

## Week 7// Wisdom for Life

### *Wisdom Literature (Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes)*

#### **Intro//**

Our seventh instalment marks our final Old Testament section, as we explore writings often known as the *Wisdom Literature*. This label tends to link Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, three books containing content that seems set apart from the context of the rest of God's story. Whilst their appeals to wisdom are universal, they offer distinct, almost competing visions of what the good life is. Despite their difference, taking alongside the Psalms the wisdom books help us to wrestle with what it means to live well in an often confusing world.

For the seventh video in full, [please click here](#).

#### **Discussion Questions//**

1. Who is the wisest person you know? What is it that makes them wise and how do these character traits help you define what wisdom means?
2. The book of Proverbs is full of counsel designed to be life-giving.
  - a. What is the best/most helpful piece of advice you've ever been given? How has that shaped your life and/or how you follow Jesus?
3. James suggests that Proverbs offers some basic principles of biblical wisdom. However, Job demonstrates how sharing these principles crudely can be cruel for those suffering in complex situations.
  - a. What is the worst/least helpful piece of advice you've ever been given?
  - b. What can we learn from Job/God's story about how to love people well during seasons of struggle?
4. Proverbs repeats the phrase 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of understanding' whilst Ecclesiastes claims that attempts to find wisdom/meaning apart from God are meaningless.
  - a. How do you understand the phrase *the fear of the Lord*?
  - b. *What are some of the ways that believing in God/being a follower of Jesus adds meaning to some of the more mundane parts of life?*
5. Are there any psalms that have proved particularly precious in your Christian faith? Which psalms would you recommend for someone seeking to engage with them for the first time?

## Reading Plan//

1	Psalms 1-2	Blessed
2	Psalms 23	Shepherd
3	Psalms 51	Have Mercy on Me
4	Psalms 103	Praise the LORD!
5	Proverbs 1-3	Wisdom
6	Job 1-3	Job's Curse
7	Job 38-39, 42	Job's God