

*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. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*  
*James 1:5-8 (NIV)*

## **No “If”**

That’s a funny statement. **What’s that?** There is no “if” about it. I lack wisdom. I don’t lack just a little bit of wisdom. I don’t need a small amount of wisdom to round me out to make me wise. I am in desperate need of your wisdom. **That’s good.** What’s good? **It is a very good thing that you are ready and willing to admit that you desperately need my wisdom. Your admission of your lack of wisdom is the first step in your receiving wisdom from me. You have not always been willing to admit that you needed wisdom.** That’s right. I have been independent and self-sufficient. I have been filled with pride. I have thought that I did not need wisdom. I have operated as if I didn’t need any help from you. **That’s true. But now you know that you need wisdom from me.** Yes, I do. **Now you know that you need wisdom from me everyday.** Yes, I do. **Now you know that a day should not go by in which you don’t ask me for my wisdom.** Yes, that is true. **You need wisdom in both the small and big decisions that you will make in life.** Yes, I do. All my little and big decisions will one day add up to the life that I have lived. I want to live a wise life that is pleasing to you in every way. **That’s good.**

**Now that you know that you need wisdom from me what will you do?** I will ask you for your wisdom. I will rely on your wisdom. I will trust in your wisdom. I will wait for your wisdom. **How much wisdom do you think I am willing to give to you?** I believe that you will generously give me your wisdom. You will never find fault in me for asking you for your wisdom. You will never tell me that I have asked you for too much of your wisdom. You will never turn away my request for more of your wisdom. **It sounds to me like you have no doubts about my willingness and desire to give you wisdom.** I have no doubts about you being willing to generously give your wisdom to me. That is why I will keep on coming to you to ask you for your wisdom. **That will be very good. I will hear and answer your requests for my wisdom.**

*Lord, I lack wisdom. There is no doubt about that. I have left a trail of poor decisions as evidence of my lack of wisdom. I need your help and wisdom. Help me to make good decisions as I live my life for you. I have no doubt you will hear and answer my prayer. Amen*

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

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. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

NIV

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

NLT

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

NRSV

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him. Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord, [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].

AMP

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

NASB

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

ESV

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

NKJV

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

MSG

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.

TLB

James 1:5-8

## Rhythms

*Lack - Ask*

But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to all people, so he will give you wisdom. But when you ask God, you must believe and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind. Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time, and they cannot decide about anything they do. They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.

NCV

James 1:5-8

# Lack – Ask

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Rhythms** – James 1:5-8

**In Context:** *Read James 1*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God’s Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. James 1:5-8

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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. | That man | should not | think | he will | receive | anything | from | the Lord; | he is | a double-minded | man, | unstable | in all | he does. James 1:5-8

**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I lack wisdom. There is no doubt about that. I have left a trail of poor decisions as evidence of my lack of wisdom. I need your help and wisdom. Help me to make good decisions as I live my life for you. I have no doubt you will hear and answer my prayer. Amen

**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you been most aware of your lack of wisdom?

**Why is it a very good thing to be willing to admit your own lack of wisdom?**

What poor decisions have you made based on your lack of wisdom?

Why can you be certain that the Lord will give you His wisdom when you ask Him for help?

How has the Lord been able to redeem and use poor decisions you have made in the past?

**How are you making it the rhythm of your life to ask God for His wisdom?**

**What decisions are before you now that you would like God’s wisdom to help you decide?**

**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it the rhythm of your life to ask the Lord to give you His wisdom.

**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will give you His wisdom when you ask Him for His help.

**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are regularly asking for God to give you His wisdom.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you admit your lack of wisdom so you can ask God for all wisdom you desperately need from Him.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I lack wisdom and desperately need wisdom that can only come from you.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, what wisdom will you give me today as I live my life with and for you?*

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