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**CONNECT** *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- How has seeking God been going for you this week?
- Who have you met that you thought was wise? Why?
- If you want, you can watch the Bible Project Video on the message of Daniel to help give context for what we've been reading this week: <https://bibleproject.com/learn/way-of-the-exile/>.

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**READ & DISCUSS** *UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

Wisdom is at the heart of what God wants for us. Wisdom means thinking like God, and it's the hallmark of Christian maturity. A full grown son or daughter isn't *told* what to do; they see the world like their wise Parent, and so they act as their parent would. As we journey toward maturity together, Scripture is God's great gift to us. Its beauty, its complexity, and even its occasional difficulty are all meant to help us see like our Father. But the wisdom of God often opposes us to the patterns of this world—and that's what the book of Daniel is all about.

<b>READ</b>	<b>DISCUSS</b>
Daniel 5:31-6:9	Daniel is marked by devotion to the laws of his God. And notice the paradox! His love for God's law both make him <i>excel</i> in the world and be <i>opposed</i> by the world. God's law is wise and true, and so it makes us wise. Wisdom usually brings success, but as Daniel discovered, it also brings opposition. Where in your own life does the teaching of God call you to go against the grain of the world around you?
Daniel 6:10-18	Daniel prayed with windows "open toward Jerusalem." This is why God's teaching puts us at odds with the world: it's the law of the heavenly Jerusalem, God's Kingdom, rather than the law of a rebellious world. As the Church, we live as a colony of God's Kingdom in a world ruled by his Enemy. How does this line up with your experience of the Church?
Daneil 6:19-28	The result of Daniel's faithfulness is resurrection. God is a God of life. If "his kingdom shall never be destroyed," neither shall its citizens! The promise of Scripture is that it makes us "wise for salvation," as Paul says: wise in the ways of God's kingdom. As we draw near to God in Scripture and in prayer, he draws near to us. And that brings resurrection.

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## PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

The knowledge God calls us to isn't impersonal. Just the opposite! It is a *person*, Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God made flesh. We come to Christ in Scripture and in prayer so that we can become like him, mature sons and daughters of the God of life.

Take time to pray individually and meditate on God. Imagine being in his presence and speaking your heart (with all its praise and confusion and distraction) to your Father. Then listen. If you don't hear anything, just enjoy God's presence. Then, coming back together, pray for one another that you would be filled with the wisdom of God to think like sons and daughters of him.

### Discipleship Check-In

- How has praying and reading your Bible gone this past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?
- How did you become more like Jesus this week?