

Week 4 **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Text: 1 Cor 2:6-16

Icebreaker: If you could go back and tell your teenage self one nugget of wisdom, what would it be? Do you think your teenage self would listen to you?! **Ha, ha.**

1. Read all of chapter 2. What stood out to you from the passage and the sermon you heard Sunday?

2. From verses 6-9, what do spiritual maturity and wisdom have to do with each other? What's the difference between the kind of wisdom the mature have and the "wisdom of this age"?

Only the mature are able to identify, value, and embrace God's wisdom. To those who are not mature, the wisdom seems like folly as they instead seek after what this world calls wisdom.

Application: How can we tell the difference between the wisdom from God and the "wisdom" of this age? Can you think of an example where the wisdom of this age is sometimes mistaken for God's wisdom?

3. What do you think Paul means by saying that God's wisdom is "secret and hidden" (v. 7)?

We could mistakenly think of it as a code to be cracked by exceptionally smart people or a treasure hunt requiring great luck or tenacity. Instead, it means that God has to reveal it to us in order for us to grasp it, regardless of how smart we are.

Application: Have you seen that the wisdom of the gospel seemed hidden to someone? If so, explain what you mean.

Perhaps you've shared the gospel with people who always seem to find an objection to it.

4. Verses 10-16 tell us about the role of God's Spirit. What can we learn from these verses as they relate to God's wisdom?

God's Spirit allows us to understand and accept God's wisdom. It gives us access to God's wisdom so that we are able to comprehend "the thoughts of God."

Application: What relevance does this have to how we talk to others about faith in Jesus?

At a minimum, this should remind us that no one comes to faith in Christ apart from a supernatural work of God through God's Spirit. The gospel cannot be accepted on mere

intellectual grounds, even if a person's experience of coming to faith included a lot of investigation and research into Christian faith.

5. Since we have the Spirit, "we have the mind of Christ." Does this mean that Christians automatically know all that they ought to know about God because they have the Spirit? Explain what you think.

It might be possible to misread what Paul is saying here by thinking he is describing a kind of "automatic download" of everything we need to know once we have God's Spirit. Instead, we should remember that God's Spirit works through our ongoing study of God's Word, our prayers, and our interactions with other believers in the church. This is a life-long process of growing in our understanding of God's wisdom.

Application: Take time in prayer to thank God for giving us the Spirit that gives us understanding and acceptance of God's wisdom contained in the gospel message.

The fact that our grasp of God's wisdom is not our doing but is rather a gift of the Spirit should cause us to be grateful to God for all he has done!