

Here Comes Wisdom

Pastor Jeff Thompson | James 1:5–8

ICE BREAKER:

Share a simple 'life-hack' or wisdom you have picked up. This could be a trick to be more efficient with cooking (like cutting an onion without crying), or fixing something, or a better way to, etc.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

How do 'various trials' (James 1:2-4) connect to the need for wisdom?

Discuss the specific ways God's character is described in this passage. How does that help us understand key aspects of wisdom?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read Romans 5:1-5. How does our justification by faith in Jesus give us all the more confidence that God 'gives generously' and does so 'without reproach'?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Why is right thinking about God and his character so important? Where can wrong theology of God and His character lead us astray?

How should these texts shape our posture of faith in God and willingness to follow His wisdom, wherever it may lead: Proverbs 3:33-35, 1 Peter 5:5, and James 4:6.

Knowing God's generous character and His desire for us to ask in the midst of 'various trials' (James 1:2), spend an extended period of time in prayer for one another, asking God together for specific wisdom in specific situations.

PARENTING MOMENT and FAMILY FOCUS:

Read more of God's character in Exodus 34:6-7. How does this describe what God is like? Since God is merciful and gracious and 'gives generously without reproach' (James 1:5), ask God to give you all wisdom in the hard things in your lives. Pray for one another.

FURTHER STUDY:

For a stirring account of a trial and the resulting steadfastness from God's wisdom, read "A Grieving Mother's Tribute to Thomas Boston" at www.modernreformation.org.

For a book that helps us with a humble posture to receive wisdom from God, read Mike Emlet's 'CrossTalk: Where Life and Scripture Meet.'



True Religion

THE BOOK OF JAMES

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next week, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

- 1. As James moves from encouraging us to ask God for wisdom (James 1:5-8), who are the two groups of people he mentions next (James 1:9-11)?**
- 2. The description of the two groups is itself a contrast. How is that contrast emphasized by what they are supposed to 'boast' in?**
- 3. How do 'a flower,' 'the grass,' and 'the sun' illustrate James' points?**
- 4. The imagery of the field and what's lasting may have brought some Old Testament texts to mind. How do Isaiah 40:6-7 and Psalm 102:4, 11 further our understanding of James 1:9-11?**
- 5. What in this text confuses you?**
- 6. What in this text compels you?**
- 7. Spend some time in prayer to God, thanking Him for His Word.**