

Conversation Starters

- What was the last thing you “Googled” for advice or a how-to, etc.?
- Is there a person you could have asked instead?

Discuss

We learn from the story of Rehoboam that we can make bad decisions by refusing wise counsel. Wise counsel speaking from someone who is spiritually and emotionally mature, not necessarily related to age. Who we surround ourselves with and who we listen to is important. It can keep us from making bad decisions that affect our life for the worst and those closest to us.

But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men and instead asked the opinion of the young men who had grown up with him and were now his advisers...And to this day the northern tribes of Israel have refused to be ruled by a descendant of David. (1 Kings 12:8,19 NLT)

- To what or whom do you turn to for advice or direction?
- Like Rehoboam, have you ever made a bad decision after rejecting wise counsel?
- What were the affects and what did you learn from it?

We often refuse wise counsel because we have already made up our mind on the front end. Therefore, any opposing views that come before us we filter out. We can also be prideful and cultivate an unteachable spirit that turns away sound advice. We need humility before even seeking counsel. Admit you do not have all the answers – no one does. And it often helps to start by looking at areas of your life where you think you have it all together.

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others. (Proverbs 12:15 NLT)

- Do you often find yourself trying to make big decisions on your own?
- Do you ever turn down advice because it is not what you want to hear?
- Are there areas of your life that you feel you have it all absolutely figured out and never consider opening that area up to others for counsel?

When looking for someone to get advice from, look for someone who is genuinely walking with God. People that are objective and want what is best for you and your relationship with Jesus. People that have experience in an area that you want counsel in. Be intentional about developing relationships that will build you up and where you can build up others.

- Do you know people who have a genuine walk with God?
- Do you or can you see the value of listening to others who have been walking with God longer than you have?
- Have you given time and effort to seeking out and building these types of relationships?

Next Steps

Relationships are important. At Meck, we believe life change happens best through relationships. So, it is important to take relationships you have and ones that you are developing seriously. Be intentional about asking good (and the right) questions and having good conversations. Consider this week the people that you have around you. How would you describe your conversations? Is there something you need to seek counsel on now? If you have people around you that you can ask, get their advice. If not, look for ways to meet other people and work on building those relationships.

Here are some ways to meet others at Meck:

- Join a Group: www.mecklenburg.org/groups
- Join a Serve Team: www.mecklenburg.org/serve
- Take a Class: www.mecklenburg.org/classes

Even better, join us for our upcoming class:

Team Life

When: April 14, 2018

Details at www.mecklenburg.org/teamlife

Further Reflection

See 1 Kings 12:1-19; Proverbs 12:15; 15:22; 19:20; 20:18.

Pray

God, you are the ultimate source of wisdom and counsel. I know that I am not and that I do not have all of the answers, although I sometimes like to think I do. Thank you for offering us wisdom and for the people around us that are willing to share their experiences and lessons learned. Help us to have the humility to ask for counsel. Put people in our path that we can ask counsel from and give us the courage to start the conversation.