

**The Life Group ministry will not be providing Sermon Companions this summer. Instead, we are offering a 4-session BibleX study on *Wisdom*.**

*BibleX: Wisdom* is a free series offered by Life.Church that will take your Life Group through Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. Each session is split up into 3 sections: study (reflect on Bible passages), learn (watch a short video), and grow (application questions), providing material and structure that will foster some great conversations!

**You don't have to watch the videos for each week**, but if your group likes using videos for your LG discussion, just click the following links to view the video for each week of the study:

[Session 1: Songs](#)

[Session 2: Wisdom](#)

[Session 3: Meaningless](#)

[Session 4: Suffering](#)

In the coming pages, you will find discussion guides for each of the six sessions, complete with questions, content and application. Feel free to choose sections based on the interests and schedule of your Life Group members.

**Summer time at Central is a season of connection, community, and growth—so make the most of this study by customizing it to the needs of your group.**

**Have fun!**

**-Central Life Group Team**



## Session 1: Songs

### Scripture questions:

**When you think of singing songs to God, how would you describe the content and emotions of those songs? Are there topics and emotions that should or should not be expressed to God? Why?**

Psalm 47:1-9

**What motivates this song of praise? What specific perspectives about God drive this song? Take a moment to write a one-sentence summary of this song.**

Psalm 74:1-23

**How would you describe the emotions of this song? What does the worshipper expect from God?**

Psalm 137:1-9

**The psalms reflect the full range of human experiences. What thoughts and emotions drive this song? How does the addition of this song in the book of Psalms shape your understanding about the types of emotions we share with God?**

Psalm 116:1-19

**What differences do you see in the motivations of the four songs that you read? What drives**

## the joy of the singer? What is her/his attitude toward God?

Psalm 40:1-17

Psalm 50:1-23

Psalm 93:1-5

**Read each of these chapters before viewing the LEARN video. After viewing the video, identify whether the songs in each of these chapters is a Hymn of Praise, a Lament, or a Song of Thanksgiving.**

The term “**wisdom**” in this module refers to content, while “**poetic**” refers to the writing style.

Hebrew poetry emphasizes thought flow and generally works with two lines at a time. The writer will do one of three things:

- Repeat the idea of the first line in the second line, in order to emphasize something.
- Develop the idea, adding more information to the original idea of the first line in the second line.
- State the opposite of the first line in the second line to drive home a contrast.

The book of **Psalms**, or “The Psalter” is the **largest book in the Bible** and is made up of five smaller books. The purpose of psalms (songs) are to express raw emotion, both good and bad.

**Psalm:** means “song”

The three types of songs found in Psalms are:

- Hymn of Praise- songs that glorify God for who He is.
- Lament- songs that express the sorrow of the singer coupled with a petition for God to act.
- Song of Thanksgiving- songs that worship God for something He has done.

Can you identify the type of songs found in Psalm 40, Psalm 50, and Psalm 93?

### **Application Questions:**

**Why is it hard to share your sorrows and frustrations with God? How can doing so empower your faith?**

**In your life right now, would your psalm to God be a hymn of praise, lament, or a song of thanksgiving? Write that psalm and share it with someone.**

**How honest are you with God in your own life? How can you become more honest in your worship, prayer, and daily walk with God? What are some ways that you can encourage others in your life to be honest with God?**

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# BIBLEX

## Session 2: Wisdom

### Scripture questions:

To understand this material you must first think about how you view wisdom. How would you define wisdom? What do you need, or have to do, to be considered wise?

Proverbs 1:1-7

What is the purpose of these proverbs or “sayings?” What are the benefits of wisdom?

What does “fear of the Lord” mean? Why is it the foundation of wisdom?

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom is portrayed as a classy lady. What is “Lady Wisdom” described as doing? Do people naturally seek her out or must she seek them out?

What are the consequences for those who listen to or ignore “Lady Wisdom”?

Proverbs 7:1-27

Foolishness is described as a tempting adulteress. What is “Lady Foolishness” doing in this

passage?

**What are the consequences for those who listen to the call of Foolishness?**

Proverbs 12:1-25

**Each of these verses are insights of what wise action looks like. In a brief sentence, write down the central lesson learned from each of these proverbs.**

In modern society, **wisdom** is described as a mixture of intelligence and life experiences. The Old Testament concept of **wisdom** involves a careful view of the world and helps us discover the order of God's creation, right actions, and attitudes.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.  
Proverbs 1:7 NIV*

## **The Fear of the Lord**

- This means putting yourself in the right relationship to God.
- We must recognize the benefits and dangers of God's creation before we discover its value.

## **Lady Wisdom**

- The writer of Proverbs personifies wisdom as a lady. Even though we benefit from wisdom, wisdom has to pursue us and convince us to listen.
- Proverbs 1:26-27 warns those who ignore wisdom of the tragic consequences.

## **Foolishness**

- The writer personifies foolishness as an alluring and enticing adulteress.
- Embracing foolishness and rejecting the pursuit of wisdom results in us willfully going to our own destruction.
- If you choose not to pursue wisdom, you are described as chasing foolishness.

**Proverb:** a brief statement of wisdom about God's order.

Proverbs emphasizes that the wise, and those that pursue wisdom, are righteous, but those who do not seek wisdom are sinful and foolish. There is no in-between with wisdom. If we don't chase wisdom, the result is us willfully going to our own destruction. It is our responsibility to learn and apply God's wisdom to our lives, so we too can be wise.

### **Application Questions:**

**Knowing that the fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom, and knowing what the phrase means, how do you demonstrate that in the way you think and live?**

**How do you seek or embrace foolishness in your life? What can you do to encourage the pursuit of wisdom?**

**Select a partner and then each of you select three proverbs from chapter 12. How can you apply those proverbs in your life? For the remainder of this module, keep each other accountable to apply those proverbs to your life.**

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## Session 3: Meaningless

### Scripture questions:

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

Ecclesiastes 2:17

Ecclesiastes 11:8

**The writer of the book is referred to as “Qoheleth,” which is Hebrew for the “teacher” or the “preacher.” What repeated phrase do you see in the passages that you read?**

**Knowing that this is the central phrase of this book, repeated several times, what is the mood of the book? Do you expect a book like this to be in the Bible? Why or why not?**

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

**How does the writer describe the gaining of wisdom? Do you see where there might be validity in what he says? Why or why not?**

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

**What is the writer’s perspective on working hard to advance in status and fortune? Why does he think so?**

Ecclesiastes 2:14-15  
Ecclesiastes 3:19-20  
Ecclesiastes 6:6  
Ecclesiastes 9:2-3

**How is what humanity has in common more powerful than their differences? What are your thoughts, as you reflect on what the writer says?**

Ecclesiastes 7:15-18

**What type of lifestyle is the writer encouraging?**

Ecclesiastes 3:12  
Ecclesiastes 3:22  
Ecclesiastes 5:18  
Ecclesiastes 9:7

**In these passages, what is the book of Ecclesiastes saying about life?**

Ecclesiastes 8:7  
Ecclesiastes 8:17  
Ecclesiastes 9:1  
Ecclesiastes 11:5

**What do these passages tell us about our ability to fully understand the world around us?**

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

**This passage is the epilogue, or ending of the book. It is written by someone else looking back at Qoheleth, the writer of Ecclesiastes, and his ideas. How does this passage evaluate Qoheleth's teachings?**

## How does the writer modify Qoheleth's teachings?

**Ecclesiastes:** This book of wisdom cautions us that even wisdom has its limits.

The author of Ecclesiastes is referred to as **Qoheleth**, which is a made up word that means "teacher," "leader of the assembly," or "preacher." There is no clear identification of who Qoheleth is, but the reader is supposed to have Solomon in mind as they explore the ideas of the book.

The **central phrase of Ecclesiastes** is repeated at least two dozen times in the book:

*"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!"*  
*Ecclesiastes 1:2 NIV*

## Why All Is Vanity

- Wisdom and Knowledge have limits and only bring sorrow.
- If we build a great name or legacy, we have no control and will someday leave it to another.
- Pursuing pleasure does not satisfy.
- All will die and our names will be forgotten.

## How Do We Live If All Is Vanity?

- Moderation- We should be careful not to wear ourselves out doing things that aren't permanent.
- Contentment- We should learn to be at peace, and satisfied, with where we are in life.
- Accept- We should accept the limits of our understanding. God is God and we are not.

### Application Questions:

**How does it feel knowing that most of what you strive for in life is described as useless and "utterly meaningless?"**

**What does a life of moderation and contentment look like? How do you encourage these characteristics in your life and in the lives of those around you?**

**The writer of Ecclesiastes has wrongly been viewed by some as old and bitter, and because of this, many disregard his message. How do you sometimes reject a valid message because you reject the messenger?**

**What many see as a depressing book can actually be seen as a liberating one, for we are encouraged to let go of things that don't last and are meaningless. Of the things you strive for in life, which are meaningless and which are lasting?**

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## Session 4: Suffering

### Scripture questions:

Job 1:6-22

**How would you describe Job? How does God describe Job?**

**Why does Satan say Job is faithful to God?**

**What are the consequences of God's challenge to Satan? Does this seem fair to you?**

**How does Job respond to his experiences? Who wins the challenge?**

Job 2:1-10

**Why does Satan claim that Job is faithful?**

**What does God allow Satan to do this time? How do you feel for Job? Who wins this round?**

**Compare Job 1:22 to Job 2:10. Do you see a subtle difference?**

Job 2:11-13

Job 4:7-11

Job 8:1-7

Job 11:13-20

**Why do Job's friends Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar come?**

**Why do they say these sufferings have fallen upon Job?**

**You know more about the events in this passage than Job or his friends; are Job's friends right?**

Job 12:1-6

Job 13:1-12

Job 16:1-15

Job 16:18-22

**How does Job respond to the accusations of his friends?**

Job 19:1-12

Job 31:35-40

**Who does Job say is to blame?**

**How would you describe Job's attitude? What does he demand of God?**

Job 38:1-18

Job 40:6-9

**How would you describe God's initial response? What is the point God is trying to make?**

**How do you see God answer Job's question about why he is suffering?**

Job 42:1-6

**How does Job respond to God's challenge?**

**Does God tell Job why he is suffering?**

Job 42:7-17

**What does God say about the answers provided by Job's friends? What clues do you see that tell us that Job is still righteous and has not sinned throughout this process?**

**What happens to Job at the end of the story? Does this make you wonder about the children and servants that were killed? If so, what are your questions about God's decisions?**

**Three main issues found in the book of Job:**

## **1. Why do people serve God?**

Satan challenges God about Job's faithfulness. God allows Satan to kill Job's children and servants and destroy all of his wealth in order to prove that Job is a faithful servant of God, regardless of his circumstances. If Job, a man so righteous that even God brags about him, can not be faithful to God, who can? Satan even plagues Job physically, but throughout his suffering, Job remains faithful to God and does not sin.

Job is being tested on behalf of all people. Satan argues that people serve God for selfish reasons. Job's faithfulness teaches us that God deserves to be honored simply because He is God and worthy to be served, not because of our circumstances, or because we desire heaven or are afraid of hell.

## **2. Why do people suffer?**

This question is not really answered. We cannot assume that bad things happen to bad people and good things happen to good people. Many righteous people have suffered and many wicked people have profited. While we know that Job did not suffer because he was sinful, God does not answer Job's question about why he was suffering. As we study this book, we are asked if we, like Job, will yield to God, even when we do not get the answers we want.

## **3. How do people deal with unwarranted suffering?**

Many times, we want to know why we, and those we love, experience horrific evil. The book of Job does not answer this question, but instead reinforces that we can't expect for bad things to happen to bad people, and good things to good people. We are asked if we will trust God in all things, and yield to Him even when we don't get the answers that we want.

### **Application Questions:**

**Why do you serve God? What personal, social, or economic benefits do you gain from it?  
Would you serve God if you would not benefit in this life or after you die?**

**How do the actions of Bildad, Eliphaz, and Zophar inform you of how you should treat and**

**comfort those who are suffering and mourning?**

**Which do you think is more dangerous: viewing a person's suffering as a sign of their sinfulness or their prosperity as a sign of their righteousness? Why?**

**List one area of your life where you feel greatly wronged or have suffered unjustly. How can you release that to God in spite of results that you don't like?**

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