



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Ask God First

Speaker: Shane Condon

Highlighted Scripture

- **James 1:5**

James encourages believers who lack wisdom to ask God, who gives generously without finding fault. In its setting, this invitation comes amid trials that test faith. Shane applies that truth to everyday decisions: instead of waiting until a plan is already formed, begin by asking God for wisdom and remain ready to receive direction.

- **Proverbs 3:5-6**

These verses call God's people to trust him wholeheartedly, refuse self-reliance, and submit every path to him. The promise of a straight path is not approval of whatever we have already chosen; it is an invitation to let trust in God reshape our plans, attitudes, timing, and direction.

Discussion Questions

- When do you tend to ask God for help only after you have already formed a plan?
- How can you tell the difference between honestly seeking God's direction and asking him to approve what you already want?
- What possibility - waiting, changing your attitude, reconsidering a closed door, or listening to wise counsel - is hardest for you to leave open?
- How can prayer, Scripture, and trusted Christian counsel work together when you need wisdom?
- What would a genuine willingness to change direction look like in a decision you are facing now?

Reflection Challenge

Before your next meaningful decision, practice asking God first. Do not rush to demand an instant answer. Bring your desire and assumptions into the open, seek wisdom, and leave room for God to redirect you.

Ask yourself:

- Have I already decided what I want before I pray?
- Am I willing to discover that my preferred option is not the wisest one?
- Does my plan agree with the character and teaching of Scripture?
- What would patient, humble trust require from me today?

Try this:

- Pause before acting and pray plainly: 'God, what would you have me do?'
- Read the relevant Scripture in context and write down what it actually calls you to trust or obey.
- Ask a trusted Christian for wisdom without first pressuring them toward your preferred answer.
- Name one change of direction you would be willing to make if God's leading becomes clear.

Remember

- Ask God first, not only after your plan becomes difficult.
- God welcomes honest requests for wisdom.
- Seeking direction requires enough humility to admit that you may be wrong.
- Careful reasoning is useful, but it is not a substitute for trusting God.
- Prayer, Scripture, and wise counsel help test a decision together.
- Trust may lead you to wait, change your attitude, or choose a different path.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for inviting me to ask you for wisdom. Forgive me for the times I make my plans first and only ask you to approve them afterward. Teach me to trust you with my whole heart, to submit my decisions to you, and to leave room for you to redirect me.

Help me seek your guidance through prayer, your Word, and wise counsel. Give me humility when I am wrong, patience when I need to wait, and courage to change direction when obedience requires it. Let my choices reflect confidence in you rather than confidence in my own understanding.

In Jesus' name, Amen.