

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

Luke 11:1b

Prayer aligns our hearts with God's
will so we can live out his purpose



Give Me What I Really Need [1 Kings 3:5-12]

Prayer Seeks God's Wisdom
So We Can Fulfill God's Calling

Big Idea: The wisest prayer is not "God, give me what I want," but "God, give me what I need to fulfill Your calling."

"If God said to you tonight, 'Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you'—what would you ask for?"

I. Invitation [1 Kings 3:5]

Application: Prayer gives us permission to bring our desires to God—but wisdom teaches us what desires to bring.

II. Perspective [1 Kings 3:8]

Application:

When you understand your calling, it changes what you ask God for.

III. Discernment [1 Kings 3:9, James 1:5, Proverbs 2:1-10]

Application:

Biblical wisdom isn't knowing more; it's knowing what to do with what God has given you.

Question, Reading, Challenge, and Prayer

Question: Where do you most need God's wisdom right now?

Reading: Read 1 Kings 3:5-12, James 1:5, and Proverbs 2:1-10.

Challenge: Each day this week - Don't just ask God to bless your plans. Ask God to shape your plans and give you wisdom for your next step.

Prayer: Pray for the Lord to give you wisdom to know what He wants you to see, do, and surrender. Trusting Him with your next step.

[1 Kings 3:5] At Gibeon [2 Chronicles 1:7-12] the Lord appeared to Solomon [9:2, 11:9] in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." [Numbers 12:6, Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 2:19]

[1 Kings 3:6-9] And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you.

[1 Kings 2:4, 9:4, Psalm 15:2] And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. [1:48] ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, [1 Chronicles 28:5] although I am but a little child.

[1 Chronicles 29:1] I do not know how to go out or come in. [Numbers 27:17] ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, [Deuteronomy 7:6] too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. [Genesis 3:16, 15:5] ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind [Proverbs 2:6, 2:9, James 1:5] to govern your people, [Psalm 72:1-2] that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" [Isaiah 7:15, Hebrews 5:14]

[1 Kings 3:10-12] It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. [1 John 5:14-15]

Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. [4:29-31, 5:12, 10:23-24, Ecclesiastes 1:16]

[James 1:5] If any of you lacks wisdom, [1 Kings 3:9-12, Proverbs 2:3-6] let him ask God, [Matthew 7:7] who gives generously to all without reproach, [Proverbs 28:5] and it will be given him.

[Proverbs 2:1-10] My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, ² making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;

³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, ⁸ guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; ¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul: . . .

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"Give Me What I Really Need" Solomon [1 Kings 3:5-12] *Prayer Seeks God's Wisdom So We Can Fulfill God's Calling*

1. If God said to you, "Ask what I shall give you," what would your immediate answer be? What does your answer reveal about what you currently value, fear, or desire?
2. **Read 1 Kings 3:5-9.** Why do you think Solomon asked for an understanding mind rather than riches, long life, or victory over his enemies? What does this reveal about Solomon's perspective on his calling?
3. What is the difference between praying, "God, bless my plans," and praying, "God, shape my plans"? Can you think of a situation where you have been tempted to ask God simply to bless something you had already decided to do?
4. We see in **1 Kings 3:7** that Solomon recognized that he was young, inexperienced, and responsible for God's people. Where in your life do you most need God's wisdom right now? Family? Work? Parenting? Finances? Relationships? Ministry? A decision?
5. **Read James 1:5, and Proverbs 2:1-10.** What do these verses teach us about how to ask God for wisdom rather than simply asking God to change our circumstances?
6. Which of these three prayers is hardest for you to pray honestly? Why?
"God, what do You want me to see?"
"God, what do You want me to do?"
"God, what do You want me to surrender?"
7. **Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and Proverbs 16:9.** How would a deeper understanding and daily application of these three verses affect your daily decisions, and actions in your life that would lead to getting what you really need from your relationship with God.

Closing Prayer Exercise

Pray the three questions found in question 6, quietly as a group. In your prayer - "Don't just ask God for what you need - Ask God to give you what you need to fulfill his calling in your life". Then pair up with someone in the group and spend a minute praying specifically for that person, asking God to use you to be part of the answer to their prayers.