

#ADULTING

THE BOOK OF JAMES

REFLECTION- Adults seek wisdom in trials

Passage: James 1:5-8

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James 1:5-8 | But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- What is your first response as you face a trial? Usually we ask for deliverance, not wisdom. But if we recognize trials produce patience and improve our faith- shouldn't we ask God what He wants us to do and learn?
- What is wisdom?
 - Knowledge= to have understanding or information about something
 - Wisdom= discernment & insight. To have wisdom is to have the ability to apply knowledge to everyday life according to God's will.
 - **Proverbs 9:10** | the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
 - It is having an awed respect of who God is and a reverential trust in His Word and His character, and to live accordingly.
- Where do people seek wisdom?
 - Is it chat, google, Siri, friends, tiktok- the instant gratification and convenience make all these options easy to seek
 - We should seek wisdom from God through intimate prayer, reading Scripture, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and counsel of wise Christians
 - Psalm 119 is all about gaining and understanding wisdom from God's Word
- How to ask- "We must ask in faith without doubting"
 - Faith is the assurance of knowing God will provide what wisdom is needed because you trust in Him and His character. Otherwise it is only a wish where we just hope for the best.
 - A wish leads to wishy-washy behavior where we just contemplate choices leaving our mind divided and frustrations building
 - Example: Mt 14:22-33- Peter sinking in the waves walking to Jesus

Begin your study time with prayer. Ask God to reveal Himself to you, help you understand what you are reading, and transform you with His Word (Ps 119:18).

1. Read James 1:5-8 in multiple translations (NASB, ESV & Amplified are all great options- you can easily compare in the Bible app or on biblegateway.com). Let the Scripture wash over you. Pick out words/phrases that stand out. If you don't know the meaning of any words, look them up.
2. How do you define wisdom? Where do you seek wisdom from in order to apply it to your life? Where should you go for wisdom?
3. Do you trust that God is willing to provide wisdom and help during times of trouble? Why or why not? (your answer to this question reveals what you think about the character of God)
4. Read Proverbs 2. What are some benefits of wisdom described in this proverb? Read Proverbs 3:13-24. How is wisdom described and what does it provide according to these verses?
5. What does it mean to be double-minded?
6. Read Mark 9:14-29. How does this father deal with his struggle to understand and trust Jesus? (this man is not double-minded but honest before God. Faith does not mean that we never struggle, but we know where to take those struggles).