

LEARNER SHEET: WISDOM WRITINGS

Job 2:11-13; 4:2-6; 11:2-6; 18:2-12; 42:7-9;
Proverbs 1:7; 3:1-6; 30:18-19; Ecclesiastes 3



THE BIG IDEA

God's word, in its richness and complexity, encourages the faithful to seek wisdom, honor, beauty, and order, and work for justice.



BIG FUN IDEA

Wisdom was personified as a woman in the wisdom writings. Invite your mothers and grandmothers (and other wise women models) to confirmation class. Offer the wise women guests the greatest gift of all: Learners share the wisdom they have gained about God and the world from their wise women teachers.



BIG SERVING IDEA

Follow the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 3 as you seek to serve in your church or community.

- *A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.* Inquire about members who could use a hand with yard work.
- *A time to break down, and a time to build up.* Find out what jobs need extra hands at church.

PRAYER TIME

Remember your partner's prayer needs—record them here.

DISCUSSION TIME

- **Wisdom communicates through the order of creation. Play a "Find the Pattern in the Universe" game. One learner leaves the room for a moment while another learner creates a pattern among remaining learners. The pattern can be as simple as boy-girl-boy-girl or it can become more complicated. For example, tennis shoes, tennis shoes, sandals, and so forth. After learners have devised a pattern, the original learner returns and tries to guess the pattern.**
- **Create your own proverb. Read Proverbs 30:18-19. ("Three things are too wonderful for me; four I do not understand: the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a girl.") Using this proverb as a template, rewrite it using contemporary images for wonderful and not-understood things.**
- **Listen to a recording of the day's international news. List the countries and situations named. How do we answer the question "Where is God in the midst of evil and suffering?" Has anyone ever asked you that question? Take time now to talk about how each of you might answer.**
- **What are some wise sayings or proverbs you have heard in your family? Are any of them from the Bible or from Proverbs? Use a concordance to find out.**

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LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: WISDOM WRITINGS

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Proverbs 1:7; 3:1-6; 30:18-19; Ecclesiastes 3



Take this sheet home and keep it someplace near the dinner table like on the fridge. At least three times next week at dinner, use Prayer Time and one other family activity to make your confirmation learning come alive!

PRAYER TIME

Read Proverbs 3:1-6, a prayer for everyone in your family to trust and honor God.

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you. Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Amen

TALK TIME

- Vanity without God, becomes purposeless and empty. Look below the surface of the life your family is living. Does it feel purposeful or just busy? Write down the activities in which family members are involved. Are any of them actually empty enterprises? Are they vain attempts to live like everyone else?
- Any major family decisions or changes on the horizon? The core of wisdom is reliance on God. Invite each family member to discuss what she or he imagines God's opinion to be.
- Just for fun, read some of the miscellaneous observations in Ecclesiastes 10, especially when you see a dead fly around the house.

WEB TIME

Gather around the family computer and use an Internet search engine to search for the key words. Explore five sites that mention the terms, and discuss the various opinions and perspectives that you find.

RITUAL TIME

Bring order out of chaos, like Wisdom did. Set a timer for 30 minutes and clean up around the house. Keep moving! But don't think of it as mere cleaning up; think of it as seeking the order in the creation that reveals God's purpose.



KEY WORDS

Keep a family white board someplace near the dinner table, and write these words on it. Try writing a family definition for each one during the week.

WISDOM

PROVERB

VANITY

