

# Sermon-Based Discussion Guide for Home Groups

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## God's Wisdom, My Confusion

### Series: Big God

January 9, 2011

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#### Scripture

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31** (New International Version, ©2010)

**18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

**20** Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **22** Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**26** Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. **28** God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, **29** so that no one may boast before him. **30** It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. **31** Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

#### Engage

Have you ever wondered how much more smarter God is than us? If you had to quantify it, how many times more wise is He than us?

#### Discuss

1. Read the scripture above. What insights do you gain from this verse?
2. There are two ways to gain wisdom, from our own experiences and from the experiences of others. Which of these makes more impact? How do we learn the wisdom of others?

3. Why do you think God seems to hide the truth of the gospel from the wise and intelligent? (See the passage above.)
4. The cross of Jesus is the perfect expression of the timeless wisdom of God.
5. James 1:5 tells us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” How do you feel about God’s promise of wisdom? Have you ever claimed this verse?
6. Another great passage is Matthew 7:7-8. It says, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” How hard are you seeking God? How do we seek God? What makes it so difficult to be consistent? What would help us be more consistent in seeking God?

### Your Next Step

How about upgrading your seeking of God’s wisdom. Now at the first of the year, make a plan to read God’s word on a daily basis. You can find many plans online at such sites as BibleGateway.com, BiblePlans.org, NavPress.com or YouVersion.com.

Also, find a growth partner, someone with which you will share what God is doing in your life, what you are reading and what you are learning.

### Children’s Time

1. Give an overview of the focus passage for children.
2. Ask this: “How smart do you have to be to follow God?”
3. Explain that any of us can get wisdom from God. We are to seek His wisdom and the wisdom of others. Talk about spending time in God’s word to gain wisdom.

### Other Passages Cited

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Matthew 11:25-26

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

Romans 1:22-23

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles

Other Passages: James 1:13-18, Acts 18:9-10, Matthew 11:25-26