



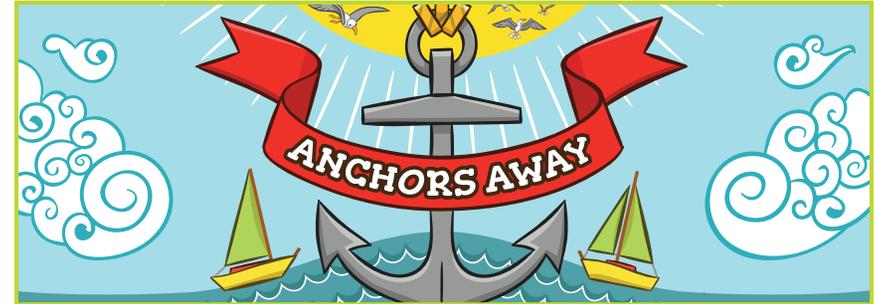
WEEK FOUR

JUDGES 7:1-8

Gideon trusted God's way is perfect when God told him to send soldiers home before the battle.

SAY
THIS

WHOSE WAY IS PERFECT?
GOD'S WAY IS PERFECT.



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DO
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BATH TIME

Add a fun wind-up bath toy to bath time this month. Each time you wind the toy, ask your child which way he/she thinks it will go. Talk about how we should always go God's way because God's way is perfect. Note: Amazon has a large selection.

REMEMBER THIS

"God's way is perfect."
2 Samuel 22:31, NIV

BASIC
TRUTH

GOD LOVES ME.

DO
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GROWING IN WISDOM AS A PARENT

By Holly Crawshaw

"If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault," (James 1:5, NIRV).

James wrote this verse for a very specific group of people. His readers were facing a myriad of challenges, including persecution and displacement. They had lost everything, including their homes and possessions. James wanted them to know they could not only survive their trials, but do so *joyfully* (James 1:2).

Sure, James. No problem. (Eye roll.)

After I had my third daughter, I suffered from postpartum anxiety. I couldn't sleep. In fact, there were three straight days when I didn't sleep at all. Four out of five of us caught the flu—one right after the other. But I was the lucky one. I caught the flu *two times* in six weeks. Whatever the opposite of *joyfully* is, that's what I felt for three straight months.

Let's go back to James. James told his readers that being joyful during seasons of sorrow is possible. Not that you should feel happy-clappy during moments of anxiety or sorrow. James is reminding us that when you need wisdom, God is THERE. Ready to help

you see your next right step. We may still feel sadness or moments of anxiety, but the wisdom of God can fill us with the confidence that He is still in control.

When I look back on my season of sorrow, I want to bang my head on a wall. Not once did I ask God for His wisdom. Don't get me wrong—I prayed a lot. But, I didn't ask God what He wanted me to do or how I could grow. All I did was try to boss God around. I thought my wisdom was a better option than *His*.

Is there an area in your life or in your parenting where you're using your wisdom and not God's? Are your prayers essentially a to-do list for God? Are you begging Him for relief when you should be begging Him for wisdom?

I often wonder what would have happened if I had followed James' advice. Maybe the anxiety would have dissipated sooner, maybe not. But I bet I would have had more moments of God's peace and confidence. Because, when you're walking in God's wisdom, life is simply better.

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