

BASECAMP
MEN'S CONFERENCE 2025



BASECAMP

Local 2025

BASECAMP LOCAL

If the question of “What is wisdom?” was given to you, how would you answer? Maybe you’d say that a tomato is a fruit, but it doesn’t belong with a fruit salad, or that fire cooks our food, but we shouldn’t touch it with our hands. Maybe we go a little bit deeper and say that wisdom is Proverbs 8:11, something so precious to our lives that we simply cannot live without it.

Yes, this is true, but let us view wisdom as Proverbs says in Proverbs 2:6. For wisdom is something that comes from the Lord, and that is knowledge and understanding. Now, these two things have a different meaning. They work hand in hand with each other, but have a slightly different way of viewing things. Knowledge is the ability “to know by experience” and understanding is the ability “to gain insight into something or someone.”

So, we pray for wisdom in our lives. It’s not to get mystically knowledgeable, but to grow wiser in all circumstances of our life in Christ. It is to know better the people in situations that we encounter through experience, and to get the insight of understanding about that situational person.

This year in Basecamp local, we are focusing on the new book by Zack Eswine titled **“Wiser with Jesus.”** This book looks at the four different people that the wise person encounters throughout the Bible, mainly in Proverbs. But it also has practical applications for us in gaining wisdom in our lives as we live with Christ as our Lord. We will mainly focus on the four people that we can encounter through the first couple of chapters.

We want to encourage you to finish the entire book, as the second half of the book looks at skilfully wising up with Jesus. But let’s dive in.

HOW TO USE BASECAMP LOCAL

Here are some suggested basic practices for your group to function well. Participating in any group means that you have read, understood, and agree to these practises:

- Use "I" statements
- One person speaks at a time
- Respect the right to pass — if someone feels uncomfortable sharing
- Resist the temptation to fix problems — don't interrupt, judge or give advice
- Respect confidentiality — what's said in the group, stays in the group

PART 1:

A NAIVE HEART

Read Chapter 2

- 1 After reading this chapter, was it hard to think of people that personified naivety?**
- 2 Was it difficult to place that character in situations where people have shown that they are naive at heart?**
- 3 Have you ever reflected on yourself and realised that at times, you are naive in what you say, or do, or the way you think?**

Take a moment to think about the people, situations, and moments when you have shown a naive heart.

Zack shows us many ways that naive heart shows itself, and he gives a couple of different biblical characters who present themselves as naive. When Jesus was presented with a naive person at the well, we see a very transformative and well-known story.

- 1 How do we know that she is naive in her ways?**
- 2 How does Jesus diagnose the heart of the naive?**
- 3 How does Jesus love the naive person?**
- 4 What is the naive heart's reaction to wise council?**

There is hope for naive heart, and it is in the wise council of our Saviour.

- 1 How can wise people help you to grow in wisdom over naivety?**
- 2 How good are you at self-diagnosing a naive heart?**

Take time to pray for each other in reflection of this.

PART 2:

A FOOLISH HEART

Read Chapter 3

Did you find this a tough chapter to read? Why?

The foolish heart is very hard to diagnose, because sometimes we see foolishness within other people, and play it off, saying “It’s just that person” or “They’ve always been like that.”

- 1 Was it hard for you to place someone in this chapter as a fool?**
- 2 When you are reading this chapter, were there people that came to mind?**
- 3 Did you look inwards and realise that there are times in your life when you show these attributes?**
- 4 Was there someone who showed you that you were being like this at one point in your life?**

Take a moment to think about people, or situations, or moments in your life when you might show a foolish heart.

This chapter diagnoses the heart of foolishness. We constantly hear in Proverbs about the fool, but to see the character qualities of that person is such a revealing thing. It’s almost heartbreaking to read some of this and know what happens within the heart of a fool, because it’s tough to live with people who are like that. The man of wisdom Himself is confronted by someone like this. Watch His reaction.

- 1 How did Jesus know that He was speaking to a foolish heart?**
- 2 How did the man go about himself in the presence of the wise?**
- 3 How did Jesus respond to this man?**
- 4 What was the end result?**

There is hope for the foolish heart in the response and love of the wise.

- 1 What must be implemented into our lives by the wise to stop our foolish heart?**
- 2 How can you grow in the realisation that you have a foolish heart?**

Take time to pray for each other in reflection of this.

PART 3:

A SCOFFING HEART

Read Chapter 4

Did you see much of a difference between a scoffing heart and a foolish heart?

A scoffing heart is very hard to see, because we can very easily just call them a fool and walk away. But a scoffer almost goes one step further by taking all of it away from us, like we're in a constant battle with them, and we feel like we will never win, or get anywhere with them.

- 1 Have you ever encountered a scoffer?**
- 2 Was it hard for you to love the scoffer?**
- 3 Have you ever been tempted to be a scoffer?**
- 4 Have you ever been hurt by a scoffer?**

Take a moment to think about the people, situations, or moments in your life when you've encountered scoffing.

We are given situations when Jesus met with a scoffer. Those small encounters get a very quick response by the man of wisdom. At all times, Jesus' response is slightly different depending on the situation, but it is a very quick moment in which is shown great love.

- 1 What are the differences of both responses?**
- 2 How does Jesus react to the people around Him who scoff at others?**
- 3 How does He react to those who are scoffed at?**
- 4 Why is it important for a quick response to a scoffing heart?**

There is hope for a scoffing heart in the loving act of a gracious Saviour.

- 1 How must we respond to the scoffing heart?**
- 2 How are we to grow in our responses to that scoffing?**

Take time to pray for each other in response to this.

PART 4:

THE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT

What a tough chapter to read. What an emotional rollercoaster it is to be in the presence of someone who is crushed in spirit. The person who is crushed in spirit person responds with whatever it takes to get to where they think they need to be, whether it's naivety, folly, or scoffing.

- 1 How hard is it to diagnose a person who is crushed in spirit?**
- 2 Have you ever encountered a person who is crushed in spirit?**
- 3 Have you ever been someone who is crushed in spirit?**
- 4 How hard is it to love a broken-spirited person?**

Take a moment to think about the people, situations, and moments of your life where you have encountered a person who is broken in spirit.

The man wisdom Himself meets a person like this on the road to Emmaus. What an amazing and well-known passage this is. An amazing breakdown of this passage has been shown twice in this chapter about the men who are broken in spirit as they encounter the resurrected man of wisdom.

- 1 How does Jesus communicate with these men?**
- 2 Is it obvious that these men are broken in spirit?**
- 3 What changed the heart of these men?**
- 4 What did they choose after experiencing the wise counsellor Himself?**

There is hope for the broken in spirit, and it is found in the love and grace of the resurrected King Jesus.

1 How are we to love the person who is broken in spirit?

2 How can we grow in recognising these people?

Take time to pray for each other in response to this.