

The Book of James

Come up with a list of all the sources people go to for advice.



REVIEW: Go back to the first study in the Book of James. What were the 3 things this book will be focusing on?

NOW READ JAMES 1:5-8. Clearly, James brings up early the thing that he thinks will help us to grow the most as Christians: **WISDOM**.

Do you think "worldly" wisdom is different from "godly" wisdom? If so, how?

Think hard - avoid Sunday school answers here - How does a person gain wisdom?

TURN TO 1KINGS 3:5-12. You may not know that Solomon was the son of King David. Solomon became the King of the Jews after David's death.

Solomon wanted to be a good leader, so what did he ask God to give him? Good leadership skills? Money? Power?

Solomon wrote the Book of Proverbs, a book about godly wisdom. If you have time, read **1KINGS 3:16-28** to see an example of Solomon's godly wisdom.

Today's passage also gives you an idea of how to "not" ask for wisdom. Can you come up with some examples from real life that describe the advice given here?

ALL PLAY: Do you have some important decisions coming up? How can God help you with these decisions? How can the group support you? Be specific.

LEADERS' GUIDE

Make sure you spend time going over this study before you study it with the students. ***Please don't show them this leader's guide, or have them download the study ahead of time from the website, since this guide is included in the lesson.***

If you don't finish it all this week, it's fine to extend it. Just don't drag it out – otherwise, they'll get sick of the Book of James before they even get to the good stuff!

Encourage them to each bring a Bible. Help them get one if they do not have one, or just own a "little kid" Bible from their childhood.

Ask them to:

1. Write their name on their copy of the study.
2. Bring the study back each week.

THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION:

Response to "Advice" question: Help them come up with a thorough list: parents, youth leaders, teachers, coaches, friends, internet, advice columns in the paper. Don't settle for the "I dunno" answer.

If you can, try to find an advice column online or in the paper. The SB News-Press carries Dear Abby and Ask Carolyn. Online, you can usually find pertinent topics for your group. Work hard to keep this from being a distraction; but perhaps find a column that addresses a topic that would apply to the students in your group. Evaluate the advice given; is it valuable? Why or why not?

DISCUSS: how do you think the advice columnist came up with this advice? Would Christians agree or disagree with the advice given?

REVIEW: Go back to the first study in the Book of James. What were the 3 things this book will be focusing on? **ANSWER:**

James is a book about our own new birth in Christ (see verses 1:16-18), and our growth in Christ (see vs 1:25). From there, the rest of the book shows us how to keep developing in our growth spiritually by learning how to live out what we believe.

Regarding: "Do you think "worldly" wisdom is different from "godly" wisdom? If so, how?" *Help them understand the differences between "worldly" and "godly" wisdom. Younger or newer Christians may not be familiar with the differences. Worldly wisdom tells us to "look out for number 1" or "make as much money as possible", etc. Stimulate conversation by discussing what advertisements tell us to do.*

It would be a good idea to keep a small group "journal", writing down prayer requests, milestones, etc. Decisions described in this last question would be a good idea to write down.