



MON 2-21

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 25:4
- ✓ THOUGHT "Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow." [NLT] True wisdom and understanding comes from God. As we follow God's guidance, our circumstances and experiences can teach us. We can also learn from scripture and the views of other people of faith. Ask God to keep your curiosity alive!
- ✓ PRAYER Almighty God, I give you thanks for your great wisdom. I want to be someone who is open to the guidance of your Spirit and who never holds too tightly to my own understanding. Amen.

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TUES 2-22

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Luke 2:52
- ✓ THOUGHT "Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people." [CEB] Jesus grew in wisdom. What a great example for us! What are some ways you can continue to learn and grow in some area of your life? God has given us so many sources of knowledge and we are meant to make the most of our abilities!
- ✓ PRAYER Gracious God, thank you for creating me with the ability to learn new things. I pray I would never be stuck in my thinking. Please keep me on my toes and give me the courage to seek out people and resources who challenge my ideas. Amen.

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WED 2-23

- ✓ SCRIPTURE James 1:5
- ✓ THOUGHT "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." [NIV] This verse implies that we have a responsibility when it comes to recognizing our lack of understanding and seeking God's help. When we are lacking in understanding, God does not find fault. Instead, God generously gives us wisdom.
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, I am sorry for the times I have not come to you for help when I am struggling with a situation. Thank you for the ways you forgive and welcome me back without finding fault. Amen.

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THURS 2-24

- ✓ SCRIPTURE John 14:26
- ✓ THOUGHT "The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you." [CEB] How might your experiences be different if you were to think of the Spirit of God as your companion today? Have you ever imagined this scenario?
- ✓ PRAYER Jesus, I thank you for your promise of a Companion! Help me not to forget that you are always with me, teaching and guiding me in all that I do. Amen.

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FRI 2-25

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 25:5
- ✓ THOUGHT "Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you." [NLT] Our hope is in our God who saves. Take a few minutes to think about what you have been saved from. Give God thanks!
- ✓ PRAYER God of Grace, let me never forget that my hope in you is warranted. You have proven your love for me in the saving work of Jesus and I am grateful. Amen.

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SAT 2-26

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 5:5
- ✓ THOUGHT "In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.'" [NIV] To keep an open and teachable mind, we must start with humility. We are not perfect in our understanding! Is there someone in your life you could look to as a mentor? Ask God to help you identify someone who can help you grow in your understanding and then open your heart to accepting advice.
- ✓ PRAYER God, I want to be teachable. Help me to be willing to listen to the wisdom of the people you have placed in my life. Show me someone whom I can connect with that will be a source of wise advice. Amen.

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DIGGING DEEPER

- ✓ **PRAYER** God, we acknowledge that you are already here. May our hearts be open to your presence and direction. Amen.

- ✓ **BIG IDEA** During this series, we could easily spend small group time debating the hot topics; however, since our goal is to build unity, the group discussion guides are centered around that concept. Unity requires that we keep an open mind, understanding that our human thinking is fallible and as we grow and gain insight, our ideas about the world should also be open to revision.

- ✓ **DISCUSS**
 - Share a time when someone you know absolutely believed something that you knew to be inaccurate. How did it make you feel, and how did you handle it?

 - Read Acts 9:1-22 aloud. Saul who later would be known as Paul was zealous about following Jewish law and religious practices. He was well-known for persecuting Christ-followers and his zeal blinded him to the reality of who Jesus was. His 180-degree change couldn't have been easy. Why do you think it is so difficult for us to make a change in a belief we have previously held?

 - When you hear the term "open-minded" do you consider that a positive term? Is there a downside?

 - Dr. William Hare, an educational philosopher, says this about open-mindedness, "A person must be both willing *and* able to revise his own position if he is to be open-minded." When we encounter evidence that is contrary to beliefs we currently hold, open-mindedness is a willingness to change our thinking after scrutinizing the new evidence. As you self-reflect, would you say you tend to welcome new evidence and ideas?

 - Do you think it is possible for people to find certainty when it comes to the political and social views that we hold?

- ✓ **Pray** Gracious God, we recognize that you are the source of wisdom and understanding. Help us to keep our minds open to your Spirit as we seek to understand the world. We know your goodness and love are certain, and we thank you that we can hold on to that truth as our experiences with you continually shape the way we think. Amen.



DIGGING DEEPER

✓ What did I learn? _____

✓ How might it apply in my life? _____

✓ What is a next step I can take? _____

