

Starter: What do you think wisdom is?

Take 5-10 minutes on your own to read through James and note where it talks about prayer and wisdom.

Wisdom

Split up into pairs and note down what James says wisdom is and is not in each passage.

Feedback to the group, and pull it all together to give a full picture of what James tells us about wisdom.

The biblical concept of wisdom is different from a secular one, and James follows the wisdom tradition of the Old Testament in some ways. For Christians, wisdom is rooted in God the wise One and describes living a life with God at the centre.

James talks specifically about wisdom in the passages you have looked at but throughout his letter gives examples of situations requiring the wisdom he wants his readers to exhibit. What are some of the situations he describes?
[Split up in pairs taking a chapter each then feed back to the group]

What are the results of showing wisdom in these situations? What happens when we don't show wisdom?

What are some of the situations you need God's wisdom in dealing with?

Prayer

James tells us that if we need wisdom to pray for it and goes on to teach about prayer in 1.5-8, 4.1-10, 5.13-20.

What does he teach us about how we should pray and the things that hinder our prayers?

What we believe about God influences how we pray. In these passages what does James teach us about who God is and how does believing that shape/ change our prayers?

Choose a verse that from these passages that you could learn as a group

James says:

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective

Do not listen to the word, do what it says

[because God wants to heal and forgive] *confess your sins to each other and pray so that you may be healed* [the goal here is growth]

God longs for us to fulfil the potential he has placed in us, He is good and longs to show us his generosity.

Take some time together as a group to pray for wisdom as you live the life of faith.

Share the specific areas in your lives that you need to ask for and exhibit Godly wisdom in, and pray into those things.

[It may be helpful to keep a prayer journal as a group so you can look back and see how God has been at work answering prayer]