

CONVERSATION STARTER

When you're facing a decision, what or who is usually the first place you go for "wisdom" or guidance? Why do you think that is?

DEEPER

NOTE: This would be a good time to reflect on how group members are doing in their memorization of James 1 if you've accepted the challenge together.

Read James 1: 5-8

1. People often use the word wisdom in different ways. Sometimes wisdom means applying knowledge to figure out what works best in a situation. Other times, wisdom means applying biblical and theological truth to discern what honors God and reflects his character.

Can you think of examples of how "what works" doesn't always equate to "what pleases God"?

2. Which understanding of wisdom do you tend to rely on most in your everyday decisions? Can you think of situations where you're more likely to lean toward one versus the other?
3. What are some examples of the western church using the wisdom of "what works" rather than "what honors God"?
4. God is generous in giving us wisdom, especially through his Word. How confident are you in your knowledge of God's Word for wisdom in everyday life? Describe that confidence, or lack of.
5. Similarly, how easily do you find yourself swayed by different ideas or teachings you encounter? And in what ways do you notice yourself being influenced by different teachings or perspectives?
6. What else stood out to you in the passage or in Pastor Josh's sermon? Do you now have more questions? Any encouragement to share? Anything you can bless the group with?

NOTES

GROUP ACTIVITY

Use the remainder of your time sharing any current situations in your life where you need wisdom from God to know how to move forward. Share as much as you're comfortable. As a group, listen carefully and seek God's wisdom together—through Scripture, prayer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit—rather than relying only on personal opinions.