

JAMES

**OPENING UP**

What is the best piece of advice anyone ever gave to you and who was it that gave it?

TEXT

Wisdom for Life | James 1:5-8; 19-26

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: Mature faith seeks God's Wisdom.

1. God's wisdom is received upon request (v. 5)
2. God's wisdom is requested in faith (vv. 6-8)
3. God's wisdom results in action (vv. 19-26)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. James assumes that there will be times when we lack the wisdom we need to walk through life. What is a situation or decision you are walking through in which you need God's wisdom?
2. We can access God's wisdom by simply asking for it (James 1:5). Has it been your habit to ask God for wisdom? If so, how did you get into that habit? If not, what will it require of you to form that habit of seeking God's wisdom through prayer when you are in need?
3. As we pray, James calls us to single-minded devotion to God (vv. 6-8). What is it that steals your devotion to God or causes you to flip-flop in your commitment to him?
4. Share a time when a quick glance in the mirror saved you the embarrassment of looking silly in front of your friends (e.g., food stuck in your teeth)? When we look into a mirror and see something wrong, but do not fix it, we're acting foolishly. How does this real-life illustration help you better understand verses 23-26?
5. In verse 22 James urges us to be "doers" and not just "hearers" of the Word (the Word being God's wisdom). Mature faith doesn't only hear God's wisdom but acts on it!! What wisdom is God calling you to take action on today? What is blocking you from following through in obedient action?

LIFE CHALLENGE



We all go through seasons in life where we feel utterly lost, confused, discouraged, and in need of direction, but the truth is that even when life is going well, we could all benefit from seeking the wisdom of God. Whether you're struggling this week or skating through life, take time to ask God for wisdom and be intentional about listening and responding to what he says with action! Share this journey with someone in your Life Group so that they can hold you accountable.

One of the ways we can seek God for wisdom is by asking Him who He's placed in our life to share the Gospel with. Consider praying that prayer this week and responding by sharing the gospel with words or actions.

CLOSING PRAYER



God, thank you for promising to give wisdom to those who ask. Help us to get into the habit of going to you first in all things. Give us the faith to trust in your plan and your instruction. Give us the courage and strength to act upon the wisdom and direction you give to us. Grow us in every way as we seek you and spend time with you, our desire is to honor you and live out mature faith.