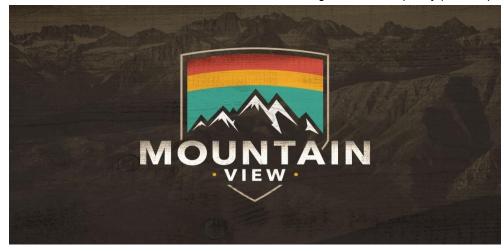
Discovery Service Order and Message Outline



PRAYER	ű
	Goodness Tom Upfield
BIBLE READING	Ephesians 5:1-21 (Church Bible page 1228)
MESSAGE	Taught by Pastor Phill
SINGING TOGETHER	From the breaking of the dawn (every promise)



Mountain View~5 How to evaluate our decisions. Ephesians 5:1-21

Question #1 The honesty question. Am I being truthful with myself, really?

Question #2 The history question. What story do I want to tell?

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Question #3 The morality question. Is there a tension that deserves my attention?

'The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict.' Galatians 5:17 NLT

If it's not illegal, it's If it's not immoral, it's
If it's not over the line, it's Is there anything with this? How did I get myself this?
'These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death. So don't be misled.' James 1:15 NLT
Question #4 The question. What is the thing to do?
'The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it. Proverbs 27:12 NIV
Your greatest regret was preceded by a series of decisions
What is the to do?

'Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.' Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV

'And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.' Ephesians 1:13 NIV

'Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.' Ephesians 5:17 NIV

'Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! If you live a life guided by wisdom, you won't limp or stumble as you run.' Proverbs 4:7, 12 NLT

1. The wisdom of God's word will strengthen your

'And now I entrust you to God and His care and to His wonderful words that are able to build your faith and give you all the inheritance of those who are set apart for Himself.'

Acts 20:32 LB

2. The wisdom of God's word will guide your_

'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.' Psalm 119:105 NIV

3. The wisdom of God's word will enhance your

'Do not let this book of law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it, day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written. Then you will be prosperous and successful.' Joshua 1:8 NIV

'Carry out My instructions. Don't forsake them. Guard them for they will lead you to a fulfilled life.' Proverbs 4:13 NLT

4. The wisdom of God's word will change your_

'For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are.' Hebrews 4:12 NLT

'Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are or what they look like.' James 1:22-24 MSG

'Those who love Your teachings will find true peace, and nothing will defeat them.' Psalm 119:165 NCV



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

- 1. Why is it human nature to snuggle up to the edge of irresponsibility or disaster and stay there as long as possible?
- 2. Our excuses take us to the threshold of regret and abandon us there with little margin for error. Does this statement ring true for you? Can you think of an example?
- 3. When making a decision, why are we more prone to evaluate options through the filters of legal, moral, ethical, and acceptable than through the filter of wisdom?
- 3. Read Ephesians 5:11-16. What key words stand out to you? Why?
- 4. Read Acts 20:32. In what ways does God's word strengthen your faith? Give some personal examples of how you have seen this happen.
- 5. Read Joshua 1:8 and Proverbs 4:13. Discuss why and how the Bible enhances our life.
- 6. Why is the Bible no ordinary book. See Hebrews 4:12.
- 7. Read James 1:22-24. Why is there often a time lag between when we read the Bible and apply it in our lives? Discuss some practical ways you could get the lag time down.



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.