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Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A college student drops his plans to pursue a law degree and goes overseas as a missionary.

A young woman refuses to work the sixteen-hour days that are required to move up the corporate ladder so that she can work with the youth group in her church.

A businessman in his forties leaves his career and moves his family and children to another state to begin seminary.

A retired couple puts their lifetime savings into a Christian bookstore to serve their community.

Each of these decisions might be regarded as wise or foolish depending on who you ask. And it is not just non-Christians who disagree about whether these are good decisions—Christians would have different views about them as well.

GROUP DISCUSSION. When has a person you regarded as wise taken a surprising (and perhaps foolish) risk?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. What risk (for God) do you regret not taking?

This passage is all about what constitutes wisdom and foolishness. Read *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*.

1. In what ways are wisdom and foolishness contrasted in this passage?

2. How do you react to the way in which foolishness is described here?

3. Why is the cross wisdom to some but foolishness to others (vv. 18, 23-24)?

4. How would you define *foolishness* from this text?

5. How does God's view of wisdom contrast with the world's view (vv. 19-21)?

6. In what ways do many "wise" people today—scholars, philosophers, scientists—try to get along without God?

7. What aspect of the world's so-called wisdom has swayed you?

8. Notice the contrast between wisdom and strength (vv. 26-29). What value does social standing have in God's eyes?

9. What does Christ offer us (vv. 24, 30)?

What difference do these gifts make in our lives?

10. What does it mean to boast in the Lord (v. 31)?

11. From this passage how would you define *wisdom*?

12. How can you go about pursuing the wisdom of God?

Pray that God will make you wise in his ways.

Now or Later

Think of the Christian people you know. Who is a model of wisdom and why?