



**STUDY GUIDE:**

May 17, 2026

Message Series:

More Than Gold

Message Title:

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

**Warm-up / Icebreaker (10 min.)**

What's a small thing that annoys you way more than it probably should?

**Pray:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. Thank You for the wisdom You give us through Your Word. As we spend time together, help us to be honest and authentic. Give us open hearts to hear what You want to teach us and the courage to take one step toward wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Get Started (30 min.)**

- Would you rather be known as someone who speaks up about everything or someone who lets most things go? Why?

Pastor Brian reminded us that anger itself is not always wrong—there are things in life that should stir righteous concern. But wisdom teaches us that not every frustration deserves our energy or reaction. Sometimes spiritual maturity looks like learning what battles are actually worth fighting. The focus is learning not to “*fight at the drop of a hat*” and letting wisdom shape our responses.

Read **Proverbs 20:3**.

- Why do you think it's easier to quarrel than to let something go?
- Why do you think Scripture connects wisdom with self-control and peace?

Pastor Brian shared this idea: “*Not every hill is a hill to die on.*”

- Why is it difficult to tell the difference between what really matters and what we simply want to control?

**Reflect and Commit (40 min.)**

Read **Proverbs 2:1–10**.

- What stands out to you about the way wisdom is described in this passage?
- How could pursuing God's wisdom change the way we respond to frustrating people or situations?

The message challenged us to ask difficult questions when we feel irritated or offended:

*“Is there anything I have done that is contributing to my frustration?”*

*“Is my ego in the way?”*

- Why is self-reflection often harder than blaming someone else?
- Can you think of a situation where looking inward changed the way you handled conflict?

Pastor Brian reminded us that unresolved frustrations can pile up over time, creating unnecessary weight in our relationships—like a bridge slowly overloaded until it finally collapses. Wisdom teaches us to let many things go instead of storing them up.

- What practical steps help you release irritation before it turns into resentment?

**If time allows:**

- What's one relationship where choosing wisdom over frustration could make a difference right now?

**Gather Prayer Requests (5–10 min.)**

Share prayer needs and take time to pray for one another.

**Closing Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for caring about every part of our lives—even the frustrations we carry. Help us become people of wisdom who do not fight at the drop of a hat, but instead learn when to speak, when to pause, and when to let things go. Teach us to look inward, choose our battles wisely, and let love cover small offenses. Help us release our anxiety to You and trust Your care. Give us peace in our relationships and wisdom in our responses this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.