



wisdom
humanity through life ex
periences
understand

The age of wisdom
and understanding
through life experiences.



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The Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course is a journey through God's
love story the Bible. Through this course, each one is empowered to understand
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Wisdom Part 1	2
Practical 1	2
Personal reflection	5
Wisdom Part 2	6
Personal reflection	15
Frequently asked questions	16



Wisdom Part 1


Welcome to the Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course Session on understanding the wisdom books of the bible.

To get the most out of these sessions, as you watch each video, follow the 00:00 [TIMECODES] in this workbook and  [PAUSE] the video to write your answers.

The books that are categorised as wisdom literature are:

Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

What makes these books wisdom literature style of writing?  [01:22]

When reading books written in wisdom literature style, what must we do to understand the wisdom that is being conveyed?  [1:32]

Practical 1


Read **Proverbs 8:22-31**

Remembering the six questions that we learnt from the Behind the Meaning videos are: Who? How? Where? When? What? Why?

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture?  [03:35 - 03:50]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Who is the writer? Read **Proverbs 1:1**  [04:15]

Who is the writer speaking to? Read **Proverbs 1:8**  [04:46]



Back to **Proverbs 8:22-31**

Who is speaking? Read **Proverbs 8:12** [05:13]

Who are they speaking about? [05:39]

1. _____ 2. _____

How do the characters interact? [05:46 - 06:15]

Where and **when** did it happen? [06:36]

To discover the context of this scripture (**Proverbs 8:22-31**) in God's whole story, let us begin with the writer Solomon's relationship with God at the time when he first became king of Ancient Israel. Read **2 Chronicles 1:7-12**

What did God give Solomon? [08:17]

Why did God give Solomon wisdom and knowledge? [08:22]

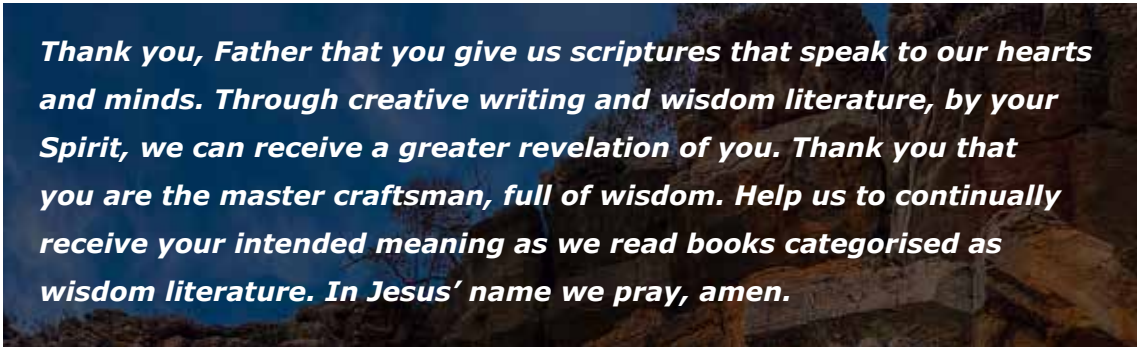
Proverbs 8:22-31 is written in a poetic style within the book of Proverbs, which is categorised as a book of wisdom. Now let us look at the context in God's whole love story, the Bible.



Personal reflection

From Wisdom Part 1, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?



Wisdom Part 2

In this session we will journey through another book of wisdom. This time, the book of Job.

What are the two things we need to understand in order to correctly interpret the book of Job? 🎧 [01:06 - 01:11]

1. _____
2. _____

What are the cultural beliefs of the time (that are revealed through the conversations in the book of Job)? 🎧 [01:11 - 01:40]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Remember as we learnt from Wisdom Part 1, the wisdom books are written from humanity's perspective of lessons learnt through this life journey and their relationship with God. We need to read the whole book to understand God's intended meaning and the moral of the story.

While the book of Job is a book of wisdom, **what** is the style of writing the narrator uses to reveal God's truth to the first hearers? 🎧 [02:33]

As we come to the book of Job, let us surrender to God what we think the text is saying and trust that He will reveal more of Himself to us.

Let's begin our summarised journey through the book of Job.

In the first chapters of Job, the narrator sets the scene of the drama in the tone of the beliefs and culture of the time.



From **Job chapters 1-3**



Who states that Job was blameless and upright, one who feared God and shunned evil? **II** [03:08]

Who perceived Job to be blameless and upright? **II** [03:17]

From the dialogue between God and Satan, **who** is the instigator of evil and sickness and is the accuser of God's people? **II** [04:47]



By chapter 3, **what** had happened to Job? **II** [05:31 - 05:41]



From **Job chapters 4-9**



In response to all the bad things that have happened to Job, **what** do Job's friends accuse him of? 📖 [06:22]

What does Job say in response to his friend's accusations? 📖 [06:35]

Holding onto his false beliefs, **what** does Job accuse God of? 📖 [06:38]

In amongst all his confusion, **what** belief does Job start to question? 📖 [06:51]

From **Job chapter 10**



What does Job express to God? 📖 [06:55]

Again, still holding onto his false beliefs, **what** does Job accuse God of? 📖 [07:06]

From **Job chapters 11-22**



As a result of Job's circumstances and physical sickness, **what** do Job's friends still accuse him of? 📖 [07:25]

What does Job continue to do in response to his friend's accusations? 📖 [07:43]

What truth does Job start to understand? 📖 [08:29]

From **Job chapter 24**



What is Job's complaint against God? [09:11]

From **Job chapters 25-26**



What question does one of Job's friends ask? [09:34]

What is Job's response? [09:39 - 09:51]

From **Job chapters 27-31**



What does Job persist in accusing God of doing? **II** [10:00]

What does Job attribute his righteousness to? **II** [10:06]

What does Job lament the loss of? **II** [10:22]

From **Job chapters 32-37**



Who is the new character that enters? **II** [10:37]

Why was Elihu's anger aroused? **II** [10:45 - 10:51]

1. _____
2. _____

What truths of God does Elihu declare? **II** [10:57]

What question does Elihu ask of Job to challenge his false belief and self-righteousness? **II** [11:01]



From **Job chapters 38-40 verse 2**



Where did God speak to Job from? **II** [11:30]

What are some of God's characteristics that He reveals to Job? **II** [11:41]

From **Job chapter 40 verses 3-5**



How does Job respond to God in these verses? **II** [11:54]

What is the main theme of the story of Job? **II** [12:00 - 12:13]



During Jesus' time on earth, He revealed the truth about God, self and humanity's need for a saviour. Jesus demonstrated that the heart of God is only good; He alone is righteous.

Read Matthew 5:45

Who does God make His sun rise on? [12:40]

Who does God send His rain on? [12:47]

Who is our righteousness a gift from? [13:00]

From **Job chapter 42 verses 1-6**



What does Job declare? [13:20 - 13:36]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

From **Job chapter 42 verses 7-17**



What does God do for Job? 📖 [13:43 - 14:07]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

In His grace and mercy, **what** does God give Job's friends the opportunity to do?

📖 [14:13]

What cultural norms did Job go against? 📖 [14:47]

Remember, the book of Job is wisdom gained through life experiences, written from humanity's perspective. Through the drama in the book of Job we gain an understanding of each character's beliefs and how God reveals Himself to the people in a way they will understand. We too can gain wisdom and understanding about God's truth, love and power from the book of Job.

What are some truths about God that we gain from the book of Job?

📖 [15:34 - 17:00]



Personal reflection

From Wisdom Part 2, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your unconditional love, liberating truth and selfless power. May we see ourselves and others through your eyes of honour and delight. We thank you, in Jesus' precious name, Amen.



Frequently asked questions

Given that the book of Job recounts God being incited by Satan to allow Job to be harmed, does that mean God will allow Satan to harm me?

To answer this question, let us look at the two dialogues in the book of Job between God and Satan. We will do a practical, asking the 6 questions of the text that we learnt in the Behind the Meaning video.

Read **Job 1:6-12** and **2:1-7**

Aside from the narrator, **who** are the characters in these passages of scripture?

Read **Job 1:6** and **8**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Other than the narrator, **who** is speaking? Read **Job 1:7**

1. _____
2. _____

Who are they speaking to? Read **Job 1:7**

Who are they speaking about? Read **Job 1:8**

How do the characters interact?

1. The sons of God's interaction with the LORD. Read **Job 1:6**

2. Satan's interaction with the LORD. Read **Job 1:7, 9-11** and **12**



3. The LORD's interaction with Satan. Read **Job 1:7, 8** and **12**

Let us pause for a moment and think about the relationships depicted within this passage of scripture. The sons of God or angels came to present themselves before the presence of the LORD in heaven. They are the good spirits who have given their allegiance to God.

The narrator tells us in chapter 1 verse 6 that Satan, whose name means adversary, comes with the angels before the LORD in heaven. Satan is the arch-enemy of God and all things good. God is only good and is opposed to evil and Satan.

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

So that we can understand God's intended meaning, we need to remember the influence that culture has on interpretation of events. Remember that in Job's lifetime, there were many false beliefs. One was that God was the master controller, responsible for both good and evil on the earth. The narrator reveals this false belief through the dialogue between Job with his wife (Job 2:10). It is also evident that Job's belief was that his sufferings were from God (Job 16:11-14).

We also discover through the narrative of Job's conversations with his friends that they all held the false belief that earthly wealth and standing within the community was a result of one's righteousness (Job chapter 29).

Conversely, Job and his friends falsely believed that those who are wicked will live in pain and poverty in this life (Job 15:20-35).



What is the style of writing?

Remember Job is a book of wisdom, and that it is wisdom gained through observation and experience of lessons learnt in this life. Job is considered, along with the other books of wisdom, as the word of God because they are inspired by the Holy Spirit and have been included in God's love story to us. Through the writer's relationship with God and the revelations of God that are given to them, we can learn much about God through wisdom books of the Bible.

What is the context of this scripture (**Job 1:6-12** and **2:1-7**) in God's whole story?

To help us answer this question, we need to remember Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7 are a small part of the book of Job. Furthermore, the book of Job is a small part of God's whole love story, the Bible.

Let us journey through some other scriptures to help us understand the context of Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7.

Read **Revelation 12:7-13**

Who is the dragon?

Where was Satan cast out from?

Where was Satan cast out to?

From this account in Revelation and other scriptures throughout God's love story the Bible, we know that Satan has been cast out of heaven and prowls the earth. Satan's sole motive is to steal, kill and destroy. He is pure evil and is at war with God who is only good. God's sole motive is to give, bring life and to restore. Nothing that defiles can enter heaven.



Therefore, as we come to understand God’s intended meaning of Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7, we need to step back and view them in light of God’s whole story. As Satan has been cast out of heaven, and nothing that defiles can enter it, it is not possible for Satan to return to heaven. Given this and that Job is a book of wisdom, the dialogue between God and Satan in heaven is there to challenge the first hearers’ false beliefs.

In the tradition and style of reasoning and wisdom at the time of writing, the dialogue between God and Satan poses a number of questions to the first hearers and to us today. Is any human blameless, upright and undefiled? Is someone’s earthly blessings a result of their own righteousness? Are the injustices of this life God’s punishment? Is God or Satan the instigator of evil? Can God be incited by Satan? Is Satan more powerful than God?

Let us continue on our journey of the context of Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7.

Read **Genesis 3:1-21**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **verses 1** and **6**

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

Who is more cunning than any other beast? Read **verse 1**

Who falsely accuses God and deceives the first woman with lies and half truths?

In their partaking of the knowledge of both good and evil, the first man and woman gave power to evil and to their selfish desires to rule over them. As a result, death and evil entered into God’s once perfect world.

God did not allow evil to happen. It was humanity’s choice to become one with both good and evil, instead of God and only good. The first man and woman chose to believe the lies and deceptions of the evil one, instead of believing God and His truth.



As a result, they gave their God-given power to rule and reign on this earth to Satan and their selfish desires. All of creation has been corrupted. We now live in a world damaged by evil, where evil and humanity's selfish desires are continually being given power by humanity.

In summary, the context of Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7 is that they are a small part of wisdom literature and God's whole love story, the Bible. They are set in the time after Satan had been cast out of heaven. The book of Job was written during the age of reasoning and wisdom. It challenges many false beliefs about God and Satan, all with God's intent to set people free.

Why was it written?

The book of Job was written to set people free of false beliefs. The dialogue between God and Satan in Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7 was included to challenge the false beliefs at the time. As the story throughout the book of Job unfolds, the truth about God, humanity and Satan is revealed.

What are some of the things that are the same for us today?

Let us conclude this practical by summarising what we have learnt about God, Satan and humanity through our journey together to answer the question: Given that the book of Job recounts God being incited by Satan to allow Job to be harmed, does that mean God will allow Satan to harm me?

God is only good. As God is only good He never instigates evil. God is all-powerful, however He does not control people or circumstances, as that is an abuse of power. He never allows evil, as in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and it was only good. He gave power to humanity to rule and reign on the earth and He never takes back what He gives.



Satan is only evil. As Satan is only evil, he pridefully attempts to usurp God's power and authority. However, Satan must bow to the power of God. He can never incite God to do anything. Satan's only weaponry is lies and deceptions. God has already judged Satan as evil and when Jesus returns, Satan and evil will be totally eliminated from the earth.

Humanity has chosen to be one with both good and evil. Having given their God-given power to their selfish desires and evil to rule over them, humanity continues to reproduce both good and evil.

As a consequence, we live in this world damaged by evil, living in bodies that get sick, wear out and die. No one is perfect and we are all in need of a saviour. But praise God, through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, He gives all those who receive His right to rule and reign His victory over the lies of the evil one and our selfish desires.

In His love, truth and power, we expose the lies of Satan and are empowered to live in the victory of continual surrender to God.

Through knowing the truth about God, self and the evil one, living in continual surrender to God, we break the destructive controlling forces that evil and our selfish desires have over us.

When Jesus returns, having received Him and His right to rule and reign, we will receive our glorified bodies that never get sick, wear out or die. Living with Him for all eternity with only good.

Personal reflection

From this practical, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?



What is your response/prayer?

Proverbs 3:11-12 states, My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights. Therefore, does God (LORD) chasten those He loves and delights in?

Remember the book of Proverbs is King Solomon’s wisdom gained through his life journey with God, which he is passing onto his son. Given the influence that culture and relationships have on interpretation, if read through humanity’s eyes, our understanding of chastening (discipline, instruction) and correction (reasoning) could be harsh and judgemental.

However, knowing God and His character, when reading these verses in the context of God’s love story the Bible, the understanding of what chastening or correction entails is very different. God’s chastening is never an abuse of power involving physical, emotional, mental punishment or trauma.

As we learnt through the journey with Job, God never abuses His power and He never instigates evil. Instead, God’s chastening is bringing instruction, leading, guiding, revealing His truth and empowering.

Personal reflection

From this discussion about Proverbs 3:11-12, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?



What is your response/prayer?

Proverbs 13:24 states, He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly. Therefore, does the bible approve of using a rod to discipline a child?

As we have discussed, wisdom literature is humanity’s wisdom gained through life experiences. Through our journey with Job, we discovered that not everything included in wisdom literature is in alignment with God and His character. There are elements of the false beliefs that are within the culture at the time of writing, as well as false perceptions of self and evil.

In this instance of Proverbs 13:34, the writer Solomon is not speaking for God or revealing God’s wisdom or His character. Instead, Solomon is reflecting his own beliefs and the wisdom of the culture at the time of writing.

When viewing this verse in the context of God’s whole love story, the Bible, we are reminded that God never instigates violence, nor does He approve of it. For that is the way of humanity and evil. Using violence, whether physical, emotional or mental to control or manipulate another to get what self wants is an abuse of power.

As we learned from our journey with Job, God never controls or manipulates people or circumstances as this is an abuse of power. Therefore God does not approve of using a rod to discipline a child. Instead He brings instruction. God leads, guides, reveals His truth and empowers. Therefore as we surrender our selfish desires and the ways of this world to Him, we are empowered to do likewise.



Personal reflection

From this discussion about Proverbs 13:24, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

