JAMES

MARK IT UP

James 1:5-8 Discussion Guide
Week of 2/20/22

Icebreaker: How would you define wisdom? What situation in life has caused you to feel like you really needed more of it?

Getting Started: Read James 1:1-8 and 3:13-18 as a group.

We'll be highlighting Calvary's Shaping Values as they show up in the book of James. These values describe what's most essential to us as Christ-centered communities. Here's this week's focus:

Prayer in Faith: We believe God accomplishes His will though our prayers.

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1. Why do you think James raises the issue of wisdom after what he has said in verses 1-4?

2. Where do people look for wisdom in our day? What do these verses tell us about the true source of wisdom?

Application: What do you think it looks like for us to exercise our Shaping Value of Prayer in Faith when it comes to asking for and receiving wisdom from God? If you have an example from your life, please share it!

3. How does James describe the nature of God's giving in verse 5?[1]

Application: What examples can you share of God's generosity in your life?

4. Asking God for wisdom suggests that some doubt already exists in a person's life. What do you think it means, then, for James to say that this person must "ask in faith, with no doubt"?

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[1] *Reproach* means "to find fault in a way that demeans the other...*revile, mock, heap insults upon* as a way of shaming." This is what God does NOT do when we ask! (*A Greek Lexicon of the NT and other Early Christian Literature*, 710).

Application: Why do you think we might doubt God's ability or willingness to give us wisdom?

5. James' vivid imagery in verses 6-8 describe someone who lacks faith that God is the ultimate source of wisdom. In what sense is such a person "double-minded" or "unstable" in life?

Application: Can you think of a time or situation in your life where you fit the description of these verses? What happened?

6. What can we learn about the signs, or "fruit," of wisdom from 3:13-18?

Application: How can these descriptions help us diagnose true wisdom in a world of counterfeits?