

Nov 9/25 A Listening Heart: Rediscovering Wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-14, 4:29-34)

Leader's Guide

1. Solomon admits, "I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in." When have you felt "in over your head" — in leadership, parenting, work, or faith? How did you respond, and what did that experience teach you about depending on God?

This is a vulnerable opener. Model honesty by briefly sharing a time you felt unprepared or uncertain. That gives permission for others to share openly.

2. Our world offers so many voices — experts, influencers, algorithms, even AI — each claiming to offer "wisdom." Where do you usually turn when you're unsure what to do? What helps you tell the difference between godly wisdom and all the other noise?

Many people rely on mixed sources (faith and culture). The goal isn't to criticize but to reflect. Ask, "How can we tell when something sounds wise but isn't?"

3. In Genesis 3, humanity chose a shortcut to wisdom—wanting to define good and bad apart from God. What are some modern "shortcuts" we take to feel wise or in control?

People often open up more easily with light examples (fitness fads, life hacks, etc.) before moving to deeper ones (self-sufficiency, control, ignoring prayer). Often shortcuts come from fear or impatience — name that gently. The goal is awareness, not guilt.

4. Solomon started well but lost his way when he stopped listening to God. What helps us stay grounded when life is going well and success or comfort start to dull our dependence on God?

What helps you stay rooted — gratitude, community, generosity, prayer? Encourage people to celebrate God's blessings without fear — the focus is not on guilt, but on stewardship and attentiveness, and encouraging us to lean on each other for help.

5. True wisdom isn't just knowing what's right—it's listening to and obeying God's voice. What spiritual practices help you grow in listening to God? Where might obedience be harder than understanding?

Ask about rhythms like prayer, journaling, Scripture reading, silence, or community discernment. Gently lean into why obeying is sometimes the hardest part. If someone shares a moment of costly obedience, affirm it and ask what fruit came from it.

6. Jesus invites us back to the garden — to walk with him, listen, and learn. How have you experienced Jesus' guidance in real decisions or turning points in your life? What made it clear to you that it was his wisdom and not just your own?

Look for patterns. How does Jesus guide through Scripture, prayer, circumstances, or other wise people? Some may not have an obvious example — that's okay. You can invite reflection on how they hope to recognize his voice. Reaffirm that wisdom is found not just in knowing the right answers, but in walking with the right Person.

If you have extra time, read Proverbs 2:1-6 together and reflect on the verbs — seek, cry out, etc.