

“Life Lessons from the Games We Play”
“Trivial Pursuit, Where Knowledge and Wisdom Meet”

Easter continues! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! We are an Easter people! While Lent is forty days, the Celebration of Easter is fifty days ending with Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Easter is a celebration of resurrection of new life and of the power of Christ to change and transform the world through his followers. We have encountered the Risen Christ in so many ways. We are in the middle of the sermon series: Easter Encounters: Life Lessons from the Game we Play.” This game has long been popular and has spawned multiple expansion packs. While trivia is fun, it is not necessarily wisdom or knowledge that leads to life and growth. This Sunday we celebrate graduations and our scholarship recipients. We also commissioned another work team and blessed two young women who will be engaged with a tour around missions through the United Methodist Women. Pastor Cindy

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon: **“Trivial Pursuit, Where Knowledge and Wisdom Meet”**

Prayer for the Week

O Wisdom on High, by you the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly. Grant us, in all doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that we may be saved from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen. (From the Book of Common Prayer)

This week's sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, 5/22/17 Proverbs 4:7-9

The book of proverbs is full of sayings that were used to teach children and youth how to live in ways that are healthy and good. The author again and again urges the listeners to seek wisdom, to chase after wisdom more than anything else in life. Wisdom is more helpful than riches or success or popularity. Wisdom helps make a life meaningful and deep. "Before anything else" the author writes, get wisdom. These are good words for those graduates who are in the midst of transition. They will be exposed to so much knowledge, but it is wisdom that enables them to discern the right and good path. Today say a prayer for all those graduates you know and those you don't. Pray they might find wisdom to guide them every step of the way.

Tuesday, 5/23/17 Proverbs 4: 10-13

The promise the author makes is that wisdom will guide and direct the lives of those who cling to it. Wisdom will mean that they can walk and "not be hindered" and "run and not stumble." Perhaps that is not absolutely true, but there is much truth in the fact that clinging to wisdom helps keep people from making certain mistakes and does protect one. The author states to protect "wisdom" for it is your life! Wisdom helps a person discern, helps a person look deeply at options and choices and see through things that seem too easy. Wisdom is a gift. How have you found ways to cling to wisdom and allowed wisdom to guide and direct your path?

Wednesday, 5/24/17 Matthew 7: 7-8

Like Jeremiah, Jesus is inviting people to ask and seek and knock. The promise is that God is there, waiting, listening, and being present to each one. This verse comes right after Jesus has encouraged the listeners to not worry about anything. It doesn't change anything. God knows what each person needs. So, ask Jesus said, seek, and knock. AS our graduates transition over the summer, we need to encourage them to ask and seek and knock and to trust that God is with them. What would you in this moment, ask for, what are you seeking?

Thursday, 5/25/17 Matthew 7: 9-11

Jesus uses the most interesting images....who would give their child a rock instead of bread or a snake instead of fish? Nobody, or at least no one who loves like God loves. Failed human beings do their best to take care of the needs of those they love, think of how God responds to the same needs. Now this doesn't mean that God is some sort of heavenly slot machine or Santa Claus. It isn't about getting everything we want, but that God desires good for each person. As our graduates are going in new directions, God wants good for them. Pray today that they might seek wisdom and direction in their lives that they might experience all the good God has for them.

Friday, 5/26/17 Matthew 7: 12

Isn't it interesting that Jesus ends this section after encouraging people to ask, seek and knock with some common sense. Treat people the way you want to be treated, this is basically all the laws and prophets combined. If you ask, seek and knock, it will be given to you, but not at the expense of others. Life is deeper, more meaningful and better when we acknowledge the equality of all people. Treat others the way you want to be treated, for as God is good to you, you are to be good to others. Today, ponder how you treat others and how you doing so, you are following the word of God.