



WEEK FOUR

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord

SAY THIS

If you want to be wise,
trust God to give you wisdom.

DO THIS



DRIVE TIME

Pick a time that you will be in the car for awhile and start the following conversation, "Do you remember when I told you that you have to search for wisdom and to be on the lookout for it? Well, have you seen someone this week make a wise choice or where have you found wisdom—from a friend, the Bible, or church?"

REMEMBER THIS

"If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it.
He will give it to you."
James 1:5a, NIV

LIFE APP

WISDOM—Finding out what you should do
and doing it

GROWING IN WISDOM AS A PARENT

By Holly Crawshaw

If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault, (James 1:5, NIV).

James wrote this verse for a very specific group of people. His readers were facing a myriad of challenges—including persecution and displacement. They had lost everything, including their homes and possessions. James wanted them to know they could not only survive their trials, but do so *joyfully* (James 1:2).

Sure, James. No problem. (Eye roll.)

After I had my third daughter, I suffered from postpartum anxiety. I couldn't sleep. In fact, there were three straight days when I didn't sleep at all. Four out of five of us in the family caught the flu—one right after the other. But I was the lucky one. I caught the flu two times in six weeks. Whatever the opposite of *joyfully* is, that's what I felt for three straight months.

Let's go back to James. James told his readers that being joyful during seasons of sorrow is possible. Not that you should feel happy-clappy during moments of anxiety or sorrow. James is reminding us that when you need wisdom, God is THERE. Ready to help you see your next right step. We

may still feel sadness or moments of anxiety but the wisdom of God can fill us with the confidence that He is still in control.

When I look back on my season of sorrow, I want to bang my head on a wall. Not once did I ask God for His wisdom. Don't get me wrong—I prayed a lot. But I didn't ask God what He wanted me to do. How I could grow. All I did was try to boss God around. I thought my wisdom was a better option than *His*.

Is there an area in your life or in your parenting where you're using your wisdom and not God's? Are your prayers essentially a to-do list for God? Are you begging Him for relief when you should be begging Him for wisdom?

I often wonder what would have happened if I had followed James' advice. Maybe the anxiety would have *dissipated sooner, maybe not. But I bet I would have had more moments of God's peace and confidence. Because when you're walking in God's wisdom, life is simply better.*

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