

James 1:2–8

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

James 1:5

MEMORY VERSE

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. **James 1:5**

The Ross family was going through one of the most difficult crises they had ever faced. Mark's dad had lost his job and was doing odd jobs for the last six months while looking for better work. Mark's mom had a teaching job, but it would not pay all the bills that were mounting. The Rosses stood to lose one of their cars and maybe their home. Still, Mark noted that his dad never turned away from his faith in God to provide.

Read James 1:2–8. James reminds us that God never promised that a life lived for Him would be free of hardships and trials. Instead, God promised to use these times to grow us up in faith and wisdom.

We can be certain that hard times will come. We can also be certain of the fact that our children are watching to see how we carry ourselves through these times. If they see our faith displayed, they will learn how to face difficulties by seeking God's face and His wisdom. If they see us panic by falling into depression and displaying a lack of trust, they will come away with an unhealthy example. For not only our sake, but also that of our family, we need to seek God, trusting that He will lead us through the crises of life.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Everyone shares some wise sayings their parents have passed on to them over the years, along with the reasons for them.

Explore . . .

A family member reads James 1:2–8. Then discuss: **How does the wisdom of God affect the decisions we make in our family? When can the wise way instead of the easy way create tension in our relationships? As a family, what is the most difficult trial or pressing circumstances we need to face together? How can we help one another face this challenge with faith?**

Transform . . .

Look through family albums at baby and childhood pictures. Note any family resemblances, especially across generations. Discuss: **What have you learned about faith from your parents? As a family, how can we help one another face the painful processes God sometimes puts in front of us so we grow to look more like Him?**

Pray together for God to reveal how He wants your family to stand firm in its faith no matter what the circumstances that are before you.