

Listening Guide

Introduction

[1] Where is wisdom actually found in the Bible?

[2] What sets the wisdom books apart from the rest of the Bible?

[3] Which books are known as the wisdom books?

The Hebrew Idea of Wisdom

[4] What does the Hebrew word we translate as *wisdom* mean in Hebrew?

[5] What were some of the ways the word was used?

[6] When the proverbs refer to a person as wise, what are they saying about that person?

[7] What does the Old Testament say is the foundation of a wise life?

[8] What statement makes that claim and where is it found?

Proverbs

[9] Where did these proverbial statements come from?

[10] What gives them their ultimate wisdom?

[11] What does Proverbs 1:1–7 do?

[12] What are some of the proverbs' purposes listed in this passage?

[13] How often do you think people read the proverbs with these goals in mind?

[14] What are two reasons the proverbs were gathered into a book?

[15] What two skills are required to write a proverb?

[16] What skill must a reader develop to read a proverb well?

[17] What is the difference between a proverb and a promise?

[18] How would you explain to a child what a proverb is?

[19] What are the two sections of Proverbs?

[20] What's the difference between the two sections?

Ecclesiastes

[21] Why is Ecclesiastes so troubling for many readers?

[22] What are the two parts of Ecclesiastes' outline?

[23] Does that outline agree or disagree with your observations of life?

[24] What is the riddle that exists between Proverbs and Ecclesiastes?

[25] How would you explain the answer to the riddle presented in this paragraph?

[26] Does this explanation make sense to you? Would you use it to explain the two views of life presented in these two books? If so, write it out as you would explain it to someone. If not, write your explanation of how we should integrate the two books.

Job

[27] What question does the book of Job wrestle with?

[28] What kind of man was Job?

[29] What were Job and his friends debating?

[30] What do we know that Job and his friends didn't know?

[31] How does the book of Job end?

[32] What lesson can we take away from Job?

Conclusion

[33] What two things can we do to develop a wise life?

[34] Explain how proverbs differ from promises.

[35] How do Proverbs and Ecclesiastes represent two ends of the spectrum on how to view life?

[36] How does the book of Job deal with the age-old question of why good people suffer?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

We often hear people quote the phrase, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” That means that when we fear God, we recognize how much greater and wiser He is than we are. Many of our problems are created because, in reality, there are times when we believe we are greater and wiser than He is and ignore His teaching. Take some time to examine your own attitude toward God, and monitor how often you follow His teaching and how often you don’t. How much do you actually fear God?