**1. Motivate**

What are some different ways you access information for home, work, church, areas of curiosity?

* Internet, Google

A video introduction to the Bible study is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_j51faf6h> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video to your computer from yyyy

* library
* watch the news
* read the paper
* check with local gossips!!
* ask your kids/parents
* encyclopedia
* ask a friend

**2. Transition**

This week we consider how the Spirit guides believers to live as *wise*, *mature* Christians

* The Holy Spirit helps us know how to live holy lives.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God’s Wisdom Is Greater

Listen for comments on wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:6-9 (NIV) We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--

How did Paul describe or define the substance of the message he and his coworkers preached in Corinth?

* a message of wisdom
* not from the world,
* not from the “rulers of this age” who are coming to nothing
* God’s secret message

To what did he contrast his message?

* “wisdom” of this age
* “wisdom” of the rulers of this age (which means??)
* the world’s opinions or mindset

Let’s contrast the two kinds of wisdom Paul speaks of. What characteristics of each does he state.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Wisdom of this age | God's Wisdom |
| * the only wisdom available for unbelievers
* declared by rulers of this age
* coming to nothing
* resulted in crucifixion of Christ
* cannot know/understand God's wisdom
* we infer that it includes only secular knowledge
* may also include inaccurate ideas about spiritual issues
 | * “secret” wisdom
* wisdom for mature believers
* has been hidden, kept a mystery
* God destined it for our glory
* it was established before time began
* it was prepared for those who love God
 |

Consider the fact that nowhere in this passage do the words “education” or “heritage” appear in relation to God's wisdom.

This is because …

* God's wisdom is not a matter of exposure to a collection of facts or collection of knowledge
* God's wisdom is not a collection of information to be passed down to succeeding generations
* God's wisdom has to do with knowing Christ as one’s personal Savior

⇨ Spiritual Truth is known only to those who …

* Believe what God says and
* Receive it in faith

In what kinds of situations do we need wisdom in serving the Lord?

* witnessing
* teaching, leading a Bible study
* giving counsel or advice to someone seeking help (or someone who is not seeking but needs to hear it anyway)
* speaking words of sympathy to someone who has lost a loved one
* what to say when visiting someone in the hospital
* calling up people on your care list who are inactive members you don't even know what they look like

What advice in line with this scripture passage do you think Paul would give for these situations?

* I know how you feel
* actually fancy talk is not the answer
* the main thing is to share the simple Truth of the Gospel
* God's Spirit will do the convincing in their hearts and minds
* It is more important that God convince them than your eloquence, then they are trusting what God says, not what you say

3.2 The Holy Spirit Gives Understanding

Why are you sometimes able to almost “read the mind” of your spouse or your best friend? You can often predict what they will say, or both say the same thing together.

* You spend time with them
* you talk with them often
* you have seen them react to all kinds of situations

Listen for how you can know what God is thinking.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 (NIV) but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

Why is verse 10a essential to understanding Paul’s intent in verse 9?

* note the connective word, “but” which implies contrast
* verse 9 says we cannot (on our own) conceive of what God desires and will accomplish in our lives
* verse 10 declares that God *does* reveal these things to us by His Holy Spirit

How do we put ourselves in a position to receive God’s wisdom?

* spend time with Him
* read what He has to say … often
* talk to God
* pay attention in a Bible Study, during a sermon

Why should we *not assume* that God gives us His wisdom automatically?

* first we have to come to Him in repentance, confession, and faith
* we have to tell Him we are depending on Him, on what He provides
* we must declare to Him that we are trusting in the Truth/reality of what He says



How does receiving God’s wisdom relate to being filled by the Spirit?

* allowing God to control your life, Jesus is on the throne
* receive what He wants you to do, yield to Jesus
* also receive what He wants you to *know*
* Jesus’ influence and direction can be seen in the believer’s life

3.3 A New Perspective

Listen for limitations for unbelievers.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NIV) The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: 16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

According to this passage, how are spiritual and unspiritual people different?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Spiritual People | Unspiritual People |
| * makes judgments about all things
* not subject to man’s judgment
* we have the mind of Christ
 | * not able to make valid judgments
* must rely on the judgments of other men (who themselves are fallible)
* do not have God’s mind or perspective
 |

How then, can a believer differentiate between natural human wisdom and the spiritual wisdom that comes from God?

* spend time studying God’s Word
* ask for God’s help (by the Holy Spirit) to understand and apply what you read
* use reliable Bible study helps
* pause and think about concepts you read and study
* gather with other believers to study, discuss, and apply God’s Truths

What are some Christian beliefs that nonbelievers (including those of other faiths) have a hard time understanding?

* virgin birth of Christ
* miracles recorded in Scripture (treat them as myths)
* the “hoax” of the resurrection
* that the central event of our faith has to do with an act of capital punishment

According to this passage, how can we effectively explain these beliefs to nonbelievers?

* you can’t!
* that’s the point, without the Holy Spirit, these concepts are “foolishness”
* only when they receive Christ as Savior, does the Holy Spirit give understanding and acceptance to these Truths

What do you think it means to have “the mind of Christ?”

* God's Spirit brings thoughts into our mind that Christ wants us to know
* We are given the same mind set or attitude towards people and issues that Christ has (compassion for the lost, hatred of sin, etc.)
* God's Spirit helps us understand the Truths in God's Word

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

qr link to family discussion

List.

* Make a list of areas where you need wisdom.
* Take those things to God in prayer, asking for His Holy Spirit’s guidance.

 Refine.

* Conduct an inventory of the sources that help you make decisions in life.
* Ask God for greater discernment in discriminating between them.
* Classify these sources by subject area (such as finances) and their degree of reliability.
* Then eliminate resources that could betray your judgment or lead you astray.

Partner. `

* Look for a godly mentor in one or more of the areas listed above.
* Schedule regular time together to grow in wisdom with God’s help.

Double Puzzle

Two of our operatives in Aupaviet risked their lives to get this two part message to their Christian friends in the West. Unscramble the words in the first list – only people in your Bible study will know that these words are ***taken from today’s passage***. Then use the numbers to decode the message below. Our regular decrypting crew are at summer Jr. High Bible Camp, so we need your help. Technical support and other Fun Family Activities are available at xxx