



# Leader

8/16 - James 1:5-11

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Open Discussion]

2. Let's read our primary text. What does verse 5 reveal about God's character?

James instructs believers to ask God for wisdom. He describes God as one who “gives generously to all without reproach,” meaning God gives freely, abundantly, and without scolding or shaming the asker. He desires communication and relationship with us.

3. Why do you think James connects wisdom directly to prayer, rather than to study, experience, or human counsel?

James is writing to a suffering, scattered community facing trials (see v. 2–4, just before this passage). He points them first to God as the source of wisdom because true wisdom (the kind that helps a person respond rightly to trials) is a gift from God, not merely a product of intellect or life experience. This doesn't exclude study or counsel but grounds them in dependence on God.

4. James compares the doubter to “a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind” (v. 6). What does this image communicate?

A wave has no stability or direction of its own, it's entirely at the mercy of the wind. This pictures a person whose faith is unsettled and reactive, blown about by circumstance or uncertainty rather than anchored in trust in God.

5. What does James mean by calling someone “double-minded” (v. 8)?

A double-minded person is divided in loyalty or conviction, trying to trust God while simultaneously hedging with doubt. The Greek term (*dipsychos*) literally suggests “two-souled.” James says this instability affects “all his ways,” not just the specific request for wisdom. It's a description of a whole way of life, not a single lapse.

6. What does it mean for the “lowly brother” to “boast in his exaltation” (v. 9)?

The economically or socially poor believer is told to find genuine honor not in wealth or status, but in their exalted position in Christ (as an adopted child of God, an heir of the kingdom). Their true worth is spiritual, not circumstantial.

7. What does the imagery of the fading flower in verse 11 add?

The rich are called to recognize the passing, fragile nature of earthly wealth and status. James uses the image of grass and flowers scorched by the sun: beautiful and thriving one moment, withered and gone the next. This humbles the wealthy person's pride in temporary riches and reminds them (and all readers) that status and possessions “fade away in the midst of [our] pursuits” even while we're busy chasing them.

8. What is the unifying theme James is building across verses 5–11, and how might it apply to a believer's daily life today?

The unifying thread is stability versus instability — a life anchored in trusting, wholehearted faith in God versus one that is tossed by doubt, circumstance, or the shifting values of wealth and status. James is teaching that wisdom from God produces a settled, undivided heart that can rightly evaluate trials, resources, and one's true identity. Application might include: praying for wisdom with confidence rather than hesitation, examining areas of “double-mindedness” in one's own faith, and measuring self-worth by identity in Christ rather than financial or social standing.

9. How does this passage encourage you, instill healthy fear, give you hope, etc.?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

10. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[\[Open Discussion\]](#)

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- *Internal*: Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External*: Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

## CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group (generally)? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

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Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- GotQuestions.org
- Multiple AI Resources