



**Title: Learning the Lord's Lessons**

**Date: September 17, 2023**

**Scripture Text: James 1:5-11**

**Series: The Behavior of a Believer**

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We are continuing the series The Behavior of a Believer, a study of the book of James. In today's sermon we pick up with the topic mentioned in [James 1:3-4](#) where James gives us the reason we face various trials: to build our faith and mature us in our walk with Christ. To succeed in that maturing process, we need wisdom from God to learn His lessons. Just because we go through a trial, we aren't guaranteed to learn the lesson God intended us to learn. We may respond inappropriately and not learn anything. God wants us to take our encounters with the trials of this life and use them to become more like Him. He gives us the ability to do so by providing wisdom when we ask. This is where our passage today picks up.

### **I. Recognize the Lack of Wisdom (James 1:5a)**

Many times, we miss learning opportunities because we are unaware of the need we have for wisdom. Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord ([Prov. 9:10a](#)). We pridefully act in a self-sufficient manner and wonder why we don't feel God's support. We too often lean on our own understanding instead of getting a broader perspective from God ([Prov. 3:5-7](#)). When we do seek wisdom, many times we look in the wrong places (education, internet, etc.). We need to acknowledge the source of wisdom, our need for wisdom, and humbly fear God as we acquire wisdom.

- What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
- According to [Prov. 9:10a](#), what does it mean to 'fear the Lord' and why is it an important aspect of wisdom?
- Why is it hard at times to admit and recognize our need for wisdom?

### **II. Look for Wisdom (James 1:5b-11)**

Once we recognize our lack of wisdom, we need to seek it out, both from the correct source and in the correct manner.

Where to look for wisdom ([vs.5](#))?

- Where are we to seek wisdom?
- What are examples of the wrong places people look for wisdom?
- What potential impact can godly wisdom have in how we handle the various trials we encounter?

## Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

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How to ask for wisdom ([vss. 6-7](#))

- How are we to ask for wisdom?
- Why is faith so important when seeking wisdom from God?
- How is the one who doubts (lacks faith) described in these verses?
- According to [vs. 7](#), what can the one who doubts expect to receive from God?
- What does 'asking in faith' look like?

It takes wisdom to have victory in both trials and treasure ([vss. 9-11](#))

- Wisdom in *Poverty* ([vs. 9](#)); The poor shouldn't lament their station in life, but by wisdom recognize the many blessings God provides.
  - How can us not having the possessions we may feel we should have distract us from a growing faith?
  - How can God's wisdom help us keep our focus on Him and not get drawn into self-pity?
  - How can God's wisdom help us recognize the many blessings we receive from Him each day?
- Wisdom in *Prosperity* ([vss. 10-11](#)); The rich shouldn't delight and rely on their wealth and possessions, but by wisdom, find joy in the humility which trials produce in their lives ([Prov. 30:8-9](#)).
  - How can having wealth and possessions create a distraction to acquiring God's wisdom?
  - Why is it so easy at times to become dependent on our possessions and not God?
  - How can God's wisdom help us keep Him in the proper place in our lives?

For many of us, we learn the Lord's lessons the hard way, only after failing as we try to deal with life's trials our own way, in our own understanding. We must intentionally and continually turn to God, seeking His equipping through the wisdom that is only available from Him to have victory in the trials of life... learning His lessons and growing more like Him.