



SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

# WISDOM FOR THE NEXT DIRECTION

"IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM,  
LET HIM ASK GOD, WHO GIVES  
GENEROUSLY TO ALL."

— JAMES 1:5 (NKJV)



EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 11AM VIA  
FACEBOOK LIVE OR IN PERSON

[metropolitancommunitychurch.net](http://metropolitancommunitychurch.net)



## OCTOBER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

# Wisdom for the Next Direction

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.”*

JAMES 1:5

Throughout 2026, Metropolitan Community Church has been considering God’s Divine Blueprint and the call toward **New Direction**. Vision allows us to see where God may be leading. Faith gives us courage to follow. But wisdom teaches us how to walk the journey faithfully.

Wisdom is especially necessary when the road ahead is unfamiliar, an old season is ending, a decision must be made, emotions are strong, multiple options appear possible, or God has revealed the destination but not every detail of the journey. Biblical wisdom is more than intelligence, information, education, or experience — it is the God-given ability to see life from God’s perspective and respond according to God’s will.

## OCTOBER CHALLENGE

**PRAY** before you decide.

**LISTEN** before you move.

**DISCERN** before you respond.

**TRUST** God with the direction.

**Week One — October 7**

Ask God First · James 1:5–8

**Week Two — October 14**

Trust God More Than Your Own Understanding · Proverbs 3:5–6

**Week Three — October 21**

Wisdom Knows When to Move · Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

**Week Four — October 28**

Building for the Next Generation · Psalm 145:4, Proverbs 13:22

# Ask God First

**Scripture** James 1:5–8

## LIFE QUESTION

*Before making my next decision, have I truly asked God for wisdom?*

## LESSON AIM — PARTICIPANTS SHOULD UNDERSTAND

- The biblical difference between knowledge and wisdom
- Why God welcomes our request for wisdom
- How faith affects discernment
- Why divided loyalties create instability
- How to trust God even when the full plan has not been revealed

## OPENING THOUGHT

One of our greatest temptations is to ask God *after* we have already decided what we want to do. We make the plan, choose the direction, form the opinion, establish the timeline — then ask God to bless what we have already chosen. James teaches another order: **ask God first**.

Wisdom begins when we acknowledge, “God, I do not know everything. I cannot see everything. I need You.” That is not weakness — that is spiritual maturity.

## BACKGROUND OF JAMES

The Epistle of James was written to believers experiencing difficulty, testing, uncertainty, and pressure. James begins by addressing trials and teaches that trials can produce perseverance — but he also understands that difficult seasons create difficult questions: *What should I do? Which way should I go? Is this the right time? Should I stay or leave, speak or remain silent? Is this God—or simply what I want?*

James gives believers a simple but powerful instruction: “If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God.”

## KNOWLEDGE VERSUS WISDOM

Knowledge asks, *What do I know?* Wisdom asks, *What should I do with what I know?* Knowledge gathers information; wisdom applies truth. Knowledge may show us several doors; wisdom helps us discern which door God desires us to enter.

### TEACHING PRINCIPLE

You can be highly educated and still make unwise decisions. A person may possess degrees, experience, information, influence, and resources — and still lack godly wisdom. Biblical wisdom begins with reverence for God.

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”*

Proverbs 9:10

### VERSE-BY-VERSE STUDY

**“If any of you lacks wisdom...”** Notice James says “if any of you.” Wisdom is not reserved for pastors, elders, theologians, senior saints, or the highly educated. God makes wisdom available to any believer who asks. The first step toward wisdom is admitting we need it. Sometimes pride convinces us, “I already know” or “I’ve already made up my mind” — but wisdom says, “Lord, show me what I cannot presently see.”

**“...let him ask of God...”** God is not our last resort; He should be our first consultation. Before calling everyone else, before making assumptions, before reacting emotionally, before making a permanent decision during a temporary crisis — ask God.

**“...who gives to all generously...”** God is not stingy with wisdom. He desires to direct His children and is not trying to confuse us or hide direction to frustrate us. When we sincerely seek Him, He is willing to guide us.

*“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.”*

Psalms 32:8

**“...and ungrudgingly...”** God does not shame us for asking. He never responds, “You should already know this.” We should never feel embarrassed praying, “Lord, I don’t know what to do.” Sometimes that prayer is the doorway to wisdom.

**James 1:6 — “But ask in faith...”** Faith is essential because wisdom often comes before circumstances change. God may give direction while the answer still looks impossible, finances haven’t changed, people haven’t changed, and we cannot see the entire outcome. Faith says, “I trust the One who gave the direction.”

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ASK IN FAITH?

Asking in faith does not mean pretending we have no questions — faith and questions can coexist. Faith means that beneath our questions remains a settled conviction: **God can be trusted.** “I may not understand everything, but I trust God. I may not see the whole road, but I trust God. I may not know the outcome, but I trust God.”

## THE DANGER OF DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS

James describes the doubting person as being like a wave of the sea — driven, tossed, moved by every new wind. Double-mindedness may sound like, “God, show me Your will—as long as it agrees with mine,” or “I trust God today, but tomorrow I will follow fear.” It occurs when we want God’s direction *and* our control. At some point, wisdom requires surrender.

## QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is the difference between being knowledgeable and being wise?
2. Why are we sometimes tempted to make decisions before praying?
3. Can you remember a time when waiting for God’s wisdom prevented an unwise decision?
4. How can emotions interfere with discernment?
5. What does double-mindedness look like in everyday life?
6. How do we trust God when He gives us only the next step instead of the complete plan?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

*A decision I am presently praying about:*

*What I already know:*

*What I need wisdom concerning:*

*What fear may be influencing me:*

*What I believe God is asking me to do next:*

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

Before making an important decision this week, pray: “God, give me wisdom before I give myself an answer.”

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#### CLOSING PRAYER

*God of all wisdom, teach us to seek You before we move. Deliver us from pride, impulsiveness, fear, and divided hearts. Give us wisdom that comes from above. Help us trust You when we cannot see the complete picture. Order our steps according to Your Divine Blueprint and lead us faithfully into our next direction. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Trust God More Than Your Own Understanding

**Scripture** Proverbs 3:5–6

## LIFE QUESTION

*Where is God asking me to trust Him beyond what I presently understand?*

## PARTICIPANTS WILL EXAMINE

- Wholehearted trust
- The limitations of human reasoning
- Acknowledging God in every area
- Surrender as preparation for direction
- God’s promise to direct our paths

## OPENING THOUGHT

There are moments when God’s direction will not immediately make sense. Faith would be unnecessary if God only asked us to do what we already understood. Sometimes God will lead us beyond familiar territory, comfortable relationships, established routines, previous expectations, and personal preferences. The question becomes: **will I trust God when I cannot explain God?**

## PROVERBS AND BIBLICAL WISDOM

Proverbs teaches practical wisdom for everyday living, repeatedly contrasting two paths — God’s wisdom versus human self-reliance. Proverbs 3:5–6 gives one of Scripture’s clearest formulas for divine direction.

## “TRUST IN THE LORD...”

Biblical trust is not passive. Trust means placing the full weight of our confidence upon God — similar to sitting in a chair: you demonstrate trust when you place your weight upon it. Spiritually, many people say they trust God while still keeping most of their weight upon themselves. Not merely your experience, money, connections, intelligence, position, or history — those things may be useful, but they are not God.

## “WITH ALL YOUR HEART”

God does not ask for partial trust. Partial trust says, “I trust God with Sunday” — but what about finances, family, career, health, relationships, the future, transitions, leadership, aging, change? Wholehearted trust invites God into every room of life.

## “LEAN NOT UNTO YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING”

The text does not say, “Do not use your understanding” — God gave us minds. The warning is: do not lean on it. Do not make your own reasoning the final authority. Human understanding is limited because we cannot see the future, we may misread motives, emotions affect our thinking, experience can create bias, and we only see part of the picture. God sees the whole road.

### WHEN GOD’S DIRECTION CHALLENGES REASON

Abraham was told to leave what was familiar. Moses was told to confront Pharaoh. Joshua’s strategy for Jericho did not resemble normal military strategy. Peter was told to step out of the boat. The disciples watched Jesus feed thousands with what appeared insufficient. In each case, obedience required trust beyond human calculation.

## “IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM”

We often ask God about major decisions, but wisdom invites God into ordinary decisions too — how we speak, spend, respond, lead, manage relationships, use our time, treat people, and make plans. God does not desire to be consulted only in emergencies.

## “HE SHALL DIRECT YOUR PATHS”

The responsibility is divided. **Our responsibility:** trust, do not lean solely on ourselves, acknowledge God. **God’s responsibility:** direct the path. Sometimes we exhaust ourselves trying to perform God’s part — trying to control outcomes, people’s reactions, timing, and every detail. But our assignment is obedience; God’s assignment is direction.

## SURRENDER PRECEDES DIRECTION

Sometimes we say, “God, tell me what You want me to do, and then I will decide whether I will do it.” Biblical surrender says instead, “Lord, my yes comes before Your instructions.” That is trust.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it difficult to trust when we cannot understand?
2. What is the difference between using our understanding and leaning on our understanding?
3. What area of life is hardest for people to surrender?
4. Can experience sometimes prevent us from hearing a new direction?
5. What does acknowledging God practically look like?
6. Why does surrender help clarify direction?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

*I trust God easily with:*

*I struggle to trust God with:*

*One area I need to surrender:*

*One step of obedience I can take:*

### WEEKLY DECLARATION

*I may not understand the road, but I trust the One who directs it.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Lord, teach us to trust You with our whole hearts. Forgive us for the times we have depended more upon our own reasoning than upon Your wisdom. Help us acknowledge You in every area of life. Straighten what is crooked, clarify what is confusing, and direct us into the path You have prepared. Amen.*

# Wisdom Knows When to Move

**Scripture** Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

## LIFE QUESTION

*Am I holding onto something whose season has already ended?*

## PARTICIPANTS WILL EXPLORE

- Divine seasons
- Discernment and timing
- Staying versus moving
- Releasing completed seasons
- Recognizing new opportunities
- Entering a new chapter without fear

## OPENING THOUGHT

Some of life’s most difficult transitions happen because the season changed before we were ready. We may want something to continue because it is familiar, it worked before, we are emotionally attached, our identity became connected to it, or we fear what comes next. But wisdom recognizes: what was right for one season may not be right for the next.

## “TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON”

Ecclesiastes teaches that life unfolds in seasons, and no earthly season lasts forever — seasons of beginning, building, waiting, celebrating, grieving, planting, harvesting, serving, leading, and releasing. Spiritual maturity includes recognizing what season we are in.

## A SEASON, NOT A FAILURE

Something ending does not always mean something went wrong. Sometimes it simply finished. We often label endings as losses; God may call them completions. A completed assignment is not necessarily a failed assignment. Jesus Himself said, “It is finished.” Completion can be holy.

## “A TIME TO PLANT, AND A TIME TO PLUCK UP”

Planting and harvesting require different actions. Wisdom recognizes you cannot keep planting forever — eventually there must be a harvest, and after harvest there may be another planting season. The action that was right yesterday may not be right tomorrow.

## “A TIME TO KEEP, AND A TIME TO THROW AWAY”

This is one of the hardest wisdom principles. There are things worth keeping: lessons, relationships, values, memories, testimonies. But there are also things to release: outdated methods, old grudges, unhealthy attachments, expired assignments, fear-based routines, and identities tied to a former season.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHEN A SEASON IS CHANGING?

- **A persistent holy restlessness** — you sense God disturbing your comfort.
- **Previous methods no longer produce the same fruit** — something that once worked is no longer effective.
- **New opportunities repeatedly emerge** — God begins opening different doors.
- **Your assignment begins shifting** — your role changes even if your purpose remains.
- **God confirms the change** — through prayer, Scripture, wise counsel, and circumstances. No single indicator should always determine direction; discernment requires prayer.

## DON'T MOVE TOO EARLY

Wisdom knows when to move — but wisdom also knows when to stay. Impatience can cause premature movement. Consider David: he was anointed before he became king. The promise was real, but the timing had not yet arrived. Sometimes God says, “Yes—but not yet.”

## DON'T STAY TOO LONG

There is another danger: we can remain where God has finished. Israel had to leave Egypt. The Israelites also had to leave the wilderness — God never intended the wilderness to become their permanent address. Likewise, we must not turn temporary seasons into permanent residences.

## GRIEF AND TRANSITION

It is possible to know a transition is right and still grieve. Faith does not eliminate emotion. We may grieve people, roles, routines, places, positions, and eras of life. Healthy transition allows gratitude for what was while embracing what will be — we can say, “Thank You, God, for that season,” and simultaneously, “Lord, I am ready for the next.”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do people sometimes remain in expired seasons?
2. How can we distinguish discomfort from divine transition?
3. What happens when we move too soon?
4. What happens when we stay too long?
5. Can a season be successful and still need to end?
6. How can we honor a former season without living in it?

## PERSONAL SEASON INVENTORY

*Something God may be asking me to release:*

*Something I need to carry forward:*

*Something new God may be showing me:*

*One fear connected to my next season:*

*One promise I will carry forward:*

### WEEKLY DECLARATION

*I will not force yesterday into tomorrow. I will discern the season, trust God's timing, and move when God says move.*

### CLOSING PRAYER

*God of every season, give us wisdom to recognize Your timing. Help us know when to remain, when to release, and when to move. Give us courage to honor what has been while embracing what You are bringing forth. May we never confuse familiarity with faithfulness. Lead us confidently into our next chapter. Amen.*

# Building for the Next Generation

**Scriptures** Psalm 145:4 · Proverbs 13:22

## LIFE QUESTION

*What am I intentionally leaving for the generation coming behind me?*

## PARTICIPANTS WILL EXAMINE

- Spiritual legacy
- Intergenerational faith
- Leadership development
- Succession and stewardship
- Building beyond one's lifetime

## OPENING THOUGHT

One of the greatest measures of ministry is not simply *what did we build*, but *what did we leave behind*? A wise generation prepares the next generation — it does not merely celebrate its own accomplishments. It asks, “Who will carry this after us?”

## PSALM 145:4

“One generation shall praise thy works to another...” Faith is designed to travel across generations. Every generation has a responsibility to tell the next what God has done, who God is, what God taught us, how God sustained us, answered prayer, and brought us through. Our testimony becomes someone else's foundation.

## LEGACY IS MORE THAN MEMORY

Legacy is not simply, “They remembered my name.” Legacy is, “What I poured into others continues after I am gone.” It may include faith, values, wisdom, ministries, resources, systems, opportunities, leadership development, and testimony.

## PROVERBS 13:22

“A good person leaves an inheritance to their children's children...” Inheritance is broader than money. A spiritual inheritance can include character, discipline, prayer, integrity, worship, courage, service, compassion, and biblical understanding. The wisest leaders ask, “What will remain after me?”

## **BUILDING WHAT YOU MAY NEVER SEE FINISHED**

King David desired to build the Temple; God ultimately assigned Solomon to complete it. David could have responded, “If I cannot finish it, I will not support it.” Instead, David prepared resources for someone else to build. That is legacy. Sometimes faithfulness means preparing something someone else will complete — mature leadership does not need to receive credit for everything.

## **PREPARING OTHERS TO LEAD**

One of the greatest leadership failures is building a ministry entirely dependent upon one personality. Wise leaders reproduce leadership: Jesus prepared disciples, Moses prepared Joshua, Elijah prepared Elisha, Paul prepared Timothy, David prepared Solomon. Healthy succession is biblical. Preparing another person does not diminish our contribution — it multiplies it.

## **PASSING FAITH FORWARD**

We cannot merely assume the next generation will understand our faith. We must intentionally teach, explain, model, mentor, invite, listen, include, and empower. Young people should not only inherit buildings — they should inherit a living faith.

## **LEAVING MINISTRY STRONGER**

A powerful question for every servant leader: “If I stopped serving tomorrow, would the ministry be stronger because I served?” This requires us to document what we know, train others, share access, encourage younger leaders, stop hoarding responsibility, and release opportunities. Leadership is not ownership — ministry belongs to God.

### **106 YEARS OF MINISTRY**

As we celebrate 106 years of Metropolitan Community Church, we remember that we worship today because previous generations prayed, sacrificed, served, gave, built, taught, endured, and believed. We inherited something we did not begin. Our responsibility is to leave something worthy of inheritance. The question is not simply, “What did they leave us?” The greater question is, “What will we leave them?”

## INTERGENERATIONAL DISCUSSION

1. What did previous generations of believers give you?
2. What spiritual lessons should never be lost?
3. What methods may need to change while the message remains unchanged?
4. Why do some leaders struggle to release responsibility?
5. How can churches intentionally prepare younger leaders?
6. What would it mean for MCC to leave ministry stronger for its next generation?

## PERSONAL LEGACY INVENTORY

*One lesson I want the next generation to know:*

*One testimony I need to share:*

*One person I should intentionally encourage or mentor:*

*One responsibility I should teach someone else:*

*One thing I hope remains because I served:*

### LEGACY DECLARATION

*I will not merely occupy my season. I will invest in the next one. I will teach what I have learned. I will share what God has given me. I will prepare others to lead. I will leave the work stronger.*

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#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*God of generations, we thank You for those who came before us. Thank You for every prayer prayed, every sacrifice made, every lesson taught, and every foundation laid. Give us wisdom to build faithfully for those coming behind us. Deliver us from the need to control what belongs to You. Teach us to prepare, mentor, release, and bless the next generation. May our service become part of a legacy that glorifies You long after our season has changed. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

IN CLOSING

# Four Questions for the Next Direction

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Before entering the next chapter, ask:

01

**Have I prayed?**

James 1:5

02

**Have I surrendered my own understanding?**

Proverbs 3:5–6

03

**Have I discerned the season?**

Ecclesiastes 3:1

04

**Am I preparing something for those coming behind me?**

Psalms 145:4

## OCTOBER CLOSING CHALLENGE

**PRAY** before you decide.

**LISTEN** before you move.

**DISCERN** before you respond.

**TRUST** God with the direction.

**BUILD** with the next generation in mind.

#### FINAL CORPORATE DECLARATION

*God, we trust Your wisdom. We trust Your timing. We trust Your direction. We trust Your Divine Blueprint. Give us wisdom for the road ahead, courage for the season before us, and faith to walk confidently into our New Direction. Amen.*

#### PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Use this space to capture what God speaks to you during Bible study.

# PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

