

1 **How would you define wisdom?** Brainstorm together to build a working definition of the concept of wisdom.

 Think of someone you know who is truly wise that you go to for advice. What are they like? What is it that makes them wise? What do you appreciate most about them? And, where did their wisdom come from?

 Proverbs 13:14 says that "The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death." We can have many advantages in our lives, but without wisdom, life falls apart. Discuss what might happen if you have some of the following things, but don't have wisdom... Love Courage Ministry Opportunities Truth Technology Spiritual Gifts Money Generosity

 In Proverbs, wisdom calls us to slow down and consider the deeper realities of life that begin with the fear of the Lord. How is our fast-paced, instant information world a detriment to our search for wisdom? Consider what Nicholas Carr points out in his article, *Is Google Making Us Stupid* can teach us in our search for wisdom. "Media are not just passive channels of information. They supply the stuff of thought, but they also shape the process of thought. And what the Net seems to be doing is chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation. My mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles. Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a Jet Ski."

 In what areas of your life do you sense the greatest need for wisdom right now? How can you encourage each other and pray for each other? Read James 1:5-6.

2 **In Proverbs 9, Wisdom is personified as a woman with an invitation to a feast.** Read Prov. 9:1-6. How does God's offer of wisdom as a feast enhance your understanding of the concept? Think especially of how the feast of Proverbs 9:1-6 describes wisdom in terms of tastes and loves and desires.

 Discuss the from/to picture of growth in wisdom through the lens of wisdom's invitation to a feast and folly's invitation to dine with her. A wise life isn't either folly or wisdom. It is from folly to wisdom. "This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified." Martin Luther How do you learn to enjoy the taste of a new food? How is the process of learning the way of wisdom similar to learning a new taste? Consider 9:6, 7-8.

 How does that metaphor encourage you in your pursuit of wisdom in the fear of the Lord?

