflects Your goodness?***

{put the bold name and the verse on same slide ... can be split screen}

Wounded Ambassador
2 Corinthians 5:20 (TLB)

We are **Christ's ambassadors**. God is **using us** to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ Himself were here pleading with you, receive the love He offers you—be reconciled to God.

{put the bold name and the verse on same slide ... can be split screen}

Christ: Our Wounded Healer

2 Corinthians 5:21 (TLB)

For God took the **sinless** Christ and **poured into Him our sins.**

Then, in exchange, He **poured God's goodness into us!**