

Life Group Questions

April 29th

Get-To-Know-Me-Question:

It's Saturday afternoon. You're relaxing at home, enjoying some much needed down time, when there's an unexpected ring of the doorbell. What do you do? Talk about a time when something like this happened and what your response was. How does this scenario usually play itself out?

Into The Bible Questions:

Read through **James 1:2-8**.

1. James opens his letter by telling people to consider trials as nothing but joy because of the endurance they can produce in us. That seems counterintuitive, yet James asserts that endurance through trials can lead to growing mature.
 - How can trials help us mature in our faith?
 - Talk about a time you have seen someone mature and grow through trials.
2. Verse 5 directs anyone who lacks wisdom to ask God for it and says that God gives out wisdom joyfully to anyone who asks.
 - What is the purpose of wisdom?
 - Why do you think God joyfully gives people wisdom?
 - Who are some examples of wise people in your life?
3. This section ends with James warning against doubting in our requests. Read verses 6 - 9 again and answer these questions:
 - What does it mean to ask God with faith and why is that important?
 - Verse 8 describes doubting as, "being unstable in every way." What is the connection between doubts and instability?

Let's Go Deeper:

Read through **Matthew 7:7**.

- This line of scripture uses three verbs to describe how we can address God with our concerns or needs. Jesus says to, "ask ... seek ... and knock."
 - What does it look like to ask, seek and knock in prayer?

- Why do you think God wants us to ask, seek and knock when addressing him?
 - What do you usually ask God for?
- This verse is filled with promises. Specifically, look at the last one. It says, “knock and the door will be opened to you.”
 - Talk about the significance of knowing that God does not ignore guests at the door?
 - Why is God being present with us in all circumstances so important to the Christian life?
- Jesus continues with this theme in the next verse. Matthew 7:8, says, “for everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Jesus wants people to pray with expectation of God’s response.
 - What does it look like to pray with expectation?
 - What would the opposite look like and why is praying with expectation preferred?
- Most, if not all of us, have been in moments when we’ve prayed expectantly and not had God respond in the way we wanted.
 - How does the rest of the section, Matthew 7:9-12, speak to those moments?
 - Talk about times when God has or has not answered prayer in the way you were hoping or expecting.
- Remember the promise about the door being opened when someone knocks. What does it look like for God to still be present in the midst of prayer that is answered different to our hopes and expectations?