



BREAKING THE ICE

What's the worst thing you ever smelled?

What is your favorite smell? What memories does that smell invoke for you?

If you recited "The Apprentice Prayer" this week how did you see your day(s) change? How did you hear from God after asking Him, "What do you want me to say, what do you want me to do?"

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin spoke about being awakened to smell. Our sense of smell helps us do three things; It helps us know what is good, what's not good and it holds a powerful link to long term memories.

Good smells can change our moods. Bad smells can protect us from something harmful and some smells are so powerful that they have been proven to create long term memories.

Pastor Kevin talked about how the sense of smell correlates to discernment. Discernment is what helps us make decision. Some of those decisions are long term decisions.

1. What is the most difficult decision you have ever made?

Discernment is knowing the difference between right and almost right. Discernment is a gift to us from God.

Read Proverbs 9:10

If we don't think we have anything to learn, we won't learn anything. The gift of wisdom and discernment is we are always learning something new.

Read James 1:5

God wants to give us wisdom. We just need to ask for it.

2. Have you ever asked God for wisdom? What happened in your life when you did ask for wisdom?

In 1 Kings 3:8-10 the wisest king (at the time) Solomon asked God for wisdom and discernment. The best gift God can give us is wisdom and discernment.

Seven hundred years later, Jesus was born. He was the wisest King ever. He is wisdom personified. When we seek Him, He gives us wisdom.

We can all have room to grow in wisdom and discernment. In order to grow in discernment, the first thing we need to do is to develop a nose for what is good. We need to look for what's good instead of what's wrong.

3. Do you tend to point out the bad things or the good things? How easy is it for you to celebrate what's good instead of what's wrong?

God wants us to enjoy His goodness and declare it back to Him and others. We can also grow in discernment by knowing what's harmful and what will hurt us. The more we are around wise people the more we will learn what's harmful for us.

Read Proverbs 13:20

4. Who is the wisest person in your life?

5. How have they helped you in making decisions?

When you spend time with wise people, you become more like them. If you spend enough time with the wrong people eventually you will be more like them which can be harmful.

6. When you think about the friendship / relationships in your life, which ones are healthy and which ones do you need to change?

Our inner circle of friends should be life-giving, wise people who help us grow in wisdom and help us grow closer to Jesus. When we have Jesus in the middle of our inner circle we gain wisdom and discernment.

Wisdom is not found in isolation, it is found connecting to Jesus and with healthy relationships that always point back to Him.

Each decision we make, we grow in wisdom. Through time that wisdom helps us gain discernment.

7. What step do you need to take towards wisdom and discernment?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for the gift of wisdom and discernment. We want to walk in your wisdom and have discernment in everything we do. If there are relationships we need to take inventory of, give us wisdom on how to handle them. Surround us with relationships that have you at the center and that can help us grow in your wisdom and discernment. Help us be a pleasing aroma to those who don't know you. Align our hearts on how to love and serve those that need you.

ACTION STEP

- + Actively ask God for wisdom and discernment in your prayer time this week. Come back next week and tell your group about your experience.
- + As you continue fasting and praying, journal what God is doing in your life. Share with your group what He is revealing to you.
- + Join in the worship celebration Monday, February 28th as we finish our month of prayer and fasting. We will be worshipping at the Nashville location at 6:30 PM. Check Cross Point socials for more information.