

Living Whole in a Fractured World: A Letter from James "Whole People Seek Wisdom"

September 25-26, 2021

This provides about one hour of focused reading and discussion. Use the portions you find most helpful.

Review with a **video clip** on **James 1** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crlxuvyMjF4> from **minutes 2:00 to 4:10**.

1. James **prioritizes** it (wisdom), Proverbs **prizes** it.

- Read **James 1:5-8**, and **Proverbs 4:5-13**. Have each person choose one of these verses in Proverbs 4; discuss something about wisdom expressed in that verse.
- Read **Proverbs 8:12-36**. What stands out to you in this passage?

2. Seeking wisdom calls for **humility**.

- Where do people in our culture tend to look for wisdom?
- Read **Proverbs 1:7** and **Job 28:28**. What prompts me to ask **God** for wisdom?

3. Asking shows **intentionality**.

- Read **Colossians 2:2-3**, **Proverbs 2:1-8**, **1 John 5:13**, **Psalm 59:16**, and **Psalm 5:2-3**. What habits have you tried to develop to be intentional in seeking God?
- Think about this: When God gives you wisdom, how well do you put it into practice?

4. Wisdom flows from **relationship** with **Christ**.

- Read **1 Corinthians 1:20-31** and **Jeremiah 29:12-13**. How does our time spent seeking God bring wisdom into our lives?

5. There's no **rebuke** when we **ask**.

- Read **Matthew 7:7-11**, **1 Kings 3:9-12**, **Lamentations 3:21-26**, and **James 1:5**.
- What can we learn from God's approachability? How can we be a reflection of His character when we interact with others?

6. Ask in **faith**, not **doubt**.

- Read **James 1:6-8** and **James 5:13-18**. What kinds of experiences strengthen our faith?
- Read **Luke 10:1-2**. Some translations say to "ask earnestly of the Lord..." to emphasize what the Greek word for "ask" implies. It means to beg, or ask with fervent passion, to ask with a sense of personal intention and investment. What do you think about this idea, in the context of these verses?

Close with a theme-related song:

- **"I Want to Know You"** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiKzgvul1AY>

If you have a prayer need, ask a friend or two here to pray with you, and to support you in prayer this week.