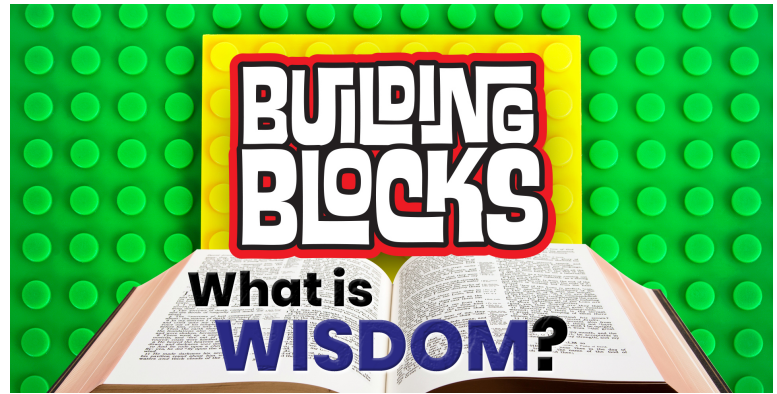
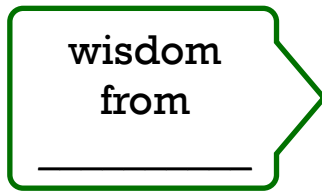
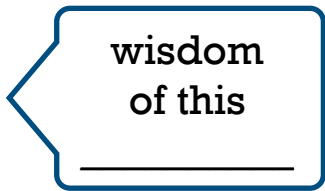


1 • Of the World Or From Above?



“What is WISDOM?” We hear that word used a lot in the Bible, but what does it really MEAN? What does it look like if I have it and use it? What difference can wisdom really make in my life?

Wisdom is “_____ which _____ to _____.” The Bible tells us about two very different KINDS of wisdom. There is...



Listen very carefully to the way the apostle Paul warns us about “the wisdom of this world” in 1 Corinthians 3:

For the wisdom of this world is _____ with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” So let no one boast in men. (1 Corinthians 3:18-21)

The wisdom of this world isn’t enough because it leaves God out! It tries to explain the world—where we came from, why we’re here, where we’re going—**without** God. We need more. We need wisdom “from above.” Notice how this BETTER wisdom is described in James 3:13-17:

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first _____, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good _____, impartial and sincere.

What will we listen to? The wisdom of this world or the wisdom from above? Both bear fruits. Both lead somewhere. Proverbs 8:10-11 encourages us to see that the wisdom of our Creator is “better than _____, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.” **Let’s talk about it...**

FOUNDATION STONES



Can we come up with some real-life situations together? Let's think about some of the choices we have to make—at home, at school, with each other. How might “the wisdom of this world” point me in one direction and “the wisdom from above” point me in a very different direction?



James 3:17 describes some beautiful, God-honoring attitudes and actions. What do those words mean? How can **WE** be those sorts of people?

NEXT Wednesday:

We'll explore *Job 28* where the question is asked, “From where, then, does wisdom come?”