

## Need Answers? Ask God!

This week in honor of our Saddle Ridge Ranch VBS theme I rounded up some **Cowboy Wisdom**:

Never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear or a fool from any direction.

A day without sunshine is, like, night.

When you get bucked off, dust off your britches and get back on.

If you haven't been bucked off, you haven't ridden much.

Only cows know why they stampede.

Never slap a cowboy who's chewin' tobacco.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there with ya.

Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.

Don't squat with your spurs on.

You can't tell how good a man or a watermelon is 'til they get thumped.

Our motto for Vacation Bible School this week was "Need answers? Ask God." And the Bible verse is James 1:5, "**Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously, and without criticizing and it will be given to him.**"

## Why do we need wisdom?

We need wisdom because life is full of questions. If we back up a couple verses, before James says that we should ask for wisdom, he says that we should "**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.**" We need wisdom because we face times in life that test us. We have to make tough decisions. As life tests us questions arise in us, like: What do I do now? Should I take this job? Should I move my family? Is God real? Can I know Him? What should I do?

## Where do we find answers?

Ask God.

James writes, "**Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God** (James 1:5)." James is saying that when we are in the midst of trials and testing, we should ask for wisdom for the moment. When we need answers for life, God is the one who knows all. After all, He is truth! He can give us the answers we need, and according to this passage, He will!

Receive the Answer – James 1:5

James 1:5 goes on to say, we "**should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him.**" God, on the other hand, says that He will give to us generously if we will ask Him in faith. If we as earthly parents want our children to have answers to life's toughest questions, how much more will our Heavenly Father want us to receive the answers that we need?

Grow – James 1:3-4

Questions lead to maturity. Your kids learn more every time they ask a question and receives an answer. James says that our test of faith will produce endurance, "**but endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.**" Every test that we come up against will strengthen our faith, if we will allow it. We are tested, so that we can grow up in our relationship with God.

Here's an important question you may want the answer to today: How can I have a relationship with God?

To learn how to become a Christian, we use the letters A, B, and C to remind us of three important words.

**A stands for admit.** When God's Holy Spirit lets you know it is time to trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord, the first thing you must do is admit to God that you are a sinner. You need to ask God to forgive you of your sin, and tell God you want Him to change you. This is called repenting. Acts 3:19 says, "**Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.**"

**B is for believe.** To become a Christian you must believe that Jesus is God's Son and accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness from sin. John 3:16 says, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**"

**C stands for confess.** Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Give God the reins, let him control your ride. Romans 10:9,10 says, "**That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**"

You can begin a relationship with God by following these simple steps. Jesus becomes your Savior and Lord when you admit you are a sinner, believe that Jesus is God's Son and trust Jesus to save you, and confess your faith in Him as your Savior and Lord. If you are ready, you do all of this by one simple conversation with God. If you feel all this deep inside your soul, allow me to help you with what you might say to Him.

God, I'm a sorry sinner that realizes I cannot save myself, so I need you. I should be punished for what I am and what I have done, but I know that Jesus took all that punishment for me. I am now askin' forgiveness and I am handin' you, not just the reins, but the whole bridle of my life. Thank you for loving me and saving me.

Faith is trustin' God no matter what the trial or test. Trusting in God ensures a home in heaven and help along the trail even though it might be a rough ride at times.

One last bit of cowboy wisdom, "Never miss a good chance to shut up."

So I'm gonna stop right there.

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