

James 1:5-11

How to Make Up Your Mind!

Life Group Study Guide
Sugar Grove Church of Christ
11600 West Airport Blvd.
Meadows Place, TX 77477

Life Group Life:

- Make sure everyone in your group knows everyone else. If you have new members take a few minutes getting to know them and learning how they came to be connected to your group.
- In the past week what has been a high or a low or both in your life?
*(Encourage each person in the group to share something from their week that has been a high and one thing that has been a low. There is not right or wrong answer to this question. **This is an exercise that offers the opportunity to celebrate or mourn with each other. For example, if a group member shares a “low” that is really significant stop what your group is doing and pray over/with that person right then and there.)***

Memory Verse:

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

James 1:5,6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he is, and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

If your group has more than 8 people you may want to break into groups of 4-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion. Then come back together at the end of the discussion time and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion.

Grow:

- Do you ever wonder what God wants you to do in a certain situation? Share with the group about a time recently when you have wondered what God wanted you to do? What did you decide God wanted you to do? How did you come to this conclusion?
- In verse James 1:5 it says that if we lack wisdom we should ask God. The New Living Translation helps explain this wisdom when it says, “If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do...” telling us that wisdom is knowing what God wants you to do. How would knowing what God wants you to do be wisdom?

- Read 1:6-8. Why would someone ask God and then not believe he would answer them? Have you ever done this?
- Someone who doubts God can help them know what to do is compared to a wave in the sea. A wave in the sea goes whichever direction it gets blown or pushed. How is a person who doubts God like a wave in the sea? Have you ever felt like a wave in the sea in your relationship with God? Why and how?
- Fear, pride, forgetfulness, unbelief, doubts, laziness, and a lack of understanding God, may all be among the list of things that keeps us from asking God for wisdom. Share with the group anything you think keeps you from asking for God's wisdom. What do you think can change this and enable you to go quickly to the Lord for wisdom.

Serve:

- Scriptures tell us that the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 2:9-12; John 14:26, 16:13,14), the word of God (Psalm 119:97-105, 2 Timothy 3:16-17), meditation on God's word (Psalm 1:1-3), wise counsel (Proverbs 15:22), and prayer (Romans 8:26-27) can all be sources of God's wisdom. From this list, which ones have been meaningful to you and helped you learn where you can best served God and others?

Share:

- Often we struggle with indecision because we lack the wisdom we need to feel confident about our choices. At times like this, we may need to deal with our pride or fear, admit our need, and ask God to give us His wisdom. How can wrong attitudes about asking God for wisdom hinder our ability to share Christ with others?
- In what ways do you think God's wisdom is the key to success as we share the Good News with those around us?

Worship:

- Close your eyes and simply consider how incredible it is that we can completely trust God..... Now open your eyes and share with the group the thought, feeling, or emotion that best expresses the reality that we can trust God.
- Take time to pray for each of the members of the group by name lifting up any special issues that have surfaced during this group time.
- Then, in a separate prayer, lift up needs and concerns for people and events outside of your group.

Additional Questions:

- After encouraging us with the assurance of growth through our trials, James speaks to us about wisdom. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge.
- Why do you think James connects the idea of wisdom to a discussion on trials?