

Home Group study: week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Limitless Wisdom**

Ben said on Sunday that knowing a tomato is a fruit is knowledge; it takes wisdom not to put it in a fruit salad. What pearls of wisdom do people in the group remember being told? What effect have these pearls of wisdom had on their life?

**Read: 1 Kings 3: 16-28, James 3: 17.**

### **Discovery**

Have you ever witnessed a real ding-dong argument between two women? What is it like? Given what they are fighting about, on a scale of 1-10, how noisy and intense do you think the argument described in the 1 Kings passage was? How does King Solomon react to the two women in v23? What does that suggest to us about the way a wise person should handle such a fraught situation?

What do you think is in the back of Solomon's mind when he suggests his remedy to the situation? How risky a strategy was it? Why do you think he felt able to give such a drastic verdict?

James gives us a very good description of Godly wisdom in James 3: 17. How does the way Solomon handles this situation conform to this definition of Godly wisdom?

**Read: 1 Kings 3: 4-15**

Solomon has been appointed King at the age of just 20. He has just married the King of Egypt's daughter; you might expect him to be full of himself and letting power, fame and fortune go to his head. When God speaks to him in a dream, how does Solomon describe himself in his reply?

God says to Solomon in v5: 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'

If you were Solomon, what might you ask God for? And what does he ask for?

What do you think of his request? How does God respond to his request?

### **Understanding**

Remembering what Ben said on Sunday, what are the key elements of Godly wisdom in these two passages? (*Solomon has humbled himself before God, he has taken the heat out of the situation by calmly and peacefully stating the bald facts of the case before him, and has come to a bold, even risky, decision, confident that God has informed his verdict.*)

## **Application**

James 1: 5 says: '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.' James goes on to warn us that we must 'believe and not doubt' when we ask. Do you believe God can give you wisdom?

At the end of the episode involving Solomon and the two women, only one of the two women can go away satisfied. What challenge does that give to us in asking for Godly wisdom? Do you think there are times when God uses us to speak harshly into people's situations, or to tell them truths they don't want to hear? Are we prepared to do this? What are the dangers of *not* bringing God's word to people in a bold, truthful and straightforward way?

If any of the group feels they lack wisdom (probably all of us!) then offer to pray with them — if they want. It must be their decision.