

# The Wisdom For The Trials & Tests Of Life

KEY VERSE: “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God...” James 1: 5

1. WISDOM. When someone speaks the word many of us conjure up the image of a Middle East sultan, dressed in robes and a turban, seated before a group of people making wise and discerning judgments among his people. Let’s see if we can enlarge this picture a little:

a. Give the names or briefly describe some contemporary individuals who demonstrate WISDOM in the way they handle their affairs and themselves. (Let’s stick to individuals now living; death is not a criteria for being considered wise!)

b. As they come to mind, share with us some of the reasons you consider the persons mentioned above as WISE:

c. What might have been some of the forces or influences that nurtured WISDOM in your selections?

2. Read I Corinthians 2: 6- 16

- What are the two types of WISDOM mentioned in this passage? (Briefly describe them as indicated by Paul.)

- Where does the worldly WISDOM come from?

- As implied by Paul, how does one go about acquiring the other (the second) kind of wisdom mentioned in this passage?

3. Read Job 28: 23; Ecclesiastes 2: 26a; Proverbs 2: 1- 8. How is WISDOM acquired?

4. As our study thus far indicates, there is more than one way to understand WISDOM. Drawing from the following verses, try to construct (in the space indicated below) a working definition of WISDOM as used in the Bible:

Proverbs 28: 26

Proverbs 3: 7

Proverbs 15: 31

Proverbs 16: 21- 23

Proverbs 19: 20

Proverbs 21: 30

NOTE: The Hebrews defined WISDOM as simply... “The application of divine truth to human experience.”

- Your working definition of WISDOM:

## 5. A Time To Share and A Time To Pray...

Here are two questions to consider in your prayer and share time - or you may want to spend time on them with your whole group: “Do you have the feeling or belief that you are wise?” “What do you think it will take to bring you to the point where you would feel WISE would be an appropriate description of YOU?”

Here are some action items that might help get you started on the next step toward being wise - having the gift that God wants to offer, namely WISDOM.

1. How about reading the whole book of Proverbs? 2. Done that? How about reading it backwards, verse by verse (that will sure make a person think!). 3. Select one Proverb from our lesson and commit it to memory. 4. Make a point of asking the Lord for wisdom (since it is His gift) and do that, say, at each meal time pray this week (as an easy way of remembering to ask for it). 5. See if you can find an example of a wise statement on the part of one of your co-workers, or fellow church members, and compliment them on their wisdom. (Recognition is a great way to promote it in our lives and the lives of others.)