



SMALL GROUP LEADER & COACH EQUIP NIGHT

***PRAY ON YOUR OWN
ENJOY DINNER AT YOUR TABLE!**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- New Leaders
- REACH & Discussion Guides
- Update your Roster (MobileTools)
- Giveaways!
 - Camp Mugs!
 - *Gentle & Lowly!*
 - *Wisdom Pyramid!*

A painting of a flock of sheep in a rocky, hilly landscape. In the foreground, a black sheep stands on a rock. In the background, several white sheep are scattered across the terrain. The word "DEVOTION" is written in large, white, bold letters in the center of the image.

DEVOTION

- Where is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus describes his heart?

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

“gentle”: “Meek. Humble. Gentle. Jesus is not trigger-happy. Not harsh, reactionary, easily exasperated. He is the most understanding person in the universe. The posture most natural to him is not a pointed finger but open arms” (Dane Ortlund, *Gentle And Lowly*, p.19).

“lowly”: “The point in saying that Jesus is lowly is that he is accessible. For all his resplendent glory...no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ. ... The minimum bar to be enfolded into the embrace of Jesus is simply: open yourself up to him” (p.20).

_____:

GREAT COMMANDMENT: (Matt. 22)

GREAT COMMISSION: (Matt. 28)

GREAT JUDGEMENT: (Matt. 25)

GREAT INVITATION: “Come...” (Matt. 11)

GREAT COMMANDMENT: “Love... God... neighbor” (Matt. 22)

GREAT COMMISSION: “Go... make disciples” (Matt. 28)

GREAT JUDGEMENT: “sheep from the goats” (Matt. 25)



DISCUSSION

- What word/phrase do you most need to hear tonight?
Why?
- Your group?

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WISDOM PYRAMID

- What words would you use to describe our culture right now?



1. EATING TOO MUCH

“In the competitive landscape of the digital age, the ‘food’ of information is not getting more nutritious; it’s veering in the direction of junk food. Doritos and Skittles will always get more clicks than spinach.

And so we walk down the buffet line of social media snacks and online junk food, daily gorging ourselves to the point of gluttony. Unsurprisingly, it is making us sick.”

(Brett McCracken, *The Wisdom Pyramid*, p.19)

2. EATING TOO FAST

“Whether in hot-take clickbait or well-timed Twitter threads, fortune favors the fast on the Internet. It doesn’t favor wisdom. Such a pace has no time for critical thinking.” (p.19)

Another problem:

“Over time our skepticism about all sources leads us to turn inward, trusting only in ourselves—which brings us to our third major bad dietary habit.” (p.20)

3. EATING ONLY WHAT TASTES GOOD TO ME

“If we only ever ate our favorite foods, most of us would be sick or dead. ... So it is with our information diet. We might be tempted to consume only material we like and have a taste for ...

The Internet is built around you. Google search; social media algorithms; recommendations from Siri, Alexa, Netflix, and Spotify; ... all of it is tailored to *you*.” (p.20-21)

Problems:

1. ~~KNOW WHAT'S GOOD~~: “[W]hen everything revolves around you and your tastes, it’s only going to be awesome if you know exactly what’s good for you. And we usually don’t.”

2. ~~EMPATHETIC~~: “[W]hen every individual is living a totally unique, customized, perfectly curated ‘i’ life, it is harder to find commonality with others. We start losing the ability to be empathetic...” (p.21)

Internet / Social Media

Can sometimes make us wise but—when dominant in our diet—often makes us fools. Should be approached intentionally and used sparingly.

Beauty

Art, culture, creativity, wonder, rest. Makes us wise by engaging our hearts, slowing us down, and inspiring our worship of God.

Books

Sources of education and carriers of time-tested truth. Make us wise by helping us think more deeply, broadly, and carefully about God's world.

Nature

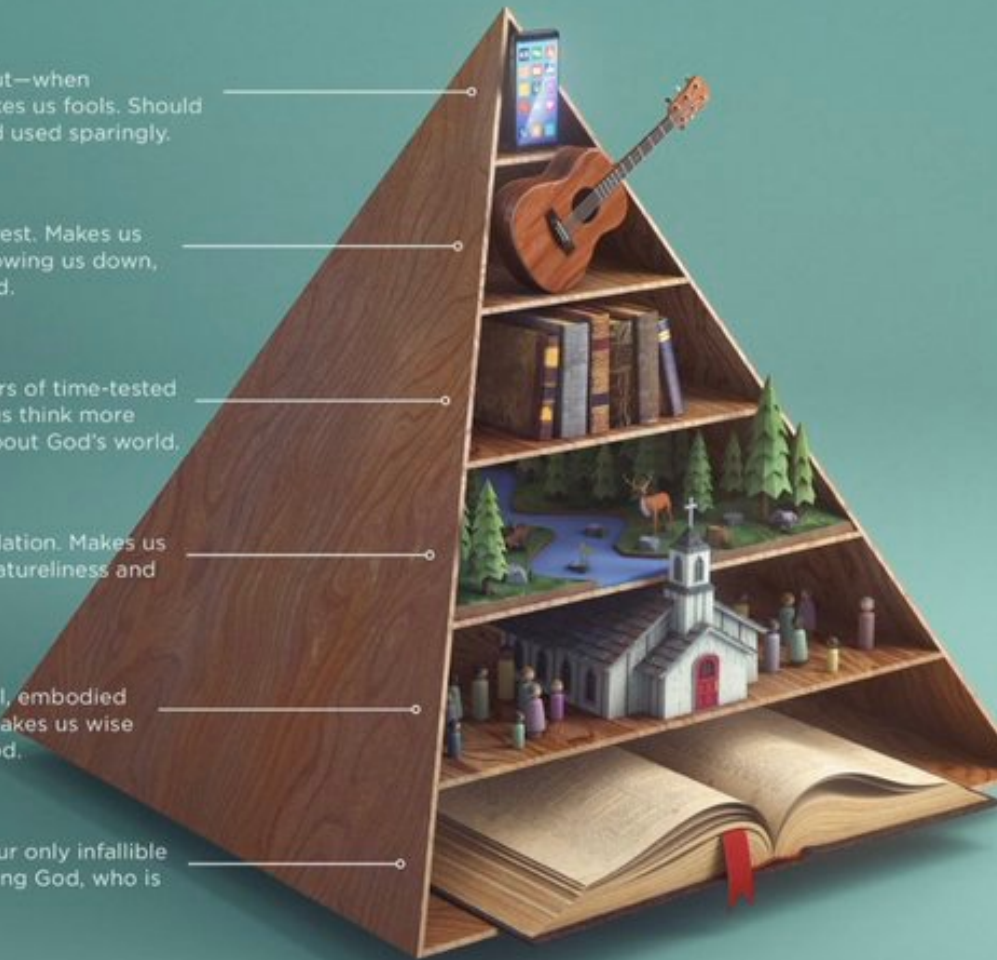
God's creation and general revelation. Makes us wise by reminding us of our creatureliness and grounding us in God's design.

The Church

God's Spirit-filled people in local, embodied communities and across time. Makes us wise by orienting our lives around God.

The Bible

God's direct speech to us and our only infallible source. Makes us wise by revealing God, who is wisdom's source and standard.



THE BIBLE

Matt. 11:27

“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

THE BIBLE

>What habits or rhythms have worked for you in making Scripture more central in your day-to-day life?

THE CHURCH

“The church, the *people* of God,
is second only to the Bible, the *word* of God,
as a source of reliable and transformative
wisdom.” (p.88)

Wisdom of...

1. Community > Individualistic
2. God-centered Rhythms > Me-Centered
3. Limitations > Limitless
4. Embodied Community > Ethereal
5. Continuity > Constantly Changing

THE CHURCH

>How would you respond to a group member who said, "If I have my Bible, why do I also need the church?"

NATURE

“Nature reminds us there is a world bigger than the one we’ve made.” (p.101)

“Scripture itself tells us that wisdom can be found in God’s creation[!]” (p.102)

Prov. 8:27—Wisdom says: “When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep”

Prov. 6:6—“Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.”

Psalm 19:1—“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

Luke 12:27—“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Ps. 139:14—“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

“But even when nature is ugly, the beauty of God’s power and the promise of renewal are on display.

The charred ground of burnt forests creates nutrient-rich soil, ready for rebirth. The pruning of dead branches and shedding of dead leaves prepares the way for new buds of life.

Throughout nature these cycles declare the glory of a death-conquering Savior who makes all things new.”
(p.107)

NATURE

>When was a moment when something in nature illuminated an aspect of God or theology to you?

BOOKS

Prov. 25:2—“It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.”

“[B]ooks are vital in cultivating wisdom—not only for the truths they contain, but also for the way they help us *think*. In our distracted age, books give us perspective, focus, and space to reflect. Reading books—a wide variety, from different eras and places and worldviews, both fiction and nonfiction—keeps our anachronism and self-centeredness in check. They educate us, help us make connections across disciplines, and open up the world.” (p.117)

1. TOO MUCH: “Books confront the ‘too much information’ problem by focusing our attention on one thing for a longer, deeper time.”

2. TOO FAST: “They confront the ‘too fast’ problem by forcing us to sit with one writer’s perspective for long enough to really grapple with it.”

3. TOO FOCUSED ON ME: “Books challenge the ‘too focused on me’ problem by putting us in another’s shoes.” (p.122)

BOOKS

>How do you choose the books you read? How might you be more intentional about choosing books that are conducive to gaining wisdom?

BEAUTY

“Wisdom is more than just what we know in our heads; it also involves our bodies, senses, emotions. Beauty works on these levels. It engages and stirs our hearts. It reveals truth on the *affective*, often subconscious level. It forms our loves.” (p.132)

“Like other forms of beauty, music can help us *feel* something like eternity in ways the mind struggles to grasp. Beauty gives truth a feeling, tone, and resonance.” (p.132)

“I love the moment right at the end of some beautiful display, when the audience is—for a brief moment—dumbstruck and silent.” (p.138)

But “In today’s over-mediated age it’s possible to fill every spare moment with little flashes of beauty, but this only serve to eradicate the crucial component for gaining *wisdom* from the beauty we encounter—silence.” (p.138)

BEAUTY

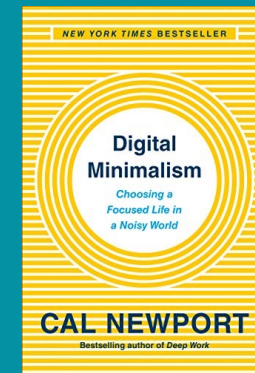
>What role does our heart and emotion play in wisdom? And what's one way that we should allow beauty to shape those parts of us?

THE INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA

1. GO WITH A PURPOSE. DON'T JUST "SURF"!

“The digital wanderer is asking for trouble. Don’t go online without a plan. Go with a purpose, and stay online only as long as you need to.” (p.151)

“[A] philosophy of technology use in which you focus your online time on a small number of carefully selected and optimized activities that strongly support things you value, and then happily miss out on everything else.”
(Cal Newport, *Digital Minimalism*, p. 29)



2. QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

How do we select what to read, watch or listen to online?

- Listen to the recommendations of trusted people in your life
- “[W]ait a bit and read the (usually better) cold takes.”
(p.152)
- Be happy to miss out on most of it

3. DIVERSIFY YOUR EXPOSURE

“Challenge yourself by actually giving attention to well-articulated versions of the ‘other side’ of arguments. ...

Try to populate your social media feeds with sources representing a variety of perspectives...

Take advantage of the Internet’s platforming of voices you might not otherwise have opportunities to hear.

One way to love your digital neighbors is to listen to them...”
(p.153)



DISCUSSION

1. Which section of the Wisdom Pyramid do you need more of? Why? Less of? Why?
2. Which section of the Wisdom Pyramid do your group members need more of? Why? Less of? Why?
3. What is 1 action you're going to take from tonight to begin addressing your/your group's practice of the Wisdom Pyramid?



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