

Name: _____

FUNDOCY Homework: Wisdom Literature

Lesson Taught on Sunday, January 6

Homework Due: Sunday, January 20

The Bible is full of good insight and deep practical advice, and God calls us to trust in God and to rely on God's insight rather than our own. If our life is measured by stuff, our spiritual standard of living will always be below the poverty level. We need to be guided beyond our wants and desires. We can have a deeper dimension to our lives—a spiritual dimension—when we tap into the wisdom of the loving God of the universe. God is still speaking...are we listening?

Part I: The Lesson

1. The books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are known as the “Wisdom Literature” books of the Bible because they convey bits and pieces of God’s wisdom for daily living. While they all teach about *wisdom*, they are each unique in style and purpose.

- Job: Why does god allow suffering? In this book we get a glimpse of how suffering can either destroy us or make us stronger. It can lead us to despair or a deeper knowledge of God’s love.
- Proverbs: Giving advice is big business. From daytime talk shows to self-help books, our culture is glutted with knowledge and starvation for wisdom. The Proverbs offer timeless, practical counsel and spiritual depth to all kinds of issues.
- Ecclesiastes: Expect surprises. Ecclesiastes has lots of them: honest confessions of doubts, struggles with faith, encounters with the short nature of life, futility and disillusionment. Ecclesiastes warns us against placing hope in anyone or anything other than God.
- Song of Solomon: This book is a beautiful picture of the physical side of love and its sensual words applaud sexuality as part of God’s wonderful creation. It is good! It also reminds us to reflect on the intimacies of God’s love for us.

2. Using a dictionary, define “wisdom”.

Wisdom is _____

3. The book of Job is all about a man named Job. Read Job 1:1-2. What kind of man is Job? (A good and kind man, or an evil man?)

4. Satan bets God that he can get Job to curse God, and deny God. God takes the bet and Job is immediately plagued with all sorts of problems. Job loses his property and his children. Read Job

1:20-22. What does Job say when he hears what has happened to his family?

What do you think *you* would say if the same thing happened to you and your family?

5. Job has three friends who offer him bad advice on how to cope with his troubles. Eventually Job speaks directly to God, and God reminds him that it is God who controls the world, not foolish human beings. Read Job 37:5, and complete the following statement:

“God thunders wondrously with his voice; God does great things that we cannot _____”.

6. In the book of Job, a righteous man faced many troubles but finally:
- He cursed God and died like his wife suggested
 - He sued God for big bucks.
 - He understood that God is in control and humans can't begin to fathom the deep things of God.
 - He received his own television talk show.

7. The book of Proverbs contains a whole list of...proverbs! Using a dictionary, define “proverb”.

A proverb is _____

8. The subhead in the book of Proverbs reads:

- The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel
- The proverbs of Steve, night watchman at Target
- A collection of short, pithy sayings in frequent and widespread use that express well-known truth or facts
- Live long and prosper

9. Read Proverbs 1:1. Whose is believed to be the author of the book of Proverbs?

10. Skim through the book of Proverbs and pick one piece of advice you especially like. Copy the advice here: _____

Why did you pick this piece of advice?

11. The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that life on earth is temporary, that we should enjoy the good (and small!) things of life, and that, ultimately, our eternal lives are what matter the most. Talk with your parents about what they miss from the “good ole days”. Record two of those favorite memories here:

- a. _____
- b. _____

12. Why is the wisdom of the Bible still read and studied today?

- a. God’s wisdom is timeless
- b. Humans have gotten dumb and dumber over the years
- c. God has a good publisher
- d. Not much new has happened over the last 4,000 years, except Oprah and NASCAR

13. The Song of Solomon book of the Bible is an ancient love story! If it were a movie, there are some parts of it that would be R-rated. Read Song of Solomon 1:15-16 and 4:1-3.

Does it surprise you that this is included in the Bible? _____

Why or why not? _____

14. Re-read Genesis 2:24 and remember that God created man and woman with the intention that, together, they would be “_____ flesh”. In the context of marriage, sex and oneness with another person are GOOD things!

Part II: Reflection Questions (There are NO wrong answers here!)

1. What do you think makes a person wise?

Why?

2. Why do you think Christians still consult the wisdom of the Bible, even though it is thousands of years old?

3. Why does God include a book of sensual love poetry (Song of Solomon) in the Bible?
