

# **life group study guide**

June 5, 2016

## **“Brick and Mortar”**

### **“Cutting Corners”**

Big Idea: Wisdom tells you both *what* to do and *when* to do it.

- *Colossians 3: 16-17*—“**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom**, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
- *Colossians 4: 5-6*—“**Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.**”
- *1 Corinthians 3: 18-21*—“Don't you realize that all of you together are the house of God, and that the Spirit of God lives among you in his house? If anyone defiles and spoils God's home, God will destroy him. For God's home is holy and clean, and you are that home. Stop fooling yourselves. If you count yourself above average in intelligence, as judged by this world's standards, you had better put this all aside and be a fool rather than let it hold you back from the **true wisdom from above**. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. **As it says in the book of Job, God uses man's own brilliance to trap him; he stumbles over his own "wisdom" and falls. And again, in the book of Psalms, we are told that the Lord knows full well how the human mind reasons and how foolish and futile it is. So don't be proud of following the wise men of this world. For God has already given you everything you need.**”
- *Philippians 2:3-8*—“Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. **Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.** Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing. **Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ**, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross.”
- *1 Corinthians 13: 4-6*—“**Love is patient** and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”
- *1 Thessalonians 5:14-15*—“**Be at peace among yourselves.** And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, **be patient** with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.”
- *James 5:8-10*—“You also, **be patient**. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold,

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the Judge is standing at the door. **As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets** who spoke in the name of the Lord.”

- *Galatians 5:22-26*—“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”
- *Ephesians 4:1*—“walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, **with patience**, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
- *Colossians 3:12-15*—“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and **patience**, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.”
- *1 John 3:16-18*—“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, **let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.**”

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Discuss some situations in which you find yourself struggling with patience toward one another; in the church, people who criticize, people who won't criticize; in the neighborhood, those whose dogs are noisy and disruptive or dangerous, those who don't watch their kids; in America, those who are Hilary Huggers, Sanders Socialists and/or Trump Tigers, those who won't work, those who rely upon handouts and still smoke incessantly, or those who don't take care of themselves but expect us to take care of them.
- 2) Give examples of what James meant by the “example of the prophets.”
- 3) Discuss the danger in doing nothing rather than listening for God's message and following through with His plan.
- 4) Discuss “pain will not go away if you ignore it, so have the patience to work through it get healed.”
- 5) How would you deal with the plight of the poor in God's wisdom?
- 6) How can we (Kingsway) minister directly in love to those in our communities that don't even have enough, let alone abundance? How can we recognize/identify them, help them without humiliating them, ensure that our “gifts go on giving” so that we can go on to help others?
- 7) What can I do when having asked God for wisdom repeatedly; I still don't seem to have any better insight and can't seem to get my foot out of my mouth?
- 8) List two or three points Matt made in the message that challenged you to make a difference in your personal interactions

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