
Life Group Guide: "What Do I Do Now?"

Based on James 1:1-8

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive wisdom and understanding as you discuss His Word together.

Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when you faced a difficult decision and didn't know what to do. How did you handle it? Looking back, what would you do differently?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Trials are inevitable in the Christian life** - They test our faith, reveal our weaknesses, and develop Christ-like character in us.
 2. **Three sources of trials:**
 - Our own bad choices, decisions, or behavior
 - Living in a fallen world (disease, cruel people, weather, etc.)
 - Direct attacks from the enemy
 3. **God's wisdom is available** - We must humble ourselves, acknowledge our lack of wisdom, and ask God in faith.
 4. **True wisdom comes from relationship with God** - Not from our own understanding or endless counsel from others.
 5. **We must ask in faith without doubting** - Being double-minded makes us unstable and prevents us from receiving God's wisdom.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding Trials (15-20 minutes)

1. **James 1:2-4** - Why does James tell us to "consider it all joy" when we face trials? How is this possible when we're suffering?
2. The sermon compared trials to a "shakedown cruise" for ships. How does this analogy help you understand the purpose of trials in your life?
3. Which of the three sources of trials (our choices, fallen world, or enemy attack) do you find most challenging to deal with? Why?
4. Share an example of a trial that helped you grow spiritually. What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God?

Seeking God's Wisdom (15-20 minutes)

5. **James 1:5** - Why do you think many Christians ask multiple people for advice before (or instead of) asking God?
6. The sermon stated: "Wisdom is knowing what to do with knowledge." What's the difference between biblical knowledge and biblical wisdom? Can you give an example?
7. **Proverbs 14:12** says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." When have you done what seemed right in your own eyes, only to realize later it wasn't God's way?
8. What does it practically look like to "ask God for wisdom"? How do you distinguish between God's voice and your own desires?

Faith and Double-Mindedness (10-15 minutes)

9. **James 1:6-8** - What does it mean to be "double-minded"? How can you tell if you're being double-minded in a current situation?
10. The sermon mentioned that many Christians "pray for wisdom, wait 30 seconds, and then do what seems right in their own eyes." Why is this so common? How can we avoid this trap?
11. **Hebrews 11:6** tells us we must believe God rewards those who seek Him. Do you truly believe God will give you wisdom when you ask? What might be hindering your faith?

Personal Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Take a few minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- Am I currently in a trial? If so, what is it revealing about my faith?

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- Have I asked God for wisdom about this situation, or am I relying on my own understanding?
 - Am I being double-minded about anything right now?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Daily Wisdom Prayer** - Set aside 10 minutes each day to specifically ask God for wisdom about a current situation. Journal what you sense God is saying.
 2. **Scripture Meditation** - Memorize James 1:5 and repeat it whenever you face a decision this week.
 3. **Pause Before Deciding** - Before making any significant decision this week, stop and pray for wisdom first. Wait at least 24 hours before acting.
 4. **Wisdom Accountability** - Share with one trusted Christian friend a situation where you need wisdom. Ask them to pray with you and hold you accountable to seek God first.
 5. **Gratitude in Trials** - If you're currently in a trial, write down three ways God might be using it to strengthen your faith or develop your character.
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Group Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

- For those currently in trials - that they would have endurance and see God's purpose
- For wisdom in specific situations group members are facing
- For faith to believe God will answer when we ask
- For stability and single-mindedness in following God's direction

Prayer Method: Have each person share one area where they need God's wisdom. Then pray specifically for each person, asking God to give them wisdom generously and without reproach (James 1:5).

Consider singing or listening together to "Through It All" by Andraé Crouch as a closing worship moment.

Leader's Notes

- Be sensitive to group members who may be in serious trials. Create a safe space for honest sharing.
- Don't rush through the questions. It's better to discuss fewer questions deeply than to skim through all of them.
- Be prepared to share your own examples of needing wisdom and how God provided.
- Remind the group that seeking wisdom is not a one-time event but a lifestyle of dependence on God.
- Emphasize that God never rebukes us for asking for wisdom - He invites us to come to Him repeatedly.

Closing Thought: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10)

A relationship with the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Want more wisdom? Increase the relationship.