

JAMES 1:5-8

STOP AND ASK FOR DIRECTIONS

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should **ASK** God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it **will** be given to you. But when you **ASK**, you must **believe** and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do."

DEFINITION: WISDOM

1. The ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting; insight
2. Common sense; good judgment

When we are going through hard times, **asking** God for **WISDOM** should be the **FIRST** thing we **STOP** and do. Instead of asking God for wisdom, we try to figure out life's problems by ourselves. We continue driving down an unknown highway only to find that we are just plain **LOST**. Why didn't we **stop and ask for directions**? His directions? It's a five letter word called **PRIDE**. Pride tricks us to believe that we can solve **ALL** of our problems by ourselves—or at least we think our friends can.

*Dougie was so stressed out he could feel his stomach start to hurt again. Feeling the pressure of school, student council, football, piano, AND helping his Mom out with his little sister Diane, Dougie felt **completely overwhelmed**. He picked up his phone to text his best friend when he remembered something he had learned at Youth Group last Sunday. **Stop and ask GOD for WISDOM**. This didn't go so well the last time he asked God for help. But then again, he didn't truly **believe** God cared about something as small as Algebra. But something was different this time.*

*He **DID** believe that God would help.*

*He **DID** believe that God would hear his prayers.*

*Dougie stopped, took a deep breath, and asked God to help him balance **ALL** of life's responsibilities. He felt an instant relief and to his surprise, when he got home, his little sister was sleeping. "Oh, Thank You Lord," Dougie said aloud, "A little time to myself. You really do hear my prayers!"*



DISCUSSION



DIRECTIONAL QUESTIONS

1. When you go through hard times, who do you **turn to first**?
2. Be honest, do you really **believe** God hears you when you pray? What is the difference between believing and doubting?
3. What do you think being double-minded means? Why would God not honor this type of faith?
4. When have you stopped and asked God for directions?

BACK ROAD DRIVIN'

SOMETIMES we believe that God is too **BIG** to care about the small things. On the contrary, God loves us more than we could ever imagine. He would stop heaven to **HELP** us get back on the right road. We just have to **ASK!** Getting lost is super easy when we drive without asking for directions. Why? Because we can only see the road right in front of us. God can see the **whole map!** We need to focus on Him. Remember last week's lesson? He knows the **BEST** direction for our lives and desires for us to get home safely.

My way or the Highway . . . True or False?



**STOP
AND
PRAY**

LORD, thank you for your wisdom. I pray to **STOP** and **ASK** for **your** directions in my life. I can mess up pretty quickly when I try to do it my own way. Lead me into **YOUR** truth, and help me to discern what is right. Help me to **ALWAYS believe** in You and **not doubt**. You are the only one who knows the right way.

AMEN

ADDITIONAL SIGHTSEEING

LOOK UP

Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 16:16, Ecclesiastes 8:1, and 1 Corinthians 1:30

What does the Bible say about **WISDOM**? Identify four things from these verses. (answers on bottom)

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