

**NOTE:** If you haven't already heard the message by Rick Langer, you can hear it here [Loving Jesus More Than These](#)

### **STUDY GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE**

For the next few weeks, we will be looking at biblical themes befitting our times. For this week, we are going to focus on the fruit of wisdom from God.

Because our passage on wisdom is in the "book of James," it is helpful to read what he said earlier in the letter. Read James 1:5-8.

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

**Wisdom** is the practical application of God's truth to a specific situation; it is knowing what God wants you to do and then doing it.

**Wisdom in James:** The letter from James continues Jesus' teaching on **living out the character of God** (cf. the Sermon on the Mount). We are called to live in spiritual integrity as the children of God. We cannot do so without wisdom from God. The promise in this passage is if we ask God for wisdom, He gives generously to all who ask in faith and who plan to obey that wisdom. (cf. Matthew 7:7-11) The condition for God to grant wisdom is if we ask without doubt or plan to follow God's wisdom.

**In chapter three,** James continues the theme of **living in spiritual integrity through wisdom**. He instructs us in how to discriminate God's wisdom from earthly and unspiritual ways. Let's read our passage and focus on the fruit of God's wisdom.

**James 3:13-18:** <sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

### **Consider these questions:**

What is the test of wisdom?

What evidences reveal that something is not God's wisdom?

What are the sources of these negative actions? How broad is the influence of those sources?

What are the evidences of the wisdom from above (heaven, God)?

List description of a person living in God's wisdom.

How are these connected with the character of God?

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

How does this passage compare to what is happening in our world?

In what ways is this passage a reflection of the character of God? From what we read in James, how can we live out His character? What holds us back?

Which of these descriptions do you desire in your own life? Why?

### **PRAY TOGETHER**

THURSDAY IS THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Please pray for our nation, leaders, and peace. For more information, look over our [Prayer Guide](#).

THIS IS OUR WEEK OF PRAYER

Please look at our app, our social media, or our website for prayer suggestions.