

# THE WISEST THING YOU'LL EVER DO

James 1:5-8

PAT NEMMERS

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free [Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary](http://www.StudyLight.org), available through [www.StudyLight.org](http://www.StudyLight.org).
- Watch an [overview video of the Book of James](http://www.BibleProject.com), available from [www.BibleProject.com](http://www.BibleProject.com).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- As an ice-breaker with your group, play a little game called, “The Greatest.” Ask your group to respond to these questions together:
  - Who is the *greatest* movie actor/actress of all time? Why?
  - Who is the *greatest* band/musical artist of all time? Why?
  - What is the *greatest* professional sports team of all time? Why?
  - What is the *greatest* college athletic program in the state of Iowa? Why?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week’s passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat gave us three important reminders when we are in the middle of a trial.**

### In your trial, remember:

#### 1. Your *greatest need* in your trials is wisdom (James 1:5)

- How might you define knowledge compared to wisdom? Why are both important?
- Glance through Proverbs 8:11-21 and highlight the characteristics of wisdom.
- Think of a trial you are facing right now, how might the wisdom of Proverbs 8 help you respond in this trial?
- Scripture tells us to ask God when we need wisdom. Be honest, who/what do you usually turn to when you are struggling or feel like you need an answer to a problem?
- What would it take for you to remember to ask God for wisdom during your next trial?

#### 2. Your *greatest enemy* in your prayers is doubt (James 1:6-8)

- Explain the metaphors James uses in verses 6 and 8. How do these word pictures help you understand what is happening in your life when you doubt the Lord?
- Why is it sometimes so easy to pray in doubt? When was the last time you prayed for something big, in which you were completely trusting God for the answer?
- If you are a natural doubter, what can you do this week to take a small step toward faith?

#### 3. Your *greatest weapon* in your arsenal is faith (James 1:6 and Hebrews 11:6)

- As a group, talk about how past trials in your life have increased your faith.
- How is the prayer in faith actually a weapon against the devil, the world, and sin?
- In our recent Saturday module, “Let’s Pray,” Pastor Chuck DeCleene referred to Mark 11:22-24. What might change in your life if you actually believed that verse was true?

## PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray one sentence prayers. Start with, “God, I’m facing a trial, yet I have faith that you can...”

