



MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we conclude our series, ***Light in the Darkness***. As we look at wisdom, and the power of perspective, we'll notice how Daniel saw things clearly. He grasped the big picture and responded to his trials in light of it. He never gave into a "woe is me" mindset. He always chose the path of obedience. Yet, he knew that not everything was a hill to die on. He chose his battles wisely.

- Please don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email. It's so important!

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Daniel and his friends had learned forbearance. What's one situation in your life today that's causing you to develop forbearance, patience or tolerance (ex. a work situation or a nagging injury)?

OR

In what areas should we never compromise our beliefs? Like Daniel demonstrated, which battles should we be willing to step back from?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What was one idea from Pastor David's message that particularly stood out to you? Share that with the group.

Was there a moment this week when perspective became important to you? Where you needed to reframe something that was happening in order to find hope or see it from God's perspective?

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Proverbs 9:10.

According to this verse, what is the true source of wisdom? Is this the first place you go for wise counsel? Why or why not? What are some of our cultural substitutes for true wisdom and understanding?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The Greek word for "fear" can also be translated reverence, respect, or piety. When we relate to God with an appropriate respect or reverence, then his word can be our wise counsel. We will hold his truth in the highest regard. We often allow the counsel of the ungodly, whether it's family, friends, educators or our culture, to be our source of truth. When that counsel contradicts God's truth, we must turn away, no matter how difficult.

2. Read John 8:44.

What does it tell us about the nature of Satan, our adversary? What is his primary language? Why do you think it's sometimes easier to believe a lie than to believe the truth?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: He is a liar. His main weapon against us is to convince us of falsehoods. He tries to get us to doubt God, God's truth or God's promises. He tries to get us to choose our own way instead of God's way. It's often easier to believe a lie because most of the lies are reflected by the people and culture around us. We can go along with the crowd, which makes it easier to accept the lie.

3. Read James 4:7.

- What happens when Christians resist the devil?
- How is resistance connected to submission to God?
- How does this encourage you today?
- How do you personally resist the devil or how would you counsel a friend to resist him?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: The passage says the devil flees us when we resist him. Directly tied to our resistance is our submission to God. This is relational. It means we are connected to God through covenant and our relationship with Jesus. Because of this relationship, we have the confidence and the power to resist the enemy in every circumstance and every way. This should be so encouraging! We are not helpless in the face of spiritual opposition. We can resist and find victory through Jesus' name!

4. Read Exodus 1:15–22.

In this poignant story, how did the Hebrew midwives obey God more than man? What was their higher purpose? Why did they do what they did?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: Just like Daniel and his friends, the midwives trusted God more than they feared Pharaoh. They knew it was against God's holiness to murder the innocent male babies. Their greater

purpose was to obey God and act in accordance with his truth. They put themselves in harm's way, but did so willingly, trusting in God.

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

H.O.S.T. Guidance: Don't feel pressure to cover all the questions below. Pick the one or two questions that might lead to the best conversation, but if time allows, include the others.

What is one area of your life where you need God's wisdom? Be sure to allow time at the end of this discussion to ask God for wisdom according to James 1:5.

Spend a few minutes reviewing David's explanation of the four descriptions of godly perspective:

1. Knows the difference between what we don't like and what God forbids.
2. Never judges God's goodness by our present circumstances.
3. Delivers confidence that truth has nothing to fear.
4. Understands the biggest issue is knowing Jesus.

Which of these four stands out most to you?

Which one has the greatest application to a situation you are currently facing in your life?

David closed his message by stating, "Light in the darkness comes from hope, humility and wisdom!" What truth or wisdom from this sermon series are you most likely to incorporate into your daily life?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: If you are a newly formed group, take some of your group time to discuss next steps. Does your group want to continue meeting? If so, decide where and when. Feel free to be creative about meeting. You can take turns facilitating the group discussion and rotate the meeting location among various group member's homes or a public location such as a coffee shop. Please let the Group Life team know of your decision by emailing groups@fairhaven.church.

Be sure to include prayer for those you are inviting to our Easter services!

PRAYER

*Heavenly Father,
As we've looked at wisdom, and the power of perspective, we pray for you to give us your divine perspective, so that wisdom can guide us. Help us to grasp the bigger picture of what you are doing in our lives, in our world and in eternity. Help us to respond to our circumstances in light of eternity and to remember that the battle belongs to you. Help us to walk through life wisely, obediently, and with a heart of compassion and kindness. Amen.*