

When You Don't Know What to Do

James 1:5–12

Big Idea

When life feels uncertain and the next faithful step isn't clear, God does not ask us to figure it out, He invites us to ask.

Wisdom is not clarity.

It is learning how to trust God when clarity hasn't come.

The Situation James Is Writing Into

- Believers are scattered and under pressure
- Life feels unstable and unresolved
- Faith is being lived without clear answers

James speaks to people who want to be faithful but might not know what to do next.

“If Any of You Lacks Wisdom...” (James 1:5)

James does not rebuke confusion. He assumes it.

Wisdom is not information or certainty. It is how we live faithfully when obedience isn't obvious.

Reflection:

Where does life feel unclear or risky right now?

Why Asking Is Hard

Many of us have had experiences in life that communicated to us that asking was risky:

Reflection:

What makes asking God for help difficult for you?

Double-Mindedness (James 1:6–8)

Double-mindedness isn't doubt. It's divided trust.

It looks like:

- Asking God for wisdom with one hand open
- While the other hand stays clenched around the outcome we want

Reflection:

What are you still gripping tightly right now?

When Wisdom Runs Into What Formed Us (James 1:9–11)

Trials don't just create confusion. They expose what we've learned to rely on.

- Scarcity can train us to grasp
- Security can train us to control

Different stories. Same inner tension.

Reflection:

What do you instinctively reach for when things don't resolve?

The Promise That Holds (James 1:12)

The crown of life is not given to those who never struggle. It is given to those who keep coming back.

Perseverance does not earn the crown of life. It receives what God has already promised.

Community Group Discussion Questions

- When you hear the phrase “*When you don’t know what to do,*” what situation or season immediately comes to mind for you right now?
- James assumes confusion instead of correcting it.
What is it like for you to hear that Scripture doesn’t shame uncertainty?
- In your own life, when things are unclear, what pressure do you feel most strongly? To act quickly? To explain yourself? To sound confident? To stop the discomfort? Which one feels familiar?
- When James invites us to ask God for wisdom, what makes that hard for you?
- Growing up, how was asking for help treated in your home or earlier in your life?
- The sermon described double-mindedness as: *one hand reaching for God, the other holding tightly to the outcome*. If you’re honest, what might you still be holding onto right now?
- James shows that trials reveal what we rely on — grasping or controlling.
- When things feel unstable, which direction do you tend to move: Tightening your grip? Trying to regain control? Staying busy? Pulling away? What do you think that strategy once protected you from?
- How does it change things for you to hear that wisdom isn’t clarity, but learning how to live faithfully *inside* uncertainty?
- Jesus asked for another way and stayed when none came. What stands out to you about Jesus’ honesty in that moment? How does that shape the way you think about prayer?
- If faith right now looked like something small and honest not strong or resolved, what might that be for you? What would it sound like to say: “God, I don’t know what to do and I’m here”?