Wisdom & Discernment

Leader’s Guide

**Opening Activity**

Everyone is separated into groups of 2 or 3 with a single sheet of white paper folded in thirds. Their goal is the draw, what they think a wise person looks like in their mind’s eye. So the first person will draw the head while the other(s) look away. The next person draws the torso without looking at what the first person drew – they also get 2 minutes. The last person draws the legs and feet following the same guidelines as above for 2 whole minutes. At the end everyone unfolds their paper to discover what their ideal wise person looks like! (and also to laugh at how ridiculous they will inevitably look 😂)

**Stories That Shape Us**

Say: there is a book called Old Turtle and the Broken Truth. It is technically a children’s book, but (as the author Douglas Wood says) it’s also a book for adults and teenagers. It reads kind of like a folk tale story – and good stories, no matter what age you are, often have great wisdom to offer.

[**Watch Douglas Wood reading Old Turtle and the Broken Truth**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26byBtwjpy4)

**Questions for Conversation**

* If you had to summarize a bit of wisdom from this story to write into a single sentence, what would your sentence read?
* How does this story help us imagine a better world?
* Ponder this quote from the story where the little girl asks, *“People say, ‘It has always been this way and can never change.’ Can it change Old Turtle? Can we make it change?”* How would you answer that question for yourself – can the world ever change for the better? Would your answer differ from Old Turtle’s response?
* The two truths at the end were revealed to be:

YOU ARE LOVED

AND SO ARE THEY

What is the danger of only letting “You are loved” guide your life? (selfishness)

What is the danger of only letting “They are loved” guide your life? (self-hatred)

**Bring It Together**

What was a particular question or section of the topic sheet that challenged you, encouraged you, or you found really interesting?

What connections do you see between our conversation this morning and what your learned through the at-home lesson?

**Sending Activity**

Create a heart shape that is broken in two pieces with the two truth halves on them. On one half of the heart confirmands should write something they can do to love themselves or an affirmation of love for themselves. On the other half confirmands should write an action they can take to love someone or a loving affirmation they can offer to others.

Read Matthew 7:24-27. Challenge your small group to put the things they wrote on the two parts of the heart into action. Remind them that wisdom is more than knowledge – it requires action and putting that knowledge into practice.