

Week Beginning: 8th March 2020

Worship Series: #2 in series



Deep Cycle

living sharing growing

Theme Verse

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

Remember This Week

Deep Wisdom is simply this: Let God be God to you.



**Let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Proverbs 1:5,7

Heavenly Father, we know that the wisdom of humankind is but foolishness to you. As we come together to sit at your feet and to learn more of you and your ways, fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we might hear you speak to us and through us. Amen.



1. *Share one high and low since you last met with one another.*
2. *Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *Who is the wisest person you have ever met?*
4. *What kind of student were you at school? Nerd? Cool Kid? Class Clown? Others?*
5. *What do you see as the difference between wisdom and knowledge?*

We live in a fast changing world, where the need to retrain or upskill is becoming a constant reality. That is what makes Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) so important for many. RPL is a way of getting any previous relevant knowledge, experience or wisdom formally recognised towards a new qualification. It short cuts the process. It gives credit for knowledge already held. When it comes to salvation, many people wish they could receive RPL - that their religiosity, their charitable works, their goodness or knowledge of God would give earn them some credit points. Jesus rejects any application for RPL. You have to start over, begin anew and discover the Deep Wisdom that comes as the Spirit leads us in the way and life of Jesus. It's a life that engages our passions, sparks our imaginations and satisfies our deepest yearnings for more. May you find that deep wisdom today.

Read John 3:1-17

6. *What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?*
7. *Why do you think Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the night?*
8. *Jesus calls Nicodemus a 'Teacher of Israel'. How do you think this role or title might have influenced Nicodemus' thinking?*

We might be tempted to scoff at Nicodemus' lack of understanding in this passage, yet his wisdom is evident in his recognition of Jesus as a teacher who comes from God. Nicodemus understood that there was more to things than what he himself had come to understand, and he recognised that Jesus held the answers that he sought. Unfortunately for Nicodemus, Jesus' response was not what he had expected. Instead of getting some clear answers, Nicodemus appears to end up more confused than he was to begin with.





9. *Have you ever brought questions to Jesus, only to find yourself even more confused? What kinds of questions were they?*
10. *Jesus seems to make some pretty strong distinctions between things of the flesh and things of the Spirit. What do you think he means by using this kind of language?*
11. *Read verse 8 again carefully. Jesus says, 'So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit'. How do you see Jesus' metaphor of the wind depicting the spiritual life of Christians?*

Proverbs chapter one tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Sometimes wisdom is simply recognising when we have reached the limits of our human capacity to reason and explain things and simply to trust that God, in his wisdom, has everything under control.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The apostle Paul reminds us how completely above our wisdom, is the knowledge and wisdom of God. So much so that it makes all the knowledge and wisdom of humanity seem like foolishness in comparison. So much of Jesus' teaching seems to fly in the face of what our human experience tells us to be true. Since when do the first become last, the least become the greatest, or life come from death? These things do not make sense to our rational thinking minds

12. *Have you ever experienced something that defies logical explanation? What happened?*
13. *What are the logical barriers or stumbling blocks which still impede your ability to fully embrace what Christ has done for you?*
14. *How does it make you feel when you acknowledge that you do not have all the answers?*

Paul goes on to say that for those who believe, the things which seem foolish to the world become for us the very wisdom and power of God. God invites us to share in his wisdom and power when we lay our own wisdom and power aside. This is how the Kingdom of God works. When we lay aside our own wisdom and strength, God makes himself available to us to be our wisdom and strength. But it means handing ourselves over to him, to be completely transformed and renewed by the Spirit.



Jesus said, 'What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit'. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us through Jesus Christ. He is also called the Counsellor or Advocate. The Holy Spirit helps us to make sense of spiritual things. Our friends who do not yet have faith in Jesus, are often trying to comprehend spiritual things with a brain of flesh. This didn't work well for Nicodemus and it doesn't often work so well for us if we try to logically argue someone into faith.

15. *What are some of the arguments you have heard people use to explain why they do not believe?*
16. *What are some ways you might help these people to encounter the Holy Spirit so that they might better understand spiritual things?*
17. *The work of the Holy Spirit does not mean that we can't use our reason and logic. How might we be able to use our gifts of thought and intelligence for God's glory?*
18. *What is one change you can make in your life to live in a deeper relationship with Jesus in the week ahead?*

- * Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit who gives knowledge and understanding. Thank Jesus for loving you so much and revealing his Father clearly for us. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow deep in spiritual wisdom.
- * Pray that you seek the wisdom of God before the wisdom of the world.
- * Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you wisdom to speak in appropriate ways and empower you to witness boldly to the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the right time.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

Name, may you know daily the joy of life in Jesus. Amen.

