



## In One Ear, Out The Other

### Small Group Material

### Participant Guide

## Part 2 - "The Wise Thing"

October 22nd, 2017

**Bottom Line:** *In light of my past experience, present circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do?*

**Study Verses:** *Proverbs 19:20, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 15:31-33, Ephesians 5:15-17, Genesis 25:29-34, James 1:5*

### Key Points

- *We've given advice to others that we don't even apply to ourselves.*
- *Not every decision is a moral decision.*
- *We're experts at rationalizing decisions that we know are wrong.*
- *Asking, "Is it wise?" takes your issue out of the arena of right and wrong by entering into the world of wisdom.*
- *There are seasons where something that once was wise is no longer the wise thing to do.*
- *Small decisions we make NOW can train wreck our future LATER.*
- *Your greatest regret could've been avoided had you asked "Is this wise?" and acted on your conclusion.*
- *We never have to rationalize a good decision.*
- *Every kind of addiction begins with self-deception.*

## ENCOUNTER

- What is the piece of advice you catch yourself giving to others that you struggle to take to heart and live out yourself?
- How do the small decisions we make now influence the person we become in the future?
- What's the difference in our mindset when we stop asking if something is right or wrong, but whether it is wise for us? How do you determine what to do when you are faced with a decision that is not black or white, but rather resides in the grey area?
- What alarms should go off in our heart and mind when we find ourselves rationalizing our choices?

## FORMATION

- Read Proverbs 19:20, Proverbs 12:15 and Proverbs 15:31-33. What danger exists when we attempt to make important decisions in isolation and not surrounded by a supportive community?
- Read Ephesians 5:15-17. What challenges do we face if we want to live a wise life in today's culture? What does it look like to "make the most of every opportunity" in our pursuit of wisdom?
- Read Genesis 25:29-34. What led Esau to make an unwise decision? How did his immediate needs trump his future legacy?

## EXPRESSION

- Read James 1:5. Where do you need to ask God for wisdom? From your perspective, what is the wise thing to do in response to the circumstances you face?
- When making a wise decision we need to consider our past experiences, present circumstances and future hopes and dreams. Of the three, which one do you tend to lose sight of when making decisions?
- Where do you find yourself rationalizing your behavior, attitude or actions? In what ways are you playing games to justify your response?