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Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

by
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Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon

**A study of the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you have written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course, you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses you will be reading. After each paragraph, you will usually have three questions. The questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson, there will be an opportunity to write down something you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons, three things will happen in your life:

First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.

Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses you have studied.

Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally communicated in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 1

Proverbs 1:1-3:35

Today, we are beginning a study of the book of Proverbs. Most of the Proverbs in the book were written by Solomon. During his lifetime Solomon spoke 3000 proverbs. God caused many of those proverbs to be collected and placed in this book for our benefit. Some of the proverbs are only one verse in length while others may cover several verses. Since these proverbs cover many different topics we will try to classify them under general headings. Most of the proverbs that we will study in this lesson deal with the source and the value of wisdom. It is important to understand that the Lord is the source of godly wisdom and that it has great value in our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what is the source and foundation of wisdom.
- Explain the warning that wisdom gives us.
- Explain why wisdom will deliver us from evil.
- Explain what we learn about the rewards of wisdom.

As we begin our study of the book of Proverbs, we see the purpose of this book. We see that this book is written so that people can know wisdom and instruction. It is important to notice that there is a great difference between human wisdom and the wisdom of God. Godly wisdom is the ability to think the thoughts of God in God's way. Human wisdom is thinking and following the thoughts of man. The purpose of this book is to help us learn to think the thoughts of God from His viewpoint so that we can replace our human wisdom with godly wisdom. We see that a wise person will listen to the thoughts of God and will increase His understanding as a result. At the same time we also see that God is the One that must give understanding of His Word. People cannot gain understanding through their own efforts.

1. Read Proverbs 1:1-19 and write what is the beginning of knowledge.
2. Explain why it is important to seek godly wisdom rather than human wisdom to guide our thinking.
3. Explain why you think that a wise person will listen to and study the thoughts of God so that His understanding will increase.

Only when we place our trust in the Lord and begin to seek His wisdom will we begin to receive true knowledge and wisdom. However, we see that fools hate the wisdom of God. A fool is a person that feels that there is no need for God. Such a person thinks that he only needs to depend on himself. We see that one of the ways that we begin to gain wisdom from the Lord is to listen to the instruction of our parents. Our very obedience to them will bring blessing to our lives. Here, we see that true wisdom includes an attitude of obedience. If we are obedient to the Lord, we will not listen when evil men try to lead us to follow the wrong way.

4. Read Proverbs 1:1-19 and write why evil men invite other people to come with them as they carry out their activities.
5. Explain why one of the ways that we can gain wisdom and understanding is to learn from the instruction of godly parents.
6. Explain why you think that a fool hates the wisdom of God and does not look to the Lord to guide his life.

The desire of evil men is to increase their own possessions. They will do many things including murder to try and increase their riches. Their desire is to fill their houses with the possessions of others. They invite others to join them and share in the things that they take from others. These men are very quick to run and do evil. They hurry to destroy others. They are willing to

destroy anyone to accomplish their own purposes. That is why we are warned not to follow the ways of such people. Instead, we are encouraged to place our trust in the Lord and seek His knowledge. That is the source of true wisdom that will guide our lives in the right way.

7. Read Proverbs 1:1-19 and write what the feet of people that are greedy for gain are like.

8. Explain why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of true knowledge.

9. Explain why you think that greedy people are quick to destroy anyone that hinders them from accomplishing their evil purposes.

God gives His wisdom as a warning to evil men. When we share the Word of God with others, the Lord uses that Word to bring a warning to evil men that they have no excuse for their actions. This warning needs to be shared in every place so that no one can say that he has not been warned. The Lord asks those who are following their own ways how long they will continue to follow those ways. God says that such people are fools because they are rejecting the knowledge and wisdom that the Lord offers. God promises that He will pour out His Spirit and make His Word known to all those who will truly seek Him.

10. Read Proverbs 1:20-33 and write what people had done when God has called to them.

11. Explain why God wants to warn the people that are following their own ways of the consequences if they continue to follow those ways.

12. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Lord promises to pour out His Spirit and make His Word known to all who will truly seek Him.

The Lord has extended His call to all people and invited them to place their trust in Him and seek His wisdom. However, most people have not paid any attention to that call from God. In fact most people have refused to listen to the counsel of the Lord. They will not receive the correction of the Lord. As a result, God says that the day will come when such people will be filled with fear. In that day destruction will come like a storm that cannot be stopped. People have their opportunity at the present time to receive the wisdom of the Lord. The day will come when it will be too late for them to call on the Lord for wisdom.

13. Read Proverbs 1:20-33 and write what will happen to people when they call on the Lord in that day.

14. Explain why those who have rejected the counsel of the Lord will be filled with fear in the day of destruction.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord gives people a lifetime on this earth to choose whether they will seek His wisdom or choose to reject it.

Many people are not interested in calling to God for help when everything in their lives is going fine. During those times many people reject the Lord and His wisdom. However, the day will come when they will reap what they are sowing. They will receive the fruit of their own rebellion. They will be destroyed by their prosperity. Judgment will come on them because they have not prepared for death in advance. In contrast, those who seek the wisdom of the Lord will dwell in safety. They will rest in quietness and have no fear in that day.

16. Read Proverbs 1:20-33 and write what the Lord says will happen to those who listen to Him when He calls.

17. Explain why the fact that people choose to reject the wisdom of the Lord will one day bring fear to their lives.

18. Explain why you think that many people ignore the Lord when everything seems to be going fine in their lives.

As we come to chapter two in the book of Proverbs, we see that wisdom will deliver us from evil. As sons we are encouraged to give attention to the commandments of the Lord. We need to incline our ears to wisdom. Wisdom cannot come from man. It must come from God. That is the reason why we must ask Him to give us wisdom and understanding. We are to seek wisdom like people that are seeking for hidden treasure. When a person is searching for a

treasure, nothing will stop that person in his or her search. In the same way we need to study our Bibles and meditate every day about the things that we study so that we can receive the wisdom of the Lord.

19. Read Proverbs 2:1-22 and write what we will understand if we seek the wisdom of God.
20. Explain why we are told to seek wisdom as if we were seeking for hidden treasure.
21. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord promises to give you His wisdom as you ask Him to give you wisdom.

As we study the Word of God, we can see the greatness of God. It causes us to fear and respect the Lord and look to Him for wisdom. The Lord is the One that must give wisdom to men. Everything that the Lord speaks helps us to grow in our knowledge and understanding. The Lord gives sound wisdom to those who are righteous. At the same time He protects those who are walking in His ways. The Lord guides our paths so that we will walk in the ways of justice if we follow His leading. If we will seek His wisdom, He will cause us to understand righteousness, justice and equity. We will know the right way to walk in our lives.

22. Read Proverbs 2:1-22 and write what will preserve us when wisdom enters into our hearts.
23. Explain why the Lord says that He will cause us to understand righteousness, justice and equity if we will seek His wisdom.
24. Explain why you think that the Lord greatly desires for us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him so that we can have His wisdom in our lives.

Several things happen to us in our lives when we are led and guided by the wisdom of the Lord. The Lord gives us the ability to make wise decisions. Because of the understanding that comes from the Lord, we are delivered from the ways of evil men. We do not need to worry about evil from those people who speak evil things and walk in the ways of darkness. Even though such people are filled with joy as they plan evil, we do not need to be afraid of them. Evil men are happy when they see others following evil ways. Their paths are crooked and lead the wrong way.

25. Read Proverbs 2:1-22 and write from whom the Lord will deliver us as we have our trust in Him.
26. Explain why the understanding that comes from the Lord will deliver us from the ways of evil men.
27. Explain why you think that evil people are happy when they see other people that are following evil ways.

The seductress or strange woman is a woman that tries to cause men to commit immorality. Here, we see that such a woman uses her speech to get men to have immoral relationships with her. She has forgotten the instruction that she learned as a girl. Instead, she has chosen the way that leads to death and judgment and is seeking to lead others to judgment with her. However, we are encouraged to walk in the ways of righteousness and avoid her evil ways. Then, we can experience the blessing of the Lord rather than the judgment of the Lord.

28. Read Proverbs 2:1-22 and write where the paths of the seductress will lead those who follow her.
29. Explain how the wisdom of the Lord will deliver us from the ways of evil.
30. Explain why you think that Solomon warned about the dangers of the woman that is a seductress.

We are told that we will have a long and peaceful life if we will walk in the ways of the Lord and not forget His commandments. Mercy and truth are to be such an important part of our lives that we keep them in our minds and hearts at all times. Then, we will experience favor both with God and with man. We need to trust in the Lord with our whole hearts and not try to depend on our own understanding. We are encouraged to put the Lord first in everything and allow Him to lead us step by step. If we seek the wisdom and leadership of the Lord, we will be

blessed physically.

31. Read Proverbs 3:1-35 and write how the Lord will bless us if we will honor Him by giving to Him first.
32. Explain why those who walk in the ways of the Lord will usually experience a long and peaceful life.
33. Explain why you think that God tells us that we are to keep mercy and truth in our thoughts at all times.

The Lord blesses those who place the Lord first in their lives. This is one reason why we should not get upset when we are disciplined by the Lord. The Lord disciplines us because He loves us. We also see that we love our children when we discipline them properly. We will also be happy when we receive wisdom and understanding from the Lord. Wisdom is worth much more than silver, gold or precious jewels. In fact nothing that we could desire here on this earth is equal in value to the wisdom of the Lord. Wisdom leads to a long and peaceful life that is filled with happiness.

34. Read Proverbs 3:12-35 and write to what kind of a tree wisdom is compared.
35. Explain why God says that the value of wisdom is much greater than the value of silver, gold or precious jewels.
36. Explain why you think that the Lord chooses to discipline you when you sin so that He can show His love to you.

The tree of life was the tree that God placed in the Garden of Eden. God said that all who ate of that tree would live forever. If we seek the wisdom and the leading of the Lord, we will also have eternal life. It was by the wisdom of the Lord that He made the heavens, the earth and everything on the earth. As a result, we are reminded not to turn away from the wisdom of the Lord. As we trust in the Lord, we will walk in safety and nothing will cause us to be afraid. Our sleep will be sweet because it will not be bothered by fear. When our trust is in the Lord, there is nothing that can make us afraid.

37. Read Proverbs 3:1-35 and write from whom we are told not to withhold good.
38. Explain why trust in the Lord takes away fear.
39. Explain why you think that a strong trust in the Lord in your life will give you peace so that you do not live in fear.

The third chapter of Proverbs closes with a series of short proverbs. We are to show good to those who deserve it. Do not tell a neighbor that you will help him later when it is possible for you to help him right now. Do not argue with another person for no good reason. Do not envy the person that has gained riches by taking advantage of others. Such people will be judged by the Lord. Instead, we should seek the blessing of the Lord that He gives to the righteous. Those who continue on in their evil ways will one day feel the curse of the Lord. Their scoffing will come right back to them.

40. Read Proverbs 3:1-35 and write what the wise will inherit.
41. Explain why we should not tell a neighbor that we will help him later when it is possible for us to help him right now.
42. Explain why you think that the Lord warns you not to argue with another person for no good reason.

Now, reread Proverbs 1:1-3:35 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 2

Proverbs 4:1-6:35

Today, we will be studying the instructions of a father to a son. As we study these instructions, we will learn how we should live as the sons of God. Just as we saw the value of wisdom in the first three chapters of Proverbs, we are reminded again of the importance of seeking the wisdom of the Lord instead of depending on our own wisdom. Our own wisdom will get us into trouble because it is subject to temptation. Our own wisdom may cause us to be deceived by evil men or immoral women. This is why it is important to depend on the wisdom of the Lord at all times.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what a father teaches his son about wisdom.
- Explain the danger of listening to an immoral woman.
- Explain the seven things that the Lord hates.

Our lesson begins today with the request of a father to his children. The father is urging his children to listen to his advice. The father promised his children that he would give them sound teaching if they would listen to him. Solomon was the wisest man that had ever lived. He had gained much of this wisdom from the instruction of his parents because they had taught him the commandments of the Lord. Solomon promised his children that they would have successful lives if they would follow his advice. His first instruction to his children was to get wisdom. We have already seen that true wisdom only comes from the Lord. This is the reason why we should not forsake wisdom because wisdom will help us to understand things from the viewpoint of God.

1. Read Proverbs 4:1-27 and write what will happen if we love wisdom.
2. Explain why it is important to help our children understand the importance of seeking godly wisdom.
3. Explain why you think that it is helping you in your own life as you are able to view more and more things from the viewpoint of God.

The wisdom of the Lord will do many things for us in our daily lives. We read that wisdom will keep and preserve us. It will also give us understanding so that we know what to do in our lives. At the same time wisdom will cause us to develop and become respected leaders. People will be willing to trust us in positions of leadership as a result. We also see that those who choose to follow the instructions of their parents will enjoy a long life. As parents, we also have a responsibility to help our children learn the wisdom of the Lord so that they will follow Him. Then, they will not stumble and fall or choose to go the wrong way when they become adults.

4. Read Proverbs 4:1-27 and write what path we are warned to avoid.
5. Explain why people will be willing to trust us in positions of leadership when they recognize that we are depending on godly wisdom for guidance.
6. Explain why you think that godly wisdom will help your children learn to make wise decisions as they become adults.

There are many evil people around us that would like to lead us into the wrong paths. However, we are warned not to follow in their evil ways. When we see evil people planning their evil actions, we are to avoid them so that we do not become involved in their evil ways. Such people do not even want to go to sleep until they have done evil to someone else. They enjoy their wicked and violent ways and think that those ways will bring them satisfaction. We

see the difference also in the paths of good and evil people. The path of the righteous becomes brighter and brighter as they follow the Lord day by day.

7. Read Proverbs 4:1-27 and write what the way of the wicked is like.

8. Explain why evil people think that their wicked and violent ways will bring them satisfaction in their lives.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord says that your path will become brighter and brighter as you follow the Lord.

After telling about the different ways of good and evil men, Solomon again encouraged his children to listen to his words. He encouraged them to keep those words in the center of their thoughts. The Word of God brings life to those who choose to follow and to obey it. This is the reason why we need to memorize the Word of God so that His Word is in our hearts and minds. We will notice many differences in our lives when we have the Word of God in our hearts instead of evil words and thoughts. For one thing we will be able to look others right in the eye as we speak to them. We will also be walking in the ways of the Lord.

10. Read Proverbs 4:1-27 and write why we are told to keep our hearts with all diligence.

11. Explain why it is important for children to listen to the instruction of their father and follow those instructions.

12. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to have the Word of God in your heart and in your mind.

Solomon first warned his sons about the dangers of evil men. Now, he goes on to warn his sons about the dangers of evil women. Here, we see that Solomon warned his son about the danger of immoral women that try to seduce men and lead them into immorality. The words of a prostitute or other immoral woman sound very smooth as they try to deceive and seduce. However, they do not tell about the final result of following their evil ways. Such women are actually leading their victims toward death and judgment. The ways of such a woman are unstable because such a woman is only out for her own gain. She does not care what happens to those who follow her sinful ways.

13. Read Proverbs 5:1-23 and write how far we are warned to stay away from such women.

14. Explain why Solomon warned his son that the prostitute or immoral woman leads her victims to death and judgment.

15. Explain why you think that it is important for you to warn young men that the words of a prostitute are spoken to try to deceive and seduce.

God tells us to avoid temptation and stay a long distance from it. Otherwise it is possible for a person to be deceived. Those who are deceived by such women will lose the honor and respect of others. Their possessions will also be taken by others. As men continue to follow in the immoral ways of such women, they will have their health destroyed by the diseases that come with immoral living. In the end such men will be filled with sorrow because they refused to listen to the warnings and the instructions of their teachers that tried to warn them of danger.

16. Read Proverbs 5:1-23 and write from where we are told to drink water.

17. Explain why Solomon warned his son that the deception of an immoral woman would destroy the respect of others for him and also his health.

18. Explain why you think that many young adults never think about the consequences of immoral living.

Here, we are reminded of the importance of satisfying our sexual desires within marriage instead of following immorality. The Lord promises that He will bless the couple that is faithful to their marriage vows. For this reason a man is encouraged to have his desires satisfied by the love of his wife. The immoral woman may offer sex by she cannot offer true satisfaction because there is no true love in such a relationship. We are also reminded that we are to be faithful in marriage because of the fact that we are serving a holy God. Those who

reject the Lord and follow the ways of sin will certainly experience judgment.

19. Read Proverbs 5:1-23 and write what traps the wicked person.

20. Explain what the Lord teaches about the importance of satisfying our sexual desires within marriage.

21. Explain why you think that the immoral woman cannot offer true satisfaction to those who go to her.

Proverbs six begins with a warning not to cosign with someone else on their loan. Once you have signed with another person for his loan, you are responsible for that loan. If that person does not pay that loan, it will be necessary for you to pay that loan. When you cosign for a loan, you have made a promise to pay that loan if the other person fails to do so. God warns us that if we have already become responsible for the loan of someone else that we should get free from that situation as soon as possible. Otherwise we are like an animal or a bird that has been captured by a hunter. There is no escape in either situation.

22. Read Proverbs 6:1-15 and write who the sluggard is told to watch.

23. Explain why the book of Proverbs gives us a warning not to cosign with someone else on their loan.

24. Explain why you think that God warns us to get free as soon as possible if we have already become responsible for the loan of someone else.

A sluggard is a lazy person that does not serve the Lord. Instead, the sluggard satisfies his needs by doing evil instead of working. In this passage we see that the sluggard is told to go and learn some important lessons from the ant. The ant is a very small insect. As you watch the ants, you see that they do not have a leader. However, all of the ants work together during the summer to provide enough food to last throughout the winter. None of the ants are lazy. They realize that they must all work together if they want to provide enough food to last throughout the winter.

25. Read Proverbs 6:1-15 and write what the sluggard is doing when he should be preparing for the winter.

26. Explain why the Lord tells the sluggard to go to the ants and learn from them the importance of preparing for the winter.

27. Explain why you think that a sluggard will always have an excuse telling why he cannot work at the present time.

Instead of preparing for the future either physically or spiritually, the sluggard spends his time sleeping. We go on to read a more detailed description of the sluggard. He lives in poverty because he is unwilling to work. We see that a worthless and an evil man speaks evil things with his mouth. He uses his eyes, his feet and his fingers to carry out his evil desires. We see that his outward actions are based on his inner thoughts. He spends his time thinking of evil and trying to cause division between other people. God says that judgment will come on such people suddenly and they will not be able to escape when that judgment comes.

28. Read Proverbs 6:1-15 and write what will come to the life of the worthless person suddenly.

29. Explain what lessons we can learn for our own lives from the ant.

30. Explain why you think that a worthless man spends his time think of evil and trying to cause division between other people.

We go on to read about seven things that the Lord hates. The first six things produce the seventh. God hates those who are filled with pride. He hates those who speak lies or kill innocent men. We also read that God hates those who plan evil in their hearts. Christ reminded the people that evil thoughts and evil desires are as sinful as the sinful actions. God also tells of His hatred for those who look for opportunities to do mischief and give a false witness about someone else. Finally, we see that God hates those who sow discord among brethren. God says that all of these sins cause divisions between people. God hates it when people try to cause

division and discord between others.

31. Read Proverbs 6:16-35 and write what Solomon encouraged his son to do.

32. Explain why God says that there are seven things that are an abomination to him.

33. Explain why you think that Christ said that evil thoughts and evil desires are as sinful as evil actions.

Like the son of Solomon, here we are encouraged to follow some very important instructions. These instructions are so important that we need to keep thinking about them continually. Then, they will lead us and help us to know what is right wherever we go. They will keep us when we are asleep and guide us when we are awake. If we listen to the instruction of the Lord, we will not be deceived by the words of an evil woman. Such a woman will use her words and her beauty to try and lead a man to follow the wrong way

34. Read Proverbs 6:16-35 and write what a man is brought to by such a woman.

35. Explain why we are also encouraged to listen to the instructions that will lead us to do what is right.

36. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to listen to the instructions of the Lord and then obey them.

An evil woman will bring a man to the place where he has nothing. God gives several examples of what happens when a man becomes involved with a prostitute or other immoral woman. If a man takes and holds fire to his chest, he will certainly have his clothes burned. If a man walks on hot coals, his feet will be burned. Judgment always follows if we try to do something that should not be done. It is the same way with the man who commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor. A man is guilty and will be judged when he becomes involved with the wife of another man.

37. Read Proverbs 6:16-35 and write what a man destroys when he commits adultery.

38. Explain why it is important to help each person realize that there are consequences when they make the choice to commit sin.

39. Explain why you think that many people think that they can commit sin and not reap the consequences of their sin.

God goes on to give a contrast between a thief and a person that commits adultery. No one will hate a person that steals to keep from starving. However, if he is caught stealing, he will be forced to make restitution for the things that he has stolen. However, there is no way that a man can make restitution when he has committed adultery. When a man discovers that his wife has committed adultery, he is filled with rage toward the man that committed adultery with his wife. There is no ransom or payment that can be paid to take away that rage.

40. Read Proverbs 6:16-35 and write how the man would feel even though the guilty man would give him many gifts.

41. Explain why God says that there is no ransom or payment that can be paid to take away the rage of a man that learns his wife has committed adultery.

42. Explain why you think that a person that steals to keep from starving will still be forced to make restitution.

Now, reread Proverbs 4:1-6:35 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

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Lesson 3

Proverbs 7:1-9:18

As we have studied the first few chapters of the book of Proverbs, we have seen several warnings about the results of becoming involved with an immoral woman. Today, we will receive some additional warnings about the dangers of listening and following an immoral woman. We are given a little picture of the way that such women deceive their victims and lead them astray. We also see the way that men follow the seduction of an immoral woman. Then, we will be given some additional instructions about wisdom and the source of wisdom. We will also see why the fear of the Lord is called the beginning of wisdom.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the immoral woman deceives those who have no understanding.
- Explain why we are encouraged to seek wisdom
- Explain why wisdom is more valuable than anything that we could possess.
- Explain the value of wisdom.

Solomon begins Proverbs 7 by encouraging his son to keep the commandments of the Lord as the apple of his eye. The apple (pupil) of the eye is the center of the eye and is therefore very precious. Our desire should also be to have the Word of God in the center of our thoughts and lives. Here, we see that we need to memorize the Word of God so that we will have it in our hearts so that the Word of God guides and leads us both in our thoughts and in our actions. If we are continually seeking the wisdom of the Lord, that wisdom will keep us from listening to the immoral woman that tries to get us to follow her immoral ways through her speech. Solomon said that he had seen a young man that had been deceived by just such a woman.

1. Read Proverbs 7:1-27 and write how this young man is described.
2. Explain why it is important for all of us as Christians to want to have the Word of God in the center of our thoughts and lives.
3. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to let the Word of God lead you in both your thoughts and your actions.

The description of this young man is actually a polite way of saying that he was a fool. Because of his lack of understanding, he went close to the house of the prostitute with the hope that he would meet her. This young man came at the time of darkness so that no one would recognize him. The Bible tells us that men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. The young man was opening himself to temptation and the prostitute was there to provide that temptation. Here, we see that both are guilty. The woman is described as loud and stubborn which means that she was rebellious against the law of God. She was out in the streets waiting to catch her victim.

4. Read Proverbs 7:1-27 and write what the woman did when she caught the young man.
5. Explain why you think the young man in this chapter chose to do what he was doing in the darkness.
6. Explain why you think that when you open your life to temptation that Satan will always bring temptation to you.

Here, we see a real description of the way that a prostitute seduces her victims. She prepares him to be seduced by her looks and by her actions. Then, she actually seduces him with her words. The woman said that she had peace offerings. Part of the peace offering belonged to the giver of the offering so this meant that she had plenty of food in her house. Then, the woman told the young man how she had been searching for him in an effort to make him feel

wanted and needed. She also described all of the other preparations that she had made for him. She invited him to come and enjoy her love that night.

7. Read Proverbs 7:1-27 and write where she said that her husband had gone.

8. Explain why the prostitute uses her looks, her actions and finally her words to seduce a man.

9. Explain why you think that it is actually the words that a prostitute uses that entice and seduce a man

Here, we see that the woman told the young man that he did not need to worry about getting caught. She said that no one would catch him because her husband was gone on a trip. She forgot that God sees all things. We also see that her words which were so deceptive were the things that actually caused him to yield. He immediately followed her not realizing that he was actually being led like an ox to the slaughter. He did not realize that judgment was coming until it was too late. The chapter closes with another warning not to listen to such a woman. We read that she had destroyed many strong men and would continue to destroy others as long as possible.

10. Read Proverbs 7:1-27 and write how the house of a prostitute or seductress is described.

11. Explain what this chapter teaches about the deceptions that a prostitute uses to attract men to her.

12. Explain why you think that God says that those who listen to a seductress are actually like an ox being led to the slaughter.

We go on to see the importance of depending on the wisdom of the Lord rather than the words of an immoral woman. The Lord invites all men to seek the wisdom of the Lord. There are no people that are excluded from this invitation to seek the wisdom of the Lord. Even the simple person and the fool that was described in the last chapter are invited to seek the wisdom of the Lord. The Lord promises to speak those things that are right and true. The Lord loves truth and that is all that the Lord speaks. False words are an abomination to the Lord.

13. Read Proverbs 8:1-21 and write what God says that all of the words in His mouth are like.

14. Explain why God gives an invitation even to the simple person and the fool to seek the wisdom of the Lord.

15. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to continually seek the wisdom of the Lord to guide you in your life.

Everything that the Lord speaks is right and true. The words of the Lord are plain and easy to understand to those who are trusting in the Lord. It is more important to receive this knowledge from the Lord than it is to receive silver, gold or even precious rubies. Even the most desirable things cannot be compared to the wisdom of the Lord. This is why it is so important to seek the wisdom of the Lord rather than depending on our own wisdom. When we fear and trust the Lord, we will hate all forms of evil. This includes evil attitudes, evil actions and evil speech.

16. Read Proverbs 8:1-21 and write what kind of counsel and wisdom the Lord has.

17. Explain why the wisdom of the Lord is described as having more value than silver, gold or even precious rubies.

18. Explain why you think that the words of the Lord are plain and easy to understand for those who trust in Him but difficult to understand for those who do not trust in Him.

The Lord is the One that has all wisdom and strength. He is the One that gives kings their power to rule. All those who seek the wisdom of the Lord early will find that wisdom and will also experience the love of the Lord. Those who seek the wisdom of the Lord will discover the true riches and not just the riches of this world. God will lead those who follow Him in the paths of righteousness and justice. The Lord gives counsel, wisdom and understanding to those who trust in Him. At the same time the Lord also provides other blessings to those who follow Him.

19. Read Proverbs 8:1-21 and write what the Lord says that His fruit is like.

20. Explain why it is important for us to seek the wisdom of the Lord.
21. Explain why you think that the Lord promises you that He will give you counsel, wisdom and understanding as you trust in Him.

The last part of this chapter gives us a picture of wisdom that also gives us a picture of Christ. Christ is the One that was in the beginning with God. He is the One that has existed from all eternity. He was in the beginning before the earth was ever created. In that time there were no bodies of water in existence. The mountains and the hills had not been created. In fact there was no such thing as the earth. At that time the earth had not even come into existence. This was the time when God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit planned the creation of the earth and the universe.

22. Read Proverbs 8:22-36 and write where Christ was when God prepared the heavens.
23. Explain why wisdom is used to give us a picture of Christ in this chapter.
24. Explain why you think that it is important for all people to understand that Christ is the One that has always existed.

Here, we see that the Father and the Son were together in the creation of the earth. The desires of the Father were actually fulfilled by Christ because John chapter one tells us that Christ was the actual creator. God divided the waters and placed some of the water in the clouds above us and other water on the earth. God also set the boundaries for the oceans so that the waters in the oceans do not pass those set boundaries. God the father and God the Son were together in every part of the creation. The things that the Son did were a delight to the Father and filled Him with joy.

25. Read Proverbs 8:22-36 and write who is promised blessing.
26. Explain why the Father was filled with joy as He saw the Son carry out His will in the creation of all things.
27. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the Father and the Son worked together in bringing everything that was created into existence.

Here, we see that those who follow the ways of the Lord will experience the blessings of the Lord. This is the reason why we need to listen to the instruction and wisdom of the Lord. We will be wise as we seek the wisdom of the Lord. God promises that He will bless those who hear His Word and then obey it. When we place our trust in Christ, we receive life and obtain favor from the Lord. Those who reject the Lord and continue to live in sin are actually hurting themselves. They are actually choosing death instead of choosing life.

28. Read Proverbs 8:22-36 and write what a person also finds when they find the Lord and invite Him into his or her life.
29. Explain how the wisdom of God also gives us a picture of Christ.
30. Explain why you think that the Lord promises to bless those who hear His Word and then obey the Word.

We go on to read several additional important instructions about wisdom. We have seen how those who follow the ways of a fool are headed toward destruction. In contrast, those who seek the wisdom of the Lord are actually building a house. This house is a spiritual house and its perfection is illustrated by the fact that it has seven pillars. Wisdom has furnished her table with meat and mixed wine. In that day mixed wine had water added to it so that it would not cause a person to become drunk. Those who seek the wisdom of the Lord are to be able to think clearly with their minds. Their thoughts will not be clouded by alcohol.

31. Read Proverbs 9:1-18 and write who is invited to turn in and seek wisdom.
32. Explain why the Lord says that we are building a spiritual house when we seek the wisdom of the Lord.
33. Explain why you think that the Lord said that this house that we build when we seek the Lord has seven pillars.

Here, we see that the Lord gives an invitation to those who have been following sin to turn from that sin and seek the wisdom of the Lord. God promises to give understanding to those that will seek His wisdom. God invites such people to turn from the ways of the foolish and turn to the way of life. All those who turn from the ways of the foolish to the way of life will be going in the way of understanding. We also see that we are wasting our words when we try to correct a person that is mocking the wisdom of the Lord. However, a wise person appreciates reproof. He will love the one who is concerned enough about him to correct him.

34. Read Proverbs 9:1-18 and write what happens when we give instruction to a wise man.
35. Explain why God says that we are wasting our words when we try to correct a person that is mocking the wisdom of the Lord.
36. Explain why you think that this passage tells us that a wise person will appreciate reproof.

A wise person is always looking for additional opportunities to learn. Such a person is glad to receive instruction so that his wisdom is increased. We also see that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. People cannot begin to receive true wisdom until they place their trust in the Lord. When people make Christ the Lord of their lives, they begin to understand the meaning of life. Those who seek the wisdom of the Lord will find that the length of their lives will be increased. They will also experience the blessings that come with wisdom.

37. Read Proverbs 9:1-18 and write how a foolish woman is described.
38. Explain what you learn about the source of wisdom from this chapter.
39. Explain why you think that it is impossible for a person to receive true wisdom until a person places his trust in the Lord.

Chapter nine concludes with another warning about the foolish woman. Although such a woman does a lot of talking in order to get others to join her in her sin, we see that she actually knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house looking for victims. As men pass by, she calls to them and invites them to come and join her. Only those men who are simple and lack understanding will listen to the words of such a woman. She says that sins that are committed in secret are enjoyable because no one knows about those sins. However, she is not telling the truth.

40. Read Proverbs 9:1-18 and write where her guests are.
41. Explain why it is the men that are simple and lack understanding that will listen to the words of a foolish woman.
42. Explain why you think that the foolish woman says that the sins that are committed in secret are enjoyable.

Now, reread Proverbs 7:1-9:18 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 4

Proverbs 10:1-12:28

For the next several lessons we will be studying the contrast between the wisdom and fear of the Lord and the danger of following the ways of sin. In many of the verses that we will be studying in this lesson, we will see that the first half of a verse is contrasted with the last half of that verse. Many times the first half of the verse will talk about the blessings that a person experiences when that person is trusting in the Lord. Then, the last half of the verse speaks about the fact that the wicked will not experience those blessings because they are not following the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the different results of righteousness and wickedness.
- Explain how the words of the righteous and the words of the wicked are different.
- Explain why the wicked will not go unpunished.
- Explain why the wicked will not be established.

As we begin the second section of the book of Proverbs, we see that Solomon is also the author of this section of Proverbs. We see that a wise son brings gladness to his father while a foolish son brings sadness to his mother. Those who get rich by doing evil do not profit from their evil but righteousness gives a person life. At the same time that the Lord provides for the needs of the righteous He also takes away the possessions of the wicked. Those who try to gain riches through deceit become poor while the Lord blesses the diligent. We also read that the wise son gathers his crops during the summer. At the same time the foolish son brings shame to his parents because he sleeps when he should be working.

1. Read Proverbs 10:1-17 and write what are on the head of the just.
2. Explain the responses that a wise son or a foolish son bring to the parents depending on whether the son is wise or foolish.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord says that those who gain riches through deceit will become poor.

The Lord brings blessing on the lives of those who are just. At the same time violence comes on those who are wicked. After a just person dies, he is remembered and respected. However, the names of the wicked are soon forgotten. The person that is wise is happy to receive instruction but the fool will quickly fall because he will not listen to the commandments of the Lord. Those who walk in the ways of the Lord will stand firmly but those who walk in evil ways cannot hide their evil. The evil man also causes sorrow to others by trying to deceive them with his eye. The words of a righteous man will bring life to others while the words of the wicked will only bring destruction to that person.

4. Read Proverbs 10:1-17 and write what hatred does.
5. Explain why the words of a righteous man will bring life to the people that hear him speak.
6. Explain why you think that a just person is remembered and respected after he dies.

Here, we see that hatred brings fights between people while love brings healing to those who have been separated. The person that is trusting in the Lord for understanding will speak with wisdom when he speaks. However, the fool will be punished because of the fact that he lacks understanding. The wise man learns when the fool speaks even though the fool has no understanding. The rich man thinks that he is strong because he is rich. At the same time he feels that the poor are weak. However, the Lord says that the labor of the righteous leads to life. Those who follow the instruction of the Lord will be in the way that leads to life.

7. Read Proverbs 10:1-17 and write the result of the labor of the righteous.
8. Explain what these verses teach about the importance of following the instruction of the Lord.
9. Explain why you think that the fool is quick to speak even though he has no understanding.

We go on to see that this chapter also talks about our speech. The Lord says that those who speak with lying lips and slander others are actually fools. They are destroying themselves in their efforts to destroy others. Those who slander others need to realize that they are committing sin as they speak their multitude of words. The wise man is the one that keeps his mouth closed instead of speaking words that would slander someone else. His tongue is like a piece of choice silver because it does not hurt anyone else. However, the heart of the wicked has very little value because it is devising evil words to speak about others. The righteous speak words that help many others instead of hurting others.

10. Read Proverbs 10:18-32 and write what the Lord does not add with His blessing.
11. Explain why the Lord says that those who speak lies and slander others are actually destroying themselves.
12. Explain why you think that these verses say that a wise man keeps his mouth closed so that he avoids slandering others.

The blessing of the Lord is pure and includes no sorrow. The fool thinks that it is fun to commit crimes. However, those crimes actually show that a person lacks wisdom. The person that is wicked will have the very thing that he fears happen to him. In contrast, the Lord will grant the desires of the righteous. The wicked come and are gone as quickly as a whirlwind but the righteous will stand because they are built on an everlasting foundation. Christ is the rock that provides that everlasting foundation to all those who place their trust in Him. We are reminded again that a sluggard is a worthless fellow. He is like vinegar to the teeth or smoke to the eyes.

13. Read Proverbs 10:18-32 and write what prolongs the days of a person.
14. Explain why the wicked come and are quickly gone like the whirlwind.
15. Explain why you think that the book of Proverbs says that the righteous will stand on an everlasting foundation.

The Lord will give long life to the righteous but will shorten the life of the wicked. The Lord will encourage the righteous by satisfying their desires. In contrast, the desires of the wicked will never be satisfied. The Lord will strengthen those who serve Him but will destroy those who are wicked. Those who trust in the Lord can look forward to eternal life. However, the wicked can only look forward to judgment. When a just person speaks, the words of that person show the wisdom of the Lord. Such a person speaks words that are acceptable and pleasing to the Lord.

16. Read Proverbs 10:18-32 and write what the mouth of the righteous brings forth.
17. Explain how we will speak to others if our hearts are right with the Lord.
18. Explain why you think that a just person will show that he or she is a person of wisdom when he speaks.

We go on to see that God hates those who try to cheat others by using a crooked scale. God makes it very clear that He does not want us to try and cheat others. We are also warned about the danger of pride. Pride will bring shame while humility will produce wisdom. Those who are upright will be guided by their integrity. Riches will not help a person in the day of judgment. The person that serves the Lord will be guided by righteousness. That will help him to make right decisions. The righteous person will be delivered but the evil person will be caught by his own sin. The desires of a wicked person will come to an end when he dies. At that time the only thing that will face him will be judgment.

19. Read Proverbs 11:1-31 and write what a hypocrite does with his mouth.

20. Explain why pride will bring shame to the person that is controlled by that pride.
21. Explain why you think that a person will be guided by righteousness when that person serves the Lord.

Here, we see that a hypocrite speaks evil of his neighbor in an effort to destroy his neighbor. A city is happy when things go well for the righteous but the people shout when the wicked die. Those who are upright in a city cause that city to be blessed. A man of understanding does not condemn his neighbor. A person that is faithful does not gossip. People will discover that it is wise to listen to many counselors. When a person cosigns on a loan with someone, that person will one day be sorry. A gracious woman is respected and a merciful man will be blessed by the things that he does.

22. Read Proverbs 11:1-31 and write who the cruel man actually hurts.
23. Explain why a wise person will listen to many counselors.
24. Explain why you think that it is important to avoid condemning others if you want to be a person of understanding.

The cruel man is trying to hurt others. However, he is actually troubling his own flesh because he will one day reap the consequences of his actions. There is a reward for the righteous but the wicked man will be deceived by his own sin. Those who have their hearts filled with sin are an abomination to the Lord. However, those who follow the ways of the Lord are a delight to Him. A beautiful woman that does not have good moral standards is compared to a gold ring in the nose of a pig. Such a woman has no value. The man that is righteous always desires that which is good. In contrast, the future of the wicked is judgment.

25. Read Proverbs 11:1-31 and write what happens when a man scatters.
26. Explain why the cruel man is foolish because he does not realize that he will reap the consequences of his actions.
27. Explain why you think that the Lord takes delight in those who follow the ways of the Lord in their lives.

Here, we see that a man that scatters is a person that is generous to others. We have several verses that tell us that the generous man will be blessed by the Lord. In contrast, the person that refuses to share with others will have nothing. The person that gives to others will receive from the Lord. The person that helps the needy is like water in a dry desert. That person will also be watered by others when he is in need. Those who refuse to help the needy will be cursed. The person that is depending on his own riches will certainly fall. We also see that the Lord will bless the righteous by giving them fruit. The fruit of a Christian is other Christians. Just as the righteous will be blessed, the wicked will be judged.

28. Read Proverbs 11:1-31 and write what this chapter says is the fruit of the righteous.
29. Explain why the Lord will help and bless those who help others.
30. Explain why you think that the Lord promises several different times that the generous person will be blessed by the Lord.

A person that is eager to receive instruction from others will grow in knowledge. However, the person that refuses to receive correction is stupid. The Lord will bless the good man and condemn the wicked man. A man will never develop a family that will endure if he is wicked. A woman that has high morals is a crown to her husband but a woman of low morals brings rottenness to the bones of her husband. A person that is righteous thinks about the things that are right and good. The wicked person looks for opportunities to do evil but God says that such a person will be destroyed.

31. Read Proverbs 12:1-28 and write how a man will be commended.
32. Explain why it is important to be eager to receive instruction from others.
33. Explain why you think that the family of a wicked man will not develop and endure for many generations.

A wise person will be respected by the people around him but the evil person will be despised. A man that honors himself but lacks food is in a sad condition. A righteous man shows concern for the animals that help him in his work. The man that works will have food to satisfy his needs. The lazy man has no understanding. Those who are wicked set traps for others and speak evil words about others. However, they will be caught by their own traps. At the same time the righteous will produce fruit. The words that the righteous person speaks are like good fruit. The things that he does with his hands will produce a reward.

34. Read Proverbs 12:1-28 and write what the ways of a fool are like to that fool.

35. Explain why the wicked that set traps for others and speaks evil about others will be caught by their own traps.

36. Explain why you think that a wise person will be respected by the people around that know that wise person.

A person that is a fool thinks that the way that he is going is the right way. Here, we see that the fool actually deceives himself. However, the truth about such a person will one day be known. The person that speaks truth spreads righteousness. The words of the wise bring healing to others. When a man speaks the truth, his words will last forever. The Lord is filled with delight as He hears the words of those who speak the truth. In contrast, a false witness is one that tries to deceive others. Such a person imagines evil in his heart and then speaks words to deceive others. However, the lying tongue will only last for a moment.

37. Read Proverbs 12:1-28 and write what the Lord says that lying lips are to Him.

38. Explain what this chapter teaches about the way that we should speak if we want to bring honor to the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that the Lord is filled with delight as He hears the words of those who speak truth.

When a fool speaks, the words that he speaks are foolishness. Such words are worthless and have no value. The man that is diligent in his life becomes a leader. However, the man that is worthless finds that he is put to forced labor for his evil. When a person has a heavy heart, he is weak but a good word will be a real encouragement to him. The man that is righteous does what is right but the way of the wicked man leads him to greater evil. The diligent man takes care of his food while the slothful man allows his food to go to waste.

40. Read Proverbs 12:1-28 and write what a man finds in the way of righteousness.

41. Explain why a good word will be a real encouragement to a man that has a heavy heart.

42. Explain why you think that a person that is diligent in his own life eventually becomes a leader of others.

Reread Proverbs 10:1-12:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 5

Proverbs 13:1-16:33

Today, we will continue our study of the instructions of Solomon to his son. As we begin our study, we read that a wise son hears the instruction of his father. As Christians, we are the children of God. We also show that we are wise children by hearing the instruction of our heavenly Father. Although Solomon originally gave this instruction to his own son, God caused this instruction to be written down so that it would instruct us. Although Solomon was the writer, the instructions in this book are the instructions of God for us so that we can live that way that the Lord wants us to live.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how a father shows love to a son.
- Explain why the ways of men lead to death.
- Tell about the contrast that we have between love and anger.
- Explain how to have peace with those who are enemies.

If we are wise, we will listen to the rebuke of our father when we have done wrong. If a man speaks words that are true and honest, he will enjoy a good life. There are also times in our lives when we need to remain silent. The person that talks too much may face destruction. The soul of the immoral man is empty but God satisfies the souls of those who trust in Him. A man that is right with God hates lying. His righteousness causes him to be upright. A man that makes himself rich by his own efforts one day discovers that his life has no meaning. In contrast, the Lord blesses the man that is not concerned about his own riches.

1. Read Proverbs 13:1-25 and write what will happen to the lamp of the wicked.
2. Explain why the person that spends his entire life seeking riches will one day find that his life has no meaning.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for a young man to listen to the rebuke of his father.

Here, we see that the person that is wicked will have his life come to an end because God blesses the lives of those who trust in Him but He judges the wicked. Pride brings contention and division but those who seek the Lord find wisdom. The man who gains possessions by evil methods will find that he never has enough. When our desires are satisfied, it brings encouragement to our lives. A person that rejects the Word of God will be destroyed. However, a person that trusts the Lord and obeys the Word of God will have a foundation that is like a fountain of life. When a man has a good understanding that comes from the Word of God, he is blessed by the Lord. The wise man acts according to knowledge but a fool shows no wisdom. A faithful messenger brings life and health.

4. Read Proverbs 13:1-25 and write what will come to the person that refuses instruction.
5. Explain why pride will bring contention and division between a person and those around that person.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord says that those who obey the Word of God will have a foundation that is like a fountain of life.

When we complete a task that we set out to do, the fact that we completed that task encourages us. When our friends are wise men, we will also gain more wisdom as we listen to them. Sinners always have evil things happen to them but good comes to the people that are righteous. The possessions of a good man go to his children and grandchildren but the possessions of an evil man are distributed to others. The man that destroys others shows a lack of justice. We

also read that the father who loves his son disciplines him early before he becomes a rebellious son. When a father fails to discipline a son when he does wrong, the father is showing hate to that son.

7. Read Proverbs 13:1-25 and write what a good man leaves to his family when he dies.
8. Explain why a father is showing love when he disciplines his son.
9. Explain why you think that if our friends are wise men that we will gain more wisdom as we listen to them.

The wise woman strengthens her house by her good morals. The person that walks in the right ways does so because he has his trust in the Lord. The fool shows that he is a fool by the proud words that he speaks. A man that has no oxen has a clean barn but he also has no animals to do his work. A man that is faithful will not speak lies when he is called to be a witness. A man that rejects God will not find wisdom even though he looks for it. It is useless to listen to a foolish man because he will not teach you anything. The wise man understands his way but the fool deceives himself.

10. Read Proverbs 14:1-35 and write what will happen to the house of the wicked.
11. Explain why a foolish man will not be able to teach you anything.
12. Explain why you think that a woman will strengthen her house if she is a woman of good morals.

The house of the righteous will stand but the house of the wicked will be destroyed. Even though a wicked man thinks that his ways are right, one day he will discover that he has been following the ways of death. Even the laughter of such a person will be turned to sorrow. The man that turns away from the Lord tries to find satisfaction by following his own ways. However, he will never find that satisfaction. A person that has no understanding believes everything that he hears but the wise son listens for the truth. A wise man also recognizes evil and departs from it. A man that gets angry quickly does not make wise decisions. The simple and the wicked are not blessed because they are not following the Lord.

13. Read Proverbs 14:1-35 and write who hates the poor in this world.
14. Explain why the person that turns away from the Lord will never find satisfaction by following his own ways.
15. Explain why you think that a person that gets angry quickly will not make wise decisions.

The rich man has many friends because they want to help him spend his money. However, if a man despises a poor neighbor, he is actually committing sin. Those who do what is good and right receive mercy and truth. Work pays off but words by themselves do not pay off. The wise man has something to show for his work but the fool has nothing. A true witness helps the innocent but the evil man speaks lies. The man that fears the Lord has confidence and always has a place of refuge. He has also been given life by the Lord.

16. Read Proverbs 14:1-35 and write what is the king's honor.
17. Explain why a person is committing sin when that person despises a poor neighbor.
18. Explain why you think that a wise person will have something to show for his work when he is done.

The king that has a large nation with many people in that nation is a king that is honored. The man that does not get angry quickly is the man that learns much. A person that has a heart that contains no envy has a strong life. The person that takes advantage of the poor is actually working against God. The wicked man has no hope in the day of judgment but the righteous has hope in the Lord. The man that has understanding also has wisdom but the fool lacks both. A nation that follows the Lord will be blessed by the Lord but sin causes that nation to suffer. The king shows favor to a wise servant and anger to a foolish servant.

19. Read Proverbs 14:1-35 and write how a person is actually treating God when he oppresses the poor.

20. Explain why a person will learn much if that person does not get angry quickly.
21. Explain what proverb in this chapter you find most helpful for you in your own life since this chapter has many different proverbs.

God goes on to tell us that when we speak softly and in love to a person that is angry that we will turn away his anger. The tongue of a righteous man speaks properly and his tongue is compared to a tree of life. We also see that the Lord sees all that we do whether the things that we do are good or bad. A wise son receives the correction of his father. We are reminded again that the Lord blesses the righteous man. The wise man will teach others but the fool has nothing to teach. The Lord hates the sacrifices of the wicked because those sacrifices mean nothing. However, the Lord loves the prayer of the righteous because he walks in the ways of righteousness. The man that scoffs hates the correction of the Lord and so he will face judgment instead.

22. Read Proverbs 15:1-33 and write what a merry heart makes.
23. Explain why it is important to realize that when we speak softly and in love that we will turn away the anger of an angry person.
24. Explain why you think that the Lord hates the sacrifices of the wicked and says that such sacrifices mean nothing.

Here, we see that our looks will be different when we are happy on the inside. We also are reminded that when a person has sorrow of heart that the spirit of that person is broken. The person that has understanding learns more. Every day is good for the person that trusts in the Lord. It is better to trust in the Lord and show love than to be rich. An angry man creates problems. A man that does not trust in the Lord is like a hedge of thorns. Again we see that a wise son brings happiness to his parents. When a man has no wisdom, evil brings that man enjoyment. When we listen to the advice of many wise counselors, we will fulfill our purpose and goal. A man brings joy when he speaks a good word at the right time. Those who are wise will receive life instead of death.

25. Read Proverbs 15:1-33 and write what the Lord will do to the proud.
26. Explain why it is important to understand that a person that has sorrow of heart also has a spirit that is broken.
27. Explain why you think that you will be able to fulfill your purpose and goal in life if you learn to listen to the advice of many wise counselors.

The Lord hates the thoughts of the proud and of the wicked and he will judge them. A greedy man brings suffering to his own family. The man that is righteous thinks about his answer before he gives it so that it will be a wise answer. The Lord hears the prayer of such a man. When one sees happiness in the eyes of others, it causes joy and rejoicing. The person that receives correction becomes wise but the one that rejects instruction is actually showing that he hates himself. The fear of the Lord is the source of wisdom and humility and must come before honor.

28. Read Proverbs 15:1-33 and write what the person that is greedy for gain does to his own house.
29. Explain the difference between the wise person and the foolish person
30. Explain why it is important to think about how to answer before you answer a person if you want to give a wise answer.

Suddenly, we turn from Proverbs where the first part of the verse is contrasted with the second part of the verse to Proverbs where the second part reinforces the first part. We see that we need to prepare our hearts for an answer to the Lord. We think that the things that we do are right but the Lord will show us what is truly right. This is the reason why we need to commit what we do to the Lord so that He will guide our thoughts. The Lord has made all things including evil men even though evil men reject Him. Those who are proud will certainly be

judged by the Lord. When people fear the Lord, they avoid evil. As we please the Lord, He will cause our enemies to make peace with us.

31. Read Proverbs 16:1-33 and write how a man plans his way.

32. Explain why it is important to ask the Lord to show us what is truly right since we can be deceived by our own thoughts at times.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord will cause our enemies to be at peace with us when our ways please the Lord.

A man makes his own plans but the Lord is the One that actually guides and directs what he does. A king or other leader has a great responsibility to make right decisions. The Lord hates those kings that do evil. The Lord wants men to use weights and balances that are just. Men and kings love those who speak the truth in love. The kings of that day had great power. If they became angry, they could put a man to death. As a result, a wise man will enjoy life because he will pacify the anger of a king. We also see that wisdom is much more valuable than gold and understanding is much more precious than silver. The man that is upright does not follow the ways of evil.

34. Read Proverbs 16:1-33 and write to what pride leads.

35. Explain why it is important for a king or any other leader to learn to make wise decisions in his leadership.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord says that wisdom is more valuable than gold and understanding more valuable than silver.

A proud man does not realize that his attitude is leading him straight to destruction. This is why it is better to have a humble spirit. Even though a man may be very poor, the one that trusts in the Lord will have the wisdom needed to handle a matter wisely. The wise man will increase in his understanding. This understanding is like a well of life giving water to the man that has it. A wise man thinks about the things that he is going to say before he speaks so that he will speak with wisdom. Proper speech blesses us in two ways. Such speech is a blessing to the soul and provides strength for the body.

37. Read Proverbs 16:1-33 and write what God says that a man that is slow to anger is like.

38. Explain what the verses in the chapter teach us about our speech.

39. Explain why you think that a person that seeks the wisdom of the Lord will continue to increase his understanding.

We saw that proper speech brings blessing. In contrast, those who are without the Lord think that their ways are right and they do not even realize that their ways are actually leading them to death. Such a person is only working to satisfy his own desires. An ungodly man looks for opportunities to speak evil about others. He enjoys gossiping even though it causes division between close friends. An evil man seeks to lead his neighbor in his evil ways. He spends his time thinking of evil and then works to cause that evil to happen. A grey head is a crown of glory if that person is serving the Lord. A man that has his spirit under the control of the Holy Spirit has more power than a great soldier.

40. Read Proverbs 16:1-33 and write who controls the lot when it is cast.

41. Explain why a person that has his spirit under the control of the Holy Spirit has more power than a great soldier.

42. Explain why you think that people that are without the Lord think that their ways are right and do not even realize that their ways are leading them to death.

Reread Proverbs 13:1-16:33 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 6

Proverbs 17:1-20:30

Today, we will continue our study of proverbs that contain parallel thoughts. Parallel thoughts mean that the proverbs that we read in the first part of the verse will usually have the same thought emphasized in the second part of the verse. Occasionally the same thought will be emphasized in several consecutive verses. However, in many verses in the chapters that we will be studying in this lesson, we will see that each verse contains a different proverb. As a result, we will see that the chapters that we will be covering in this lesson will cover many different topics.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the Lord contrasts the difference between evil men and good men.
- Explain what you learn about the speech of an evil man.
- Explain why the Lord will bless those who help others.
- Explain how a child gains his reputation for either good or evil.

We begin by seeing that it is better to have a dry piece of bread when there is peace in the home than to have much food in the home and also have conflict. A wise servant will become a greater leader than the evil son of his master. Just as a refining pot is used to test silver and gold, the Lord tests the hearts of men. A person that is evil will listen to another person that speaks lies. When a person makes fun of a poor person, he is actually making fun of God because God is the Maker of all people including the poor. The man that loves evil will not go unjudged. Grandchildren fill the hearts of old men with joy. A fool cannot cover his lack of wisdom even though he may be able to give an excellent speech.

1. Read Proverbs 17:1-28 and write what a man does who seeks to show love.
2. Explain why it is important to understand that a wise servant will become a greater leader than the evil son of his master.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord says that he tests the hearts of men.

Here, we see that the person who keeps his mouth shut about the problems of others is showing love to that person. In contrast, the person that gossips will divide friends. A man that uses bribes will get what he wants. A person that is wise will learn more from a few words of correction than a fool will learn from a severe beating. An evil man looks for opportunities to cause conflict. Such a person will certainly be judged. It is actually better to meet a bear that has had her cubs stolen than to meet a fool when he is doing evil. When a person does evil to someone that has done good to him, the evil person will find that his own evil comes back to him. A disagreement is like water. It is better to settle the disagreement quickly before it becomes like a flood.

4. Read Proverbs 17:1-28 and write what two groups of people are an abomination to the Lord.
5. Explain why God says that the evil person will find that when he does evil to a good person that his evil will come back to him.
6. Explain why you think that it is important for you to learn to keep quiet about the problems of others instead of gossiping about them.

The Lord hates those who try to say that evil men are doing what is right. He also hates those who try to condemn an innocent person. A fool is wasting his money when he tries to get wisdom without placing his trust in the Lord. A true friend is a person that loves at all times and a true brother is a person that helps others in their time of trouble. A man that cosigns for the loan of another person is a man that lacks understanding. The person that loves conflicts

actually loves evil. A person that has an evil heart will never be able to find anything that is good. The one who speaks evil will get himself into trouble. A father that has a son who becomes a fool is filled with sorrow and nothing can bring him joy in that sorrow.

7. Read Proverbs 17:1-28 and write what a merry heart does.

8. Explain why a true friend and a true brother will love at all times and help others in their time of trouble.

9. Explain why you think that a person with an evil heart will never be able to find anything that is good.

Here, we see that inner happiness will do more to cure sickness than medicine. In contrast, we see that a broken or smitten spirit will cause poor health. An evil man uses bribes to carry out evil. A man that has wisdom is also a man that has understanding. However, a foolish son brings grief and bitterness to his parents. We are also reminded that it is not wise to punish those who are doing what is right. A person that has knowledge and understanding does not have to speak very much to help others understand his message. People will not realize that a person is a fool if that person will keep his mouth shut. In fact a person that listens instead of talking is recognized as a person of understanding.

10. Read Proverbs 17:1-28 and write what a foolish son is to his parents.

11. Explain why a person with knowledge and understanding does not have to speak very much to help others understand his message.

12. Explain why you think that this chapter says that a merry heart is more effective than medicine.

We go on to read that a man that has separated himself from God will be unsuccessful in his search for wisdom. A person that is a fool has no desire to act the way that God wants a person to act. The wicked man speaks words that bring contempt rather than words that honor the Lord. The words of a good man are like a deep well or a flowing stream because those words are like life-giving water. It is never a good idea to listen to the counsel of wicked men instead of those who are righteous. The words of a fool can only bring division. One day, those words will also bring about the destruction of that fool. A person that spreads gossip causes wounds that go clear down into the heart or the inner man.

13. Read Proverbs 18:1-24 and write to whom the slothful man is related.

14. Explain why the words of a fool will always bring division between people and will one day destroy the fool himself.

15. Explain why you think that the words of a good man are words that are like life-giving water.

We see that the slothful person is similar to the person that is a great waster. We see that our trust in the Lord is our source of strength and security. We will be safe when we have our trust in the Lord. In contrast, the rich man is depending on his riches for security. He has deceived himself by the high wall of his own conceit. A man is proud until destruction comes upon him because he has his trust in the wrong things. A fool is one that tries to give an answer before he has heard the problem. Such a person brings shame on himself. A person that has a strong spirit will have the necessary strength to deal with any problem. The wise and prudent man will be looking for more opportunities to learn. A person that gives gifts will have many friends.

16. Read Proverbs 18:1-24 and write who seems just.

17. Explain why a rich man often deceives himself by the high wall that is created by his own conceit.

18. Explain why you think that a person that has a strong spirit will have the strength to deal with any problem.

Here, we see that the person that speaks first always seems to be right until others come that tell the whole story. The casting of a lot brings an end to many arguments. When a person offends

someone else, he finds that it is very difficult to win back the friendship of that person. The words of a man are very powerful. Those words can bring life or death to another person. A man that finds a good wife has obtained favor from the Lord. A poor person shows respect when he speaks but the rich man uses strong words when he speaks to others. In order to have friends, a person must choose to be friendly. Then, that person will also realize that Christ is the friend that sticks closer than a brother.

19. Read Proverbs 18:1-24 and write what kind of power is in the tongue.

20. Explain what the verses in this chapter teach about the way that we should speak to others.

21. Explain why you think that it is usually difficult for a person that offends someone else to win back the friendship of that person.

We go on to read that a poor man that is honest is in a better situation than a fool that speaks evil words. A person that is always in a hurry will get himself in trouble. When a person is foolish, it causes that person to reject the ways of the Lord. A person that gives false testimony will be punished. A rich person collects many friends because they all hope to get gifts from the rich man. However, when that man becomes poor, these false friends quickly forsake him because he has nothing to give them. A person that seeks the wisdom of the Lord is a person that loves himself. We read that it is not fitting for a fool to have riches or for a servant to rule over princes.

22. Read Proverbs 19:1-29 and write what defers the anger of a man.

23. Explain why a person that is always in a hurry will get himself into trouble.

24. Explain why you think that a rich man finds that most of his friends forsake him when he becomes poor.

Here, we see that the wisdom that comes from the Lord takes away the anger of a man. When a king is angry, he is like a roaring lion that is looking for something to destroy. An angry woman is like drops of water falling off the roof of a building. However, a wise woman is from the Lord. A slothful and a lazy man will become hungry. The person that obeys the commandments of the Lord is actually helping himself. The man that shows pity and helps the poor is actually lending to the Lord. The Lord will reward such a person. A father needs to discipline his son while the son is young in order to guide that son in the right way. An angry man will receive punishment. When we listen to the counsel and instruction of the Lord, we will become wise.

25. Read Proverbs 19:1-29 and write what kind of counsel will stand.

26. Explain why an angry person is going to face many problems in his or her life.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord says that the person that obeys the commandments of the Lord is actually helping himself.

The words of a man will not stand but the counsel of the Lord is always able to stand and endure. A person that desires to help others will be blessed. The man that fears the Lord will be blessed with life. The simple man will learn when he sees that the evil man is punished. A son that shows a lack of respect for his parents causes those parents to experience shame. This passage also gives a warning to sons not to turn away from instruction when it has been given to them. We also see that the ungodly person makes fun of justice.

28. Read Proverbs 19:1-29 and write how the fear of the Lord will affect the life of any person.

29. Explain why the wicked will be judged.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord says that the person that desires to help others will be blessed.

The book of Proverbs warns us that wine and strong drink actually make fun of a person because they cause that person to be deceived. When a man makes a king angry, that man is sinning against himself. An honorable man will withdraw when there is conflict but a fool will continue to meddle. The lazy man will have no food in the time of harvest because he failed to

plow his ground during the time of plowing. A person of understanding will encourage another person to share his inner thoughts. Most men will speak of their own goodness but very few will be found faithful. A just man walks in the ways of the Lord and his children will be blessed.

31. Read Proverbs 20:1-30 and write how a king scatters evil.

32. Explain why a person that is a person of understanding will encourage another person to share his inner thoughts.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord says that there are few men that will be found faithful.

Here, we see that just the look of a king will cause evil men to change their plans. We also see that no man is able to say that he is pure and has no sin in his life. God hates it when men try to use false weights and false balances. A child becomes known by the things that he does whether the things that he does are good or evil. The Lord is the One that causes our ears to hear and our eyes to see. A man that loves to spend his time sleeping will soon discover that he has nothing to eat. A man will say that the thing that he is buying is worth nothing when he buys it but later he will boast about his bargain. A man that speaks words of knowledge and wisdom speaks words that are like precious jewels.

34. Read Proverbs 20:1-30 and write what kind of bread is sweet to a man.

35. Explain why the actions of a child will cause that child to gain a reputation of either being a good child or an evil child.

36. Explain why you think that God says that the person that speaks words of knowledge and wisdom speaks words that are like precious jewels.

A person that speaks false words thinks that he has gained what he wants but afterward he realizes that he did not get what he desired. A good purpose comes from the advice of many wise counselors. A gossip is a person that reveals secrets. As a result, we are warned to avoid those who flatter us with their lips. A man that curses his parents will have his life come to a quick end. A man that gains riches quickly by evil actions will not be blessed in the end. When a person does evil to us, we are warned not to try to get even. Instead, we are to leave the judgment of that person to the Lord.

37. Read Proverbs 20:1-30 and write what is the glory of a young man.

38. Explain why we will develop a good purpose if we listen to many wise counselors.

39. Explain why you think that we are told to leave judgment to the Lord instead of trying to get even with others.

The Lord is the one that is in control of the life of a person. This is the reason why a person does not understand his own ways. A man that takes something that is holy will find that he has made a trap for himself. A wise king brings judgment on the wicked so that they cannot continue to practice evil. The Lord uses our spirit to search our inner life and show us when we do wrong. The person that practices mercy and truth is a person that will be preserved. Young men boast about their strength but old men are honored by their grey hair.

40. Read Proverbs 20:1-30 and write why bruises on our bodies become blue.

41. Explain why the Lord uses the human spirit to search our inner life and show us when we do wrong.

42. Explain why a wise leader will bring judgment on those who practice evil so that they cannot continue to practice evil.

Reread Proverbs 17:1-20:30 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 7

Proverbs 21:1-24:34

Today, we will be studying some additional proverbs that show the contrast between righteousness and evil. One of the things that we will learn is how to help our children learn to walk in the ways of righteousness. We read that if we train up a child in the way that he should go that he will not depart from that way. We need to realize that there is a great difference between teaching and training. We may be able to teach someone by what we say. However, training comes from our example. If our lives are an example of righteousness to our children, our children will follow our example.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why a man will be rewarded according to his actions.
- Explain why it is important to train a child by our example.
- Tell what you learn about the way that we should eat.
- Explain why we are not to envy the evil man.

We begin our study today by reading that kings are under the control of the Lord regardless of how good or how evil those kings may be. We also see that every man thinks that his ways are right but the Lord is the One that shows what is in the heart. God desires righteousness and justice more than He desires sacrifice. Thoughts of pride are always sin. However, the thoughts of the righteous will bring blessing. A man that gets rich by doing evil is seeking death because judgment will certainly come. In contrast, the works of the pure are righteous. It is better to live in a tiny room than to live in a large house with an angry woman. The man that is evil looks for opportunities to do evil and he does not even spare his neighbor. When a man that is scoffing is punished, it causes those who are simple to think about their own ways.

1. Read Proverbs 21:1-31 and write what the wise man receives when he is instructed.
2. Explain why every person thinks that their own ways are right but the Lord reveals what is really in the heart.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord says that the thoughts of the righteous will bring a blessing.

The righteous man realizes that the wicked will one day be judged by the Lord. When a man refuses to help the poor, he can expect no one to help him when he is in need. A gift given to an angry person will often take away that anger. Those who are just and righteous enjoy doing the things that are right. A man that rejects the ways of the Lord will soon be dead. The man that loves to satisfy himself with pleasure and wine will not be blessed. Those who are evil will certainly receive judgment. It is better to be alone in the wilderness than to marry a woman that is always angry. The wise man will be blessed with treasure but the poor man has nothing. The man that follows righteousness is blessed by the Lord with life and honor.

4. Read Proverbs 21:1-31 and write what a man keeps himself from when he keeps quiet.
5. Explain why a person that refuses to help the poor can expect no help when he is in a time of need in his own life.
6. Explain why you think that a person that just lives to enjoy pleasure will not experience the blessing of the Lord.

We are reminded that when we speak evil of someone that it will trouble our soul. The proud man acts in anger. Since the slothful man will not work, he will die. Such a man tries only to get for himself instead of looking for opportunities to share with others. When a wicked man brings a sacrifice with a wicked mind, the Lord says that is very evil in His sight. The man that

is a false witness will be judged but the honest witness will be blessed. The wicked person refuses to listen to the instruction of the Lord. A man that lacks understanding and wisdom rejects the Lord. However, there is safety for those who place their trust in the Lord.

7. Read Proverbs 21:1-31 and write what God calls a sacrifice given by a wicked person.
8. Explain why a person will be rewarded according to the way that he or she acts.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord says that when a person speaks evil of another person that it will trouble the soul of the person that spoke evil.

As we continue our study into chapter 22, we see that good character is much more valuable than great riches. Since rich and poor are both created by the Lord, there is no difference between them. A prudent man avoids evil but the foolish become involved in evil and are punished as a result. The fear of the Lord is the only source of true blessing. The way of the wicked only leads to thorns and traps. Again we are reminded that a child will follow the way that he has been trained by the example of others. The man that sows evil will also reap evil. In contrast, the man that helps the poor will be blessed by the Lord. The scoffer is a source of conflict and disagreement.

10. Read Proverbs 22:1-29 and write who will be the friend of the king.
11. Explain why God says that good character is of much greater value than great riches.
12. Explain why you think that a foolish person becomes involved in evil and is punished as a result.

The Lord backs up the words of the honest man but overthrows the words of the evil man. A lazy and untrustworthy man will use many excuses even including the danger of lions to avoid work. The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit that will bring destruction to those who listen to her. Discipline will drive foolishness out of the heart of a child. The man that takes advantage of others to become rich will actually become poor. We should open our ears and listen to the wisdom of the Lord so that we will be able to speak words of wisdom to others. We will only receive true wisdom when we have our trust in the Lord.

13. Read Proverbs 22:1-29 and write why these proverbs were written.
14. Explain why we are told that it is important to discipline a child when that child needs discipline.
15. Explain why you think that it is important to listen to the wisdom of the Lord if we want to speak words of wisdom to others.

God wants us to know the certainty of the words of truth so that we can teach these words to others. Then, they can also know the truth. We are warned not to take advantage of the poor because the Lord will certainly judge us if we do so. We are also warned not to become the friend of an angry man. If we go with such a man, we will learn his ways and those ways will become a trap to us. We are again warned not to cosign on a loan or we may lose everything that we have. Then, we are warned not to move the property line of another person in order to increase the size of our own property. We are again reminded that a diligent man will be respected.

16. Read Proverbs 22:1-29 and write how the Lord will judge those who take advantage of the poor.
17. Explain what it means to train a child up a child in the way that the child should go.
18. Explain why you think that we are warned to avoid becoming the friend of an angry man and learning his ways.

When a person goes to visit a king, he is going to discuss an important matter with the king and not just to eat the food of the king. If a man is more concerned about eating than the purpose of his visit, that man may be deceived very easily. The same is true of the food of an evil man. He will encourage you to eat all of his food. However, he is not thinking about the food that you are eating. Instead, he is thinking of ways to do evil. As a result, the food that he is

offering will not satisfy. The evil man is this way because he is controlled by the thoughts of his heart. That is why he will say one thing when he is thinking of something very different.

19. Read Proverbs 23:1-35 and write why we are told not to speak in the ears of a fool.

20. Explain why an evil person will encourage you to eat his food while he is talking to you.

21. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the evil man is controlled by the thoughts of his heart.

The fool refuses to listen to instruction. That is the reason why he is a fool. We are also warned not to move the property line of the fatherless so that we can increase our own possessions. God promises that He will be the redeemer of the fatherless and plead their cause. Again we are encouraged to apply the wisdom of the Lord to our hearts. We are to discipline a child when that child does wrong. A spanking will not hurt the child. Instead, this discipline will cause the child to realize the importance of doing right instead of following the ways of evil. Solomon also tells us that a wise son encourages the heart of his father and it is a joy for the father to listen to his son. That is another reason why we need to fear the Lord at all times.

22. Read Proverbs 23:1-35 and write what will not be cut off if we fear the Lord.

23. Explain why effective discipline will cause children to realize the importance of doing the things that are right.

24. Explain why you think that God has a great concern for the fatherless and promises to plead their cause.

God says that He will give life to those who listen to Him and allow Him to guide them in their lives. We are warned not to spend our time fellowshiping with drunkards and worthless men. Such men will soon have nothing but rags. Instead, we need to listen to the advice of our parents even when they become old. As we see the truth that comes with wisdom and understanding, we will cause our parents to be glad and full of joy. At the same time we are warned to avoid the immoral woman. Such a woman is like a deep ditch and she leads those who follow her ways to destruction. She traps men and leads them into greater sin.

25. Read Proverbs 23:1-35 and write who gets red eyes.

26. Explain what this chapter teaches about the importance of listening to those who will guide us in ways that are right.

27. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to listen to the Lord and allow Him to guide your life.

In this passage we have a real picture of the man who spends much time drinking. Such a man brings sorrow on himself. He gets into fights and gets injuries for no reason. These things all happen when a man is spending his time drinking. The man that is drinking thinks that he is enjoying himself. However, the actual end of such a man is that in the end he is like a man that has been bitten by a poisonous snake. The drunkard reaches the point where he begins to see terrible things with his eyes. He reaches a point where his talk makes no sense. The pity of such a man is that he goes right back to his drink as soon as he becomes sober.

28. Read Proverbs 23:1-35 and write what a father will experience that has a wise child.

29. Explain what this chapter teaches you about the dangers of drink.

30. Explain why you think that a person that continues to drink will reach a point where his talk makes no sense.

We go on to read that we should not desire the things that an evil man has received through his evil. His heart plans destruction and the thoughts of his heart will in turn lead him to destruction. Wisdom and understanding are the things that will bring real blessing on our homes. Wisdom also develops strength of character. A fool does not even understand wisdom because wisdom is too high for him. Instead, he will be called a mischievous person because he spends his time planning evil. However, God warns us that such thoughts are sin. Those thoughts and the actions that they produce will cause a man to be hated.

31. Read Proverbs 24:1-34 and write what our strength is like if we faint in the day of adversity.
32. Explain why the thoughts and plans of an evil person will one day lead that person to destruction.
33. Explain why you think that God says wisdom will bring blessing to a home and develop strength of character.

Here, we are given an example of what happens when we depend on our own strength instead of depending on the strength of the Lord. We are also warned about our responsibility to those who are dying. The Lord will reward us according to the way that we have fulfilled our responsibility to warn those who are dying in their sin. Such people face eternal judgment if no one warns them. God warns the wicked man not to lie in wait for the righteous person to do evil to him. Even though the righteous man falls seven times, the Lord will lift him up. No one should be glad when he sees his enemy fall because such an attitude displeases the Lord.

34. Read Proverbs 24:1-34 and write what reward the evil man will receive.
35. Explain why the Lord will continue to lift up the righteous man even when he falls many times.
36. Explain why you think that the Lord says that we have a responsibility to warn those who are dying in their sin.

We do not need to get worried or upset when we see wicked men. Such people will not receive a reward from the Lord. Instead, such men will be judged. We are also told to respect and fear our rulers even though they are evil men. Their judgment will come on them suddenly from the Lord so we do not need to try and judge them. God also warns us not to show respect to certain persons and not others when we judge. The man that encourages evil men will be hated by others but those who rebuke evil men will experience blessing and favor.

37. Read Proverbs 24:1-34 and write what we are told to do before we build our house.
38. Explain why the Lord tells us to respect and fear our rulers even when those rulers are evil.
39. Explain why you think that the Lord warns us that when we judge we are not to respect or favor certain people but not others.

The Lord tells us that it is wise to plant our fields first before we start to build our house. In spiritual ministry, the same application can be made. We need to be more concerned about the spiritual needs of people than we are about building buildings. We are also reminded to show kindness to others instead of trying to get even with them for something that they might have done to us. The writer went by the vineyard of the slothful man that lacked understanding. He saw that the vineyard was filled with thorns and nettles and that the fence had been broken down. From what he saw, the writer received some important instruction about the danger of spending too much time sleeping.

40. Read Proverbs 24:1-34 and write what comes on a man who spends all his time sleeping.
41. Explain why we need to be more concerned about the spiritual needs of people than we are about building buildings.
42. Explain why you think that the writer said that he had received some important instruction just by observing the field of the slothful man.

Reread Proverbs 21:1-24:34 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 8

Proverbs 25:1-28:28

Today, we will be studying another group of proverbs that were written by Solomon. However, Solomon was not the person that had collected these proverbs and written them down as a part of this book. Instead, these proverbs were collected during the time that Hezekiah was the king and then added to the book. Here, we see another example of the various ways that the Lord worked to get written down and included in the Bible the exact things that the Lord wanted included in the Bible. In our lesson today we will be studying a series of warnings and instructions.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain how we should treat our enemies.

Explain what God says about our speech.

Explain why we are not to boast about tomorrow.

Explain what the Lord says about the final end of those who do evil.

The Lord shows His glory by doing things that are beyond our understanding. Kings show their honor by searching until they find an answer to even very difficult questions. It is impossible to know the heart of a king just as it is impossible to know the height of the heavens. Just as fire causes silver to become pure, when a king removes all of his wicked advisors he will be able to rule his nation in righteousness. We are warned not to try to sit in the most important seats in the presence of the king or other rulers. It is much better for that ruler to tell you to come and take a place of honor than to have to move in shame to a less important place because that place of honor had been reserved for a more important guest.

1. Read Proverbs 25:1-28 and write what we are not to go forth quickly to do.
2. Explain why a leader that removes wicked advisors will be able to rule his nation in righteousness.
3. Explain why you think that we are warned not to try and sit in the place of honor unless the person in charge invites us to take that place.

Some people are always ready to argue and disagree. However, the Lord warns that such attitudes are dangerous because it will be easy for a neighbor to put that person to shame. When you have a problem or disagreement with your neighbor, talk the problem over with him instead of telling others because gossip will bring shame. A good word that is spoken at the right time and in the proper manner is always very valuable. Just as it is very refreshing to visit the mountains for a day in the summer, a faithful messenger brings refreshment when he delivers his message to those who are waiting for that message. A man that is always boasting is like a cloud that produces no rain.

4. Read Proverbs 25:1-28 and write how a prince is persuaded.

5. Explain why a good word spoken at the right time and in the proper manner is always very valuable.

6. Explain why you think that a faithful messenger is a person that brings refreshment to those who are waiting for a message.

Here, we see that even a prince can be persuaded to change his mind if a person will take the time to explain the problem fully without getting angry. We are told to eat enough honey to satisfy our hunger but not enough to make us sick. Know when it is time to leave the house of your neighbor instead of staying too long. A man that tells lies about his neighbor is worse than a dangerous weapon. Trusting an unfaithful man in a time of trouble can produce very painful

results. The man that sings songs to a person that is discouraged is like a mixture of vinegar and soda. When those two things are mixed together they produce a violent reaction.

7. Read Proverbs 25:1-28 and write what we should do when our enemy is hungry.

8. Explain why it is important to take time to explain a problem fully without getting angry when talking to a prince or to anyone else.

9. Explain why you think that the Lord says that trusting an unfaithful person can produce very painful results.

If we show kindness to our enemy when he is hungry and thirsty, we will make it possible to speak to him about the Lord because his attitude will be changed toward us by our actions. We also know that the Lord will reward us. An angry look from another person should cause us to realize that it is better not to answer back to the person. Anger is so destructive that it is better to have a tiny room than to live in a large house with an angry woman. Good news brings encouragement just like cold water does on a hot day. A man that looks for ways to be great will not find true greatness. A man that has no control over his spirit is like a city that has been destroyed.

10. Read Proverbs 25:1-28 and write how we are told to treat our enemy.

11. Explain why an angry look on the face of a person should cause us to realize that it is better not to answer back to that person.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord tells us that the way that we are to treat our enemies is with kindness.

We go on to read about the person that is a fool or a rascal. A fool will bring destruction similar to that of snow in the summer or rain during the time of harvest. Such a person should not be honored. Instead, a fool needs the rod or correction. It is useless to argue with a fool or you may become like him. However, his false teachings should be corrected so that he will not become proud. A man that has a fool deliver a message for him is asking for trouble. Just as the legs of a lame person are useless, so is the message of a fool. Honoring a fool is as useless as stacking stones. The parable that a fool speaks is like a thorn in the hand of a drunkard.

13. Read Proverbs 26:1-28 and write who rewards the fool.

14. Explain why it is important to distinguish between correcting the false teaching of a fool and arguing with a fool.

15. Explain why you think that we are warned that a fool will bring destruction just as snow in the summer or rain during the time of harvest will bring destruction.

The only true reward to which a fool or a transgressor can look forward to is the judgment of the Lord. A fool returns to his evil just like a dog returns to its vomit. However, as bad as a fool is, there is more hope for a man that is a fool than for a man that is proud. Next we see some further instructions about the slothful man. He says that he cannot go out and work because there is a lion in the streets. The slothful man spends all of his time loafing in bed. As a result, he has nothing to feed himself. In his pride, the slothful man thinks that he is smarter than seven wise men. A man that gets involved in the conflict of another person is like a mad man that thinks he is having a good time.

16. Read Proverbs 26:1-28 and write what happens to a fire that has no wood.

17. Explain why the slothful man thinks that he is smarter than seven wise men.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord says that there is more hope for a fool than for a person that is proud.

The fire will go out when no wood is added to it. In the same way, when there is no one to gossip, a conflict will come to an end. A person that loves to argue will stir up conflicts. The words of a gossip can hurt another person in his inner spirit. A man with a wicked heart is like a useless piece of pottery that is covered with a beautiful covering. The man that has hate in his heart stirs up trouble with his words. Even when he speaks pleasant words, he should not be

believed because he is filled with evil. Even though he tries to cover his evil with deceitful words, his evil will be revealed. Such a man will be caught in the pit that he dug to trap another person. When a man speaks lies about another person, he shows that he hates that person.

19. Read Proverbs 26:1-28 and write what God says is in the heart of the person that is controlled by hatred.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the consequences of hatred.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord warns us that a person that lies about another person has hatred in his heart.

We are told not to boast about the things that we will do tomorrow because we have no control over tomorrow. Instead, we should let others speak about us instead of boasting about ourselves. The anger of a fool is heavier than a great stone. However, envy is even worse than anger. True love shows itself by correcting a friend when that friend has done wrong. He appreciates the correction even though the correction hurts. A person that is full does not enjoy a honeycomb. A man that wanders from his home is like a bird that has forgotten her nest. A man that is a friend encourages his friends by giving them wise counsel.

22. Read Proverbs 27:1-27 and write what kind of friends we should not forsake.

23. Explain why a wise man does not boast about the things that he has done.

24. Explain why you think that a wise man will encourage his friends by giving them wise counsel.

We should not reject our friends or those people that are friends of our family. A wise son makes the heart of his father glad. A wise man sees evil coming and avoids that evil. A man that conspires with a stranger will lose everything that he has. The person that uses a loud voice to bless his friend is trying to cover something that was sin and it will be a curse to him. The dripping from a roof on a rainy day is like an angry woman and the one that catches her has a handful of wind. Just as iron sharpens iron, a friend strengthens his friend. The person that takes care of his fig tree will enjoy the fruit of that tree. The servant that serves his master faithfully will be honored.

25. Read Proverbs 27:1-27 and write what a face does in water.

26. Explain why a wise man will recognize the something is evil and will choose to avoid the thing.

27. Explain why you think that the fact that a friend strengthens his friend is compared to iron sharpening iron.

Water reflects the face of a man when he looks into that water. In the same way, a man reflects the heart of his friends. True praise comes to a man that has been tested and stood firm in those tests. There is no way to drive foolishness out of a fool. A wise man will take good care of his flocks because he knows that his money will not last forever. He will take his flocks to the best pastures. In return, the goats will supply that man with clothing and food so that he can meet the needs of his family. Here, we see that a wise man plans for the future.

28. Read Proverbs 27:1-27 and write how the goats provide for the family of a wise man.

29. Explain why true praise will come to the person that has been tested and has stood firm in those tests.

30. Explain why you think that it is important for a person to plan for the future if that person wants to be a wise person.

A wicked man is very fearful and flees when no one is chasing him. When a nation is evil, it will have many rulers. However, a man of understanding will rule for a long time. A poor man that takes advantage of other poor people is worse than a destructive rain. Those who reject the commandments of the Lord give praise to other men that do evil. Those who seek the Lord receive understanding but evil men do not even understand justice. A poor man that is righteous is in a better situation than a rich man that is evil. The son that obeys the law of God

is a wise son but a son that rejects the law will bring shame to his father.

31. Read Proverbs 28:1-28 and write what the prayer of a person that rejects the law is like.

32. Explain why the wicked man is fearful even when there is no one chasing him.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord says that evil men do not even understand justice.

The Lord hates the prayer of a person that rejects His Word. God also says that the man that gets rich by evil will have those riches distributed to the person that cares for the poor. The man that causes the righteous to go astray will be trapped by his own evil plans. The rich man is deceived by his own pride so that he thinks that he is wise. The man that tries to cover his sins will not be blessed. In contrast, the man who confesses his sins and turns from them will enjoy mercy. The man that fears the Lord will be a happy man.

34. Read Proverbs 28:1-28 and write what a wicked ruler over a nation of poor people is like.

35. Explain why a rich man can be deceived by his own pride so that he thinks that he is wise.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord says that He will distribute the riches of the person that gets rich by doing evil to others.

A wicked ruler is no better than a wild animal. The prince that lacks understanding will become an evil ruler. A man that is guilty of murder is to be judged by death. The man that walks in the ways of the Lord will be saved but the evil man will be quickly judged. The man that works in his field will have plenty of food but the man that follows evil will have nothing. A faithful man will be blessed but the man that gets rich by evil will not be innocent. The man that accepts bribes is no good because he will do evil for a piece of bread.

37. Read Proverbs 28:1-28 and write what person is called that trusts in his own heart.

38. Explain why the person that works in his field will be blessed while the man that follows evil will have nothing.

39. Explain why you think that a person that accepts bribes will do evil just to get a piece of bread.

The man that gets rich by doing evil does not realize that poverty will soon come to him. A person that corrects another person when that person has done wrong shows more kindness than a person that speaks with flattering words. The man that steals from his parents will be a companion of evil men. A person that is proud stirs up conflicts but the person that trusts in the Lord will be blessed. The person that trusts his own wisdom is a fool. The man that helps the poor will never lack. In contrast the person that refuses to help the poor will be cursed by many.

40. Read Proverbs 28:1-28 and write what happens to the righteous when the wicked perish.

41. Explain why the Lord warns that the proud person will stir up conflicts.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord says that the person that helps the poor will never lack.

Reread Proverbs 25:1-28:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 9

Proverbs 29:1-31:31

Today, we will be completing our study of the book of Proverbs. In our study today, we will be studying a number of proverbs that were not written by Solomon. Some of these proverbs were written by Agur. The final chapter of the book was written by Lemuel. Lemuel talks about two very important subjects in the final chapter. The first part of the chapter talks about the reason why many people turn to strong drink. The last part of the chapter talks about the virtuous woman. This passage will help us to see a real example of what a woman that has her trust in the Lord will be like.

As you study this lesson you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell about the final instructions that were given by Solomon.
- Explain the various proverbs spoken by Agur.
- Explain what you learn about strong drink.
- Explain what you learn about the virtuous woman.

A man that rebels against correction many times will be destroyed suddenly. The people of a nation are happy when they have a righteous ruler but a wicked ruler fills the people with sorrow. The man that spends his time with prostitutes will soon have nothing. The king or other ruler that charges taxes that are more than the people can bear will soon destroy the land. A man that praises a neighbor to get what he wants actually traps himself. The man that is righteous is concerned about the needs of the poor. Scornful men stir up the people of an entire city. However, a wise man works to bring peace to that city instead. When a wise man argues with a foolish man, he will have no peace or rest.

1. Read Proverbs 29:1-287 and write who hates the upright.
2. Explain why a ruler that charges more taxes that the people can bear will soon destroy a country.
3. Explain why you think that an evil and wicked ruler will cause the people of that land to be filled with sorrow.

Those who are destroying others hate a person that is righteous. A fool speaks without thinking but a wise man knows when to keep his mouth shut. A leader that listens to lies will have evil servants. The Lord is the One that is able to bring peace to both the poor man and to the sinner. The Lord will bless the king that treats the poor people fairly. A child that is disciplined and corrected becomes wise but the uncorrected child brings shame to his parents. A son that is corrected brings peace and joy to his parents. The entire land becomes worse when children go undisciplined. A land where the Word of the Lord is not taught is a land where the people are perishing.

4. Read Proverbs 29:1-27 and write how much hope there is for a man that is hasty with his words.
5. Explain why the land where the Word of God is not taught is a land that is perishing.
6. Explain why a child that is disciplined and corrected will bring peace and joy to his parents.

A person that is quick to give an answer will soon discover that he is in serious trouble. A man that has a real concern for his servant will one day have a servant that is like a son to him. An angry man starts conflicts and does evil. A man will be brought down by his own pride. A person that joins with a thief actually hates himself. A person that places his trust in the Lord will experience peace and safety. Many people try to gain favor from a ruler but the Lord is the One that is the final judge. The man that is unjust is hated by the righteous. The righteous man

is hated by the unjust.

7. Read Proverbs 29:1-27 and write what will uphold the humble in spirit.

8. Explain why an angry person will start conflicts.

9. Explain why you think that a man that has a real concern for his servant will one day have a servant that is like a son.

As we study the proverbs that were written by Agur, we see that Agur contrasts his very limited wisdom with the tremendous knowledge and wisdom of God. The knowledge of man is very limited about the heavens, the oceans and the earth. There is no way that we can even compare our knowledge with the knowledge of God. The words of the Lord are pure and provide protection to those who place their trust in the Lord and in His words. For this reason we should not try to add our own words to the Word of God. Agur desired two things of the Lord. He asked God to give him just what he needed. We see that he was afraid that he might forget the Lord if he became rich. We should have the same attitude and ask the Lord to give us what He knows that we need.

10. Read Proverbs 30:1-33 and write what Agur thought might happen if he became poor.

11. Explain why Agur was afraid that He might forget to trust in the Lord if he became rich.

12. Explain why you think that we are told not to add our own words to the Word of God in what we say.

Agur realized the danger of both riches and poverty. As a result, he trusted the Lord to provide what he needed. We go on to read about a sinful generation. The sinful generation is any generation of people that curse their parents, those who think that they are pure and good, those who are proud and those who use their words to destroy the poor and the needy. God goes on to give us a list of four things that are never satisfied or have enough. These include death, the woman that can have no children, the earth when it lacks water and the fire when it lacks fuel to keep it burning. We also see that judgment will come on evil men.

13. Read Proverbs 30:1-33 and write what will happen to the eye of the person that mocks his father or refuses to obey his mother.

14. Explain what these verses teach you about any generation that is a sinful generation.

15. Explain why you think that we also need to realize the dangers of both riches and poverty and just trust the Lord to provide what is needed.

We also see that four things are very wonderful. These four include the way that an eagle flies, the way that a snake sits among the rocks, the way that a ship travels though the sea and the way that a man courts a young virgin. We see that the young virgin is just the opposite of the adulterous woman. The adulterous woman carries out her sinful deeds and then claims that she has done nothing wicked. In contrast, a young virgin is known for her purity. We read that there are also four things that upset the earth. These are all things where the proper order has been reversed. These include a servant when he rules, a fool when he is filled with food, a hateful woman when she is married and a maidservant when she succeeds her mistress. There are also four things that are very wise even though they are small.

16. Read Proverbs 30:1-33 and write when the ants prepare their food.

17. Explain why people will have great respect for a virgin that is known for her purity.

18. Explain why you think that an adulterous woman will carry out her sinful actions and then claim that she has done nothing wicked.

The ants show their wisdom by preparing their food in the summer. The rock badgers protect themselves by making their houses in the rocks. The locusts go out by bands even though they have no leader. The spider is able to enter into the house of the king. Three animals are used to give us a picture of a good king. A good king is one that is so respected that no one wants to rise up and rebel against him. The chapter concludes by warning us about three dangers. We should not boast about ourselves. We should not speak evil of others. We should not stir up

anger and strife.

19. Read Proverbs 30:1-33 and write the three animals that are used to picture what a good king is like.

20. Explain why no one even wants to rise up and rebel against a respected ruler or king.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord gives us a warning to avoid the three things that are mentioned above.

The first part of Proverbs 31 gives us a summary of things that will be destructive to any person. One of the ways that a person can destroy his life is through immoral living. For this reason the passage begins with a warning to men not to give their strength to an immoral woman. Like many verses in the book of Proverbs, this is a warning about those women who seek to get men involved in immorality. This is one of the things that will destroy the leadership of a leader. Such a leader will not only destroy his own life but he will also lead many others down the path to destruction because they will follow his immoral ways.

22. Read Proverbs 31:1-9 and write what groups of people are warned to avoid wine or strong drink.

23. Explain why the Lord warns us that immorality will destroy the leadership of any leader.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord says that an immoral leader will destroy more than just his own life.

Kings and princes are warned to avoid wine and strong drink for two reasons. Strong drink will cause a man to forget the commandments of the Lord. It will also cause him to cheat those who are suffering. As Christians, we are princes because we are the children of Christ, our eternal king. Immoral women and strong drink will both ruin our testimony and ministry for the Lord. As sons of the king, our lives should be examples for the Lord because many other people are watching our example. Our example will determine whether others will listen to our message when we talk about Christ. This is the reason why we are instructed to be different from those who do not know Christ or follow Him.

25. Read Proverbs 31:1-9 and write to whom these verses say that strong drink should be given.

26. Explain why the Lord warns that strong drink will cause a person to forget the commandments of the Lord.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord calls us to be godly examples so that people will listen when we talk about Christ.

Here, we see why most people turn to drink. Few people like the taste of strong drink. Instead, many people that turn to strong drink do so to dull their minds so that they can forget their misery and suffering. As a person drinks, he forgets his spiritual poverty and does not realize that he will soon be facing death. In contrast, those who are the sons of God are to keep their minds clear so that they will be effective as they do the work of the Lord. We are to open our mouths and speak the Word of God to warn those who are on their way to destruction. We are also reminded to speak for the cause of the poor and the needy.

28. Read Proverbs 31:1-9 and write and tell how we are told to judge.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the way that we should act as the children of the King of kings.

30. Explain why you think that the reason that most of the people that turn to strong drink are trying to forget their misery and suffering.

The Lord goes on to describe the ways that women that are daughters of the King of kings will live and act. A wife that is a virtuous woman is of much greater value than rich rubies. The word that is translated virtuous speaks of a person of moral strength. Such a woman is a joy to her husband because he knows that he can trust her. A virtuous wife will be a blessing to her husband because she will bring good rather than evil to him throughout his life. This makes it possible for them to be an effective team as they serve the Lord together. The virtuous woman

also prepares the clothing and food that her family needs even though it may mean getting up before the light of morning to prepare these things.

31. Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and write what such a woman buys.

32. Explain why a virtuous woman will be a joy and blessing to her husband

33. Explain why you think that a woman of strong moral character is very valuable in the sight of the Lord.

The wise wife and mother meets the needs of her family by preparing for those needs in advance. She prepares her garden long before she needs the food from that garden. She is given the needed strength to carry out her many responsibilities. Because the virtuous woman has prepared in advance, she knows that the things that she has prepared are good. She even works into the night when necessary in order to provide for the needs of her family. She is also wise in her purchases and even buys property where she can plant a vineyard. In the day that the book of Proverbs was written, the people could not buy their cloth. However, we see that the woman mentioned in this chapter provides us with an example because she met that need by preparing her own cloth.

34. Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and write who the virtuous woman helps.

35. Explain why a woman of strong moral character also prepares for the needs of her family in advance.

36. Explain why you think that God says that a virtuous woman is also a wise business woman.

Even though the virtuous woman is very busy caring for the needs of her family, she still makes time to help the poor and the needy. She is also prepared for every situation including the snow of winter. Such a woman also has a great influence on the ministry of her husband. Because of her faithful service and ministry in the home, her husband is able to become a leader. This means that she also recognizes him as the leader in their home. Strength and honor belong to the woman that we have just described. She will be filled with joy both now and in the future.

37. Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and write how the virtuous woman speaks when she opens her mouth.

38. Explain what these verses teach about the ministry to others of a wife that works as a team with her husband.

39. Explain why you think that a virtuous woman will also help her husband to become recognized as a leader.

The words of a virtuous woman are words of wisdom and kindness. Such a woman is so busy caring for the needs of her family and of the poor and needy that she does not have time to be idle. Because of the life that she lives, such a woman is respected by both her children and her husband. Her husband praises her. Here, we see an important lesson for every husband. We see that a good husband will recognize the faithfulness of his wife and compliment her for all of her efforts. The chapter closes by telling us how a woman can become known as a virtuous woman. The process for becoming a virtuous woman must begin with the fear of the Lord.

40. Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and write what will bring praise to such a woman at the gates of the city.

41. Explain why it is important for a husband to praise his wife and compliment her for her efforts.

42. Explain why you think that a virtuous woman will be respected by everyone that knows her.

Reread Proverbs 29:1-31:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 10

Ecclesiastes 1:1-4:16

Today, we will be starting our study of the book of Ecclesiastes. Like most of the book of Proverbs, this book was also written by Solomon. In this book Solomon gives us a real picture of the way that a man that is not trusting the Lord and following Him views his life in the world. The phrase that gives a summary after each section is that all is vanity. Vanity means that something is empty and has no permanent value. Through the book of Ecclesiastes Solomon discusses the various things in which people without the Lord place their trust. Then, he explains that each of these things only produce emptiness. He concludes the book by showing that trust in the Lord is the only thing that has lasting value.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

Explain why human wisdom cannot satisfy.

Explain why riches do not satisfy.

Explain why we can place our trust in the things that the Lord has done.

Explain why men experience a life of oppression.

Solomon begins this book by pointing out the fact that everything is emptiness apart from God. It seemed to Solomon that nothing was gained by the work of man. He worked for his entire life and then died. The next generation came along and did the same thing. Regardless of how people came and went, the earth continued on in the same way. Each day the sun came up and then went down in the evening. The wind also followed its prearranged plan. It seemed to Solomon that these things did not change in any way. The rivers also continued to run to the sea. However, that did not cause the sea to become full. Instead, the water returned to the place of its origin so that the water could start down the river again.

1. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 and write what Solomon said does not satisfy the eye.
2. Explain why this chapter shows that people will feel that life is empty and meaningless if they leave the Lord out of their lives.
3. Explain why you think that many people today feel that their lives have no meaning or purpose.

Man is not satisfied by what he sees. He is not satisfied by what he hears. Instead, we see that everything that a man does causes him to become tired and weary. The things that have happened are past and done. The things that will happen in the future cannot be changed. In fact there is nothing under the sun that is new. A person says that he has discovered something that is new. Other people then point to the fact that what that person had considered to be new has actually been around for a long time. Once a thing is done and past it is no longer remembered. The same things will be true of things that will happen in the future. They come but they are quickly forgotten once they have happened and are past.

4. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 and write what Solomon gave his heart to seek.

5. Explain why Solomon felt that there was nothing that was new under the sun but that everything has already been around for a long time.

6. Explain why you think that many people feel that the only thing that happens to them in their lives is that they become tired and weary.

Solomon decided to seek wisdom and see what he could learn for his life by seeking wisdom. However, he was seeking the wisdom of men instead of seeking the wisdom that comes from the Lord. In this search into the wisdom of man, Solomon was trying to understand the reason why men experienced great suffering. From this human viewpoint, it seemed that everything

under the sun was emptiness which could not satisfy. Through human wisdom it was impossible to straighten out these things that were crooked. Solomon had been given greater wisdom by the Lord than any previous person that had lived. However, even this wisdom did not satisfy when Solomon was depending on his own plans and efforts. Instead, the wisdom of the Lord was increasing the grief and sorrow of Solomon because it showed him his own failures more clearly.

7. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 and write what Solomon said that much knowledge increased in the life of a person.

8. Explain why human wisdom will not bring satisfaction to any person.

9. Explain why you think that it is impossible to straighten out the things that are crooked through human wisdom.

Since the search for wisdom did not bring satisfaction to Solomon, he decided to seek pleasure and see if pleasure would satisfy him. He looked for things that would make him laugh but those things did not last. Then, he tried wine but he found that wine could not bring him lasting satisfaction. Solomon also tried to gain pleasure through riches and possessions. He built houses and planted gardens. He built pools of water to water his gardens and trees. He also acquired great numbers of servants to take care of his possessions. He had more herds and flocks than any of the previous residents of Jerusalem.

10. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-26 and write what Solomon gathered to take away the emptiness in his life.

11. Explain why Solomon found that pleasure and the things that he could gain through riches did not bring him lasting satisfaction.

12. Explain why you think that many people today are trying to follow the same path and gain satisfaction through riches and possessions.

Solomon became a very rich man by gathering taxes from all of the nations that were under his control. He also gathered a large group of professional musicians to entertain him. He became the richest man that had ever lived in the city of Jerusalem. In fact Solomon was so rich that he got whatever he decided that he would like to have. For a moment he thought that all of the things that he was acquiring were bringing pleasure to his life. However, he started thinking about all of the things that he had gained. He realized that they also produced emptiness and provided no lasting satisfaction.

13. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-26 and write what kind of profit these things brought to the life of Solomon.

14. Explain why Solomon began to realize that all of the things that he had gained were not bringing him lasting satisfaction.

15. Explain why you think that the gathering of things will produce emptiness instead of satisfaction.

Since Solomon could not find any profit in pleasure, he compared wisdom and the folly of man. In this comparison Solomon realized that wisdom was of much greater value than the foolishness of man. The fool is like a man that is walking in darkness even though he had his eyes open. Even though the worldly wise man could see, it did not really matter. The wise man and the fool both came to the same end. Both of them would one day die. After their death, both the wise man and the fool would be forgotten by the rest of the people. As a result, Solomon again concluded that all things still produced emptiness.

16. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-26 and write to whom Solomon said that he would leave his labor.

17. Explain why Solomon came to the conclusion that there was no difference between the wise man and the fool because they both died and were forgotten.

18. Explain why you think that Solomon said that a fool was like a man walking in darkness even though he had his eyes open.

Solomon realized that all of his work and all of his efforts actually accomplished nothing. When he died, he realized that he would leave everything behind and it was very possible that his possessions would fall into the hands of a fool and that fool would just waste those things. It seemed to Solomon that everything that he did only brought sorrow. This made Solomon think for a while that he should just live to satisfy himself with the pleasures of this world. Then, he realized that such an effort was useless. He realized that God is the only one that can give joy to a man. The sinner would always experience sorrow regardless of how much pleasure he tried to find.

19. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-26 and write what God gives to the man that is good in His sight.

20. Explain why seeking pleasure will only bring emptiness.

21. Explain why you think that Solomon suddenly realized that everything that he had gained might fall into the hands of a fool and just be wasted.

After realizing that these things only brought emptiness, Solomon goes on to tell us that there is a time and a season for everything that happens on the earth. God is the One that has determined the time that each thing happens and each thing happens according to His plan. The time of our birth and the time of our death were determined by God even before He created the earth. God is also the One that sets the time to plant the crops and the time to harvest them. When a man is killed, it is due to the fact that he has reached the time of his death. Just as there is a time to build, there is also a time to destroy. God also gives us times of sorrow just as He has given us times of joy.

22. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 and write what follows a time of weeping.

23. Explain why Solomon tells us that there is a time and a season for everything that happens on the earth.

24. Explain why you think that God has determined a time for everything and that all things will happen according to His plan.

God also says that there is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. There are also times of giving and receiving. It is also important to realize when it is time to keep silent and when it is time to speak. There are also times of war and times of peace that are known to God. Suddenly, Solomon was filled with unhappiness. He wondered what the use of each thing was since everything had a set time anyway. He had seen the sorrow that God has allowed to come into the lives of men. However, he also remembered how God had made everything.

25. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 and write what everything was like when God made it.

26. Explain why Solomon was filled with unhappiness when he realized that everything had a set time when it would happen.

27. Explain why you think that Solomon shows that life is very empty for those who trust in human wisdom.

Everything that God made in the creation was good and had a purpose. The works of God in creation are so great that no man can understand them. As a result, a man should be more concerned about doing good rather than trying to understand everything. As a man enjoys the good from the work that he has done, he is actually receiving a gift from the Lord. The things that the Lord has done will last forever. People cannot add anything to the work of God or take anything from that work. We need to realize that the Lord is the One that has done all things and that we should fear Him.

28. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 and write where the spirit of man goes and where the spirit of an animal goes.

29. Explain how we can apply verse 14 to our salvation.

30. Explain why you think that nothing can be added to the things that the Lord has done.

Solomon also realized that the Lord is the One that is the Righteous Judge. He has a set time

when He will judge both the righteous and the wicked. God allows the things that happen to people in order to test them. Solomon also said that people and animals have one thing in common. They both die. Then, they both return to the dust. However, the spirit of a man continues to live. As Solomon thought about the fact that all people will die, he came to the conclusion that man should enjoy the works of his hands while he has the opportunity before death comes.

31. Read Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 and write what the oppressed lacked.

32. Explain why it is important to understand that God allows the things that happen to people in order to test them.

33. Explain why you think that Solomon came to the conclusion that man should enjoy the works of his hands while he has the opportunity before death comes.

Solomon then began thinking about all of the people that were suffering because of the fact that other people were oppressing them. He also thought about those who were suffering and had no one to comfort them. As a result of his thinking, Solomon came to the conclusion that those who were dead were in a better situation than those who were still living. Then, he went a step further in his thinking and came to the conclusion that those men would have been in an even better situation if they had never come into existence. Here, we see again that leaving God out of our thinking will only produce emptiness. As we read on, we see that the main reason that many people work is due to the fact that they envy their neighbors because of the things that their neighbors possess. However, he also realized that if they failed to work that they would starve.

34. Read Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 and write what it is good to have with quietness.

35. Explain why one of the main reasons that many people work is due to the fact that they envy the possessions that their neighbors have.

36. Explain why you think that Solomon reached a point where he thought that the people that never came to the point of birth were in a better situation than those who were born.

Solomon realized that it was better to have very little of this world's goods with peace than to have great riches in the middle of conflict. Solomon also went on to look at the man that worked by himself so that he would not need to share his riches with anyone. Solomon realized that such a man spent all of his time working but experienced no joy. He realized that it is much better for two or three to work together because they could help and encourage each other when they became discouraged. They could also enjoy fellowship together as they worked. He saw that the man that works alone has no one to help him when he falls. Here, we see a key reason why it is important for Christians to learn to work together as a team.

37. Read Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 and write what will happen to a threefold cord.

38. Explain why it is important for people to learn to work together rather than choosing to work alone.

39. Explain why you think that Solomon came to the conclusion that those who spent all of their time working alone experienced no joy in their work.

As we think of working together as a team, we see that a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Just as two people are stronger than one, when three people work together they are much stronger than two. A child that is poor is in a much better situation than a king that refuses to listen to correction. A king that no longer listens to correction has actually made himself a prisoner. He will become poor both in body and in spirit. Here, we see another reason why we need to learn to work together as a team. Then, we are able to receive correction from one another.

40. Read Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 and write how the people that follow a leader that refuses to receive correction will feel about that leader.

41. Explain why a king has actually made himself a prisoner when he will no longer listen to correction.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for us to work together as teams when we are serving the Lord.

Reread Ecclesiastes 1:1-4:16 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 11

Ecclesiastes 5:1 -8:17

In our last lesson we learned that there are many things in life that only bring emptiness to the life of a person that leaves the Lord out of his or her life. However, we have not yet completed our study of the various things that cause a person to experience emptiness. Today, we will be studying about several other things that will bring no satisfaction to a person that leaves God out of his life. Many people turn to religion or riches to try and satisfy the emptiness in their lives. These things will never bring satisfaction because both things involve efforts by a person to change his condition. We must realize that all of our own efforts to bring happiness to our lives will never bring true peace to our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why religion and riches only bring emptiness.
- Explain what Solomon said about the emptiness of life.
- Explain what Solomon learned through wisdom.
- Explain why it is important to obey our rulers.

As we begin our study today, we begin with a warning to prepare ourselves as we come before the Lord. We should come prepared to listen to the Lord rather than coming to Him with an attitude of speaking about the things that we are going to do. Otherwise we will make rash statements with our mouth and our words to God will be sin. We need to realize the greatness of God and realize that we should open our ears so that the Lord can speak to us instead of us doing all of the speaking ourselves. In addition to watching our words, we also need to let the Lord control our minds and thoughts. If we spend too much time thinking about our affairs of the day instead of thinking about the Lord, our sleep will be interrupted by many dreams. A man shows that he is a fool when he is continually speaking.

1. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 and write what we should do when we make a vow.
2. Explain why it is important to have a learner's attitude as we study the Word of God so that the Lord can speak to us through His Word.
3. Explain why you think that Solomon said that a person that is continually speaking is a fool.

When we make a promise to the Lord, we should make certain that we keep that promise. Solomon said that it is better not to make a vow than to make a vow and not keep it. For this reason we need to be careful what we say so that our words do not cause us to sin. Otherwise we may experience the judgment of God. The dreams that come to us because we have spent too much time thinking about our own affairs or too much time talking will never bring satisfaction. Instead, both our thoughts and our words will bring emptiness to our lives. It should not really be surprising when governments become corrupt because there are people at every level of government that are seeking to get something for themselves when they are not led by the Lord.

4. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 and write what will happen to the man that loves silver.
5. Explain why it is important to be careful what we say so that our words do not cause us to sin.
6. Explain why you think that any government will be corrupt when it has people working for the government that are not led by the Lord.

Here, we are reminded again that riches do not satisfy. Regardless of how rich a person becomes, that person is not satisfied. Instead, he wants to gain still more. When a man becomes rich, he also has more employees to feed. The only advantage that such a person gains

is the fact that others look to him and honor him. A person that works with his hands will sleep in peace. However, the rich man cannot sleep peacefully because he is afraid that someone will steal his riches. The rich man does not really gain by his great riches because he can lose everything that he has in one bad business deal and then he will have nothing to pass on to his son.

7. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 and write how much a man will take with him when he dies.

8. Explain why most people are not satisfied regardless of how rich those people become in this world.

9. Explain why you think that most rich people are not able to sleep peacefully when they lay down to sleep.

When a baby is born, that baby brings nothing with him into this world. In the same way he will take nothing with him when he dies and leaves this world. People go as they came. That is why riches bring nothing but sorrow and sadness. Riches do not satisfy. As a result, Solomon came to the conclusion that a man might as well enjoy the short period of time that he is alive on the earth. He should realize that God has given him the things that he has so that he can enjoy a life of peace and joy. The people that are rich should also realize that the Lord is the One that has given them their riches and they should use those riches to serve Him.

10. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-20 and write what Solomon said is a gift from the Lord.

11. Explain why riches do not bring satisfaction to the life of a person.

12. Explain why you think that the one way that a person can enjoy those riches is if that person is using those riches to help others serve the Lord.

We go on to read two additional reasons why riches do not bring a person peace and joy. First, we see the case of a man that gathers great riches and then dies at an early age so that he is not able to enjoy his riches. Such a person may think that he has everything that he wants but suddenly those riches are good for nothing for the person when he dies. He does not even have children that can use those riches because of his early death. As a result, everything that the person has gained goes to a stranger. The second example is just the opposite. Here, we see a man that has a large family and lives a long life. In fact even if such a man lived forever and had no death he would not be happy because he spends his time worrying.

13. Read Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 and write who is in a better condition than the person that is filled with worry.

14. Explain why riches cannot bring peace and joy to the young man that gains great riches but dies with no one to whom he can pass on those riches.

15. Explain why you think that many people that are rich spend all of their time worrying that someone may take their riches.

A baby that dies at birth is actually in a better condition than a man that spends his entire life worrying. The person that worries because he is afraid that others will steal his possessions has a life that is only a life of emptiness and darkness. He cannot even enjoy the brightness of the sun. Even if a man in this condition were to live to the age of two thousand years, this man would still find no joy and satisfaction in his life. Whether a person is wise or is a fool, it does not matter if that person has nothing to give him joy in his life.

16. Read Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 and write what is better than the wandering of desire.

17. Explain why the things of this world only bring emptiness to the life of a person that is not in fellowship with the Lord.

18. Explain why you think that the person that spends his entire life worrying will find that his life has been very empty.

It is much better to be satisfied with the things that we have rather than spending our time constantly desiring other things. There is peace and joy when we are satisfied with what we have but there is emptiness when we constantly desire other things. To desire riches or any

other thing only increases the emptiness that we have in our lives. Since the things of this world only increase the emptiness in the life of a person, the things around us that we seek will never bring us any satisfaction.

19. Read Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 and write what has already been named.

20. Explain why the things of this world will only bring emptiness to the life of a person.

21. Explain why you think that a desire for riches and other things will only increase the emptiness in the life of any person.

Solomon goes on to give us some comparisons about some of the things that he had learned through wisdom. He learned that some things are of greater benefit than others. He had found that it was better to have a name that was respected than to have great riches. It is also better to think seriously about life rather than just living to have a good time. Even sorrow is better than meaningless laughter because it will help to develop character. A person that is thinking seriously about life will receive correction rather than listening to the songs of a fool. We also learn that people need to give thought to their words before they speak.

22. Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 and write whether the beginning or the end of a thing is better.

23. Explain why a name that is respected is of far greater benefit than great riches.

24. Explain why you think that it is much more beneficial to think seriously about life than to spend life trying to have a good time.

Many people like to talk about how much better things were in the past. However, they have forgotten the evil things that happened in the past and remember only the good things from the past. We see that things could be better now if the people had the proper attitudes. We are also warned not to speak when we are angry because we will talk like a fool. Solomon goes on to point out that riches are good if their use is guided by wisdom. Both money and wisdom can provide protection from certain things. God is the One that brings blessings to our lives so we should thank Him for them. When God allows problems to happen in our lives, we should examine our lives to see what the Lord wants to teach us.

25. Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 and write how long the wicked man sometimes lives in his wickedness.

26. Explain why a person that has forgotten the evil things that happened in the past will say that things were better in the past.

27. Explain why you think that Solomon warns us not to speak when we are angry.

By his human wisdom, Solomon came to the conclusion that the righteous people do not necessarily live longer than the people who are evil. As a result, he thought that a person should not be too righteous or too sinful. Here, we see that human wisdom comes to the conclusion that a person should be somewhat religious but still enjoy some sin. Suddenly, Solomon realized that he had been thinking the way that the world thinks. Such an attitude can lead a person into sin and trouble. Instead, we need to examine our lives and realize that there is sin in our lives. There is not a single person on the entire earth that has not committed sin.

28. Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 and write who will be caught by the woman whose heart is snares and nets.

29. Explain why we will come to the wrong conclusions in our thinking if we depend on human wisdom.

30. Explain why you think that Solomon suddenly realized that we need to examine our own lives and confess our sin to the Lord.

Solomon goes on to point out the fact that he had learned the things mentioned above through wisdom. Many of the things that he had studied were so deep that they were beyond human wisdom. This is also a very important lesson for each of us to learn in our own lives. This is why it is important to seek godly wisdom. One of the things that Solomon had learned was that the thing that is worse than death is to listen to the words of an immoral woman. A wise man

will avoid her but a sinner will be trapped by her. Solomon came to the conclusion that not one man in a thousand is righteous. He said that the number of righteous women is even less.

31. Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 and write who is the only one that can make a man upright.

32. Explain why there are many things that can only be understood through godly wisdom.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for you to seek godly wisdom so that you can understand the things that are too deep for human wisdom.

We go on to read about the importance of obeying those who rule over us. A man that is wise is filled with joy and boldness. Such a man is one that obeys those who are the rulers over him. Many people want to get out of the sight of their rulers so that they can do evil. However, we are warned to avoid such actions. We need to remember that a king or other ruler has power and authority to back up his word. The person that refuses to obey the king or other ruler will be judged by that power. In contrast, the person that obeys the commandments of his ruler will not experience judgment. He will enjoy peace instead. This is the reason why a wise man will obey those who are in authority over him in his life.

34. Read Ecclesiastes 8:1-17 and write what there is to every purpose.

35. Explain why it is important to obey our rulers even when those rulers do not have their trust in the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that a person that is wise will be filled with joy and boldness.

Since there is a purpose for everything, those who fail to discover a purpose for life will experience either emptiness or even great misery. This is due to the fact that such a person does not know where the person is heading. Meaningful purpose in life comes from having a Biblical purpose for life. Such a person needs to find a goal and purpose for life now because that person had no control at all over the day of death. In that day there will be no deliverance for those who have lived in wickedness. They will die and will be buried. Although they will be forgotten here on earth, they will not escape the judgment of God. Then, will then be experiencing that judgment even though it did not come quickly to their lives.

37. Read Ecclesiastes 8:1-17 and write what Solomon said about the life of the wicked even though the wicked person lives a long life.

38. Explain why a person that has no purpose for life will experience either emptiness or great misery.

39. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to have a purpose for life.

We go on to read that those who do evil and confess their sins to the Lord will have their sins forgiven by the Lord. However, those who do evil but do not fear the Lord and ask for forgiveness will not escape His judgment even if they have a long life. The fact that Solomon could not understand was the fact that some of the righteous suffered just like the wicked. As a result, he followed human wisdom for a while and again came to the conclusion that the best thing that a person could do was eat, drink and be merry.

40. Read Ecclesiastes 8:1-17 and write what a person cannot find out as long as that person follows human wisdom.

41. Explain why it is important to understand that those who do evil will not escape judgment even though they may live long lives.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord allows the righteous to suffer just as he allows the wicked to suffer.

Reread Ecclesiastes 5:1-8:17 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon
Lesson 12
Ecclesiastes 9:1-12:14

As we have studied the book of Ecclesiastes we have seen that many things bring emptiness to our lives. Today, we will learn what Solomon said about the way to get rid of the emptiness in our lives. We will see that the only way to get rid of our emptiness is to have a right relationship with the Lord. Since this is the only way to get rid of that emptiness, Solomon shows that it is important to establish a right relationship with the Lord while we are young. Then, we need to maintain this relationship with the Lord throughout our lives. Only as we maintain this right relationship with the Lord will we experience the joy of the Lord in our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Solomon said about the certainty of death.
- Explain what you learn about the results of folly.
- Explain what the future holds for the natural man.
- Explain why the most important thing that we can do is learn to fear God.

As we begin our study today, we see the confused thinking that a person experiences in his or her life by following human wisdom. Solomon realized that the righteous were in the hand of God. However, he did not realize the tremendous difference that this made in their lives. He thought that both the righteous and the evil could look forward to the same future. Regardless of whether a man serves the Lord or does evil, it is true that all people will certainly die. All people will face this same event in their lives. People can do as they choose while they live on this earth but death brings an end to all things. As a result, Solomon concluded that a living dog was in a better condition than a dead lion. The only thing that those who are living know for sure is that they will die one day.

1. Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-18 and write what Solomon said that the dead know.
2. Explain why it is important to understand what happens to a person right with God and one in rebellion against God at the time of death.
3. Explain why you think that Solomon focused on the fact that all die and not on what happens to each person after death.

Solomon said that the dead do not know anything and that they do not have any further reward. Some of the false cults use this verse to show that there is no judgment for the wicked. Here, we see that Solomon was expressing the desire of a man that follows human wisdom. Such a person does not want to accept the fact that judgment is coming one day. However, if that interpretation were actually true, the first four verses of this chapter would also deny that there is a future for the righteous. The last phrase of verse five explains that there is no more any reward for the dead on this earth. Once they are dead they are quickly forgotten by other people. Their time to show love, hate, or envy is also gone.

4. Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-18 and write how we should eat our bread in the present.
5. Explain why it is important to help all people realize that there is a judgment for the wicked after death.
6. Explain why you think that most people quickly forget those who have died and do not think about them for very long after death.

Here, we are encouraged to enjoy our lives while we are here on this earth. We should be thankful and enjoy the food and clothing that the Lord has provided for us. We should live in peace and happiness with the wife that the Lord has given us. Whatever we do, we should put

our whole effort into doing those things. If we fail to do something now, we should remember that we will not be able to do those things after we die. Suddenly, Solomon realized that the person that is the strongest and the most powerful is not always the person that is victorious. Instead, God is the One who controls all things. A person does not know what is going to happen to him in the future. People see that the fish and the birds are caught in a net very suddenly.

7. Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-18 and write when the sons of men are snared.

8. Explain why it is important to be thankful and enjoy the things that the Lord had provided for us in this life.

9. Explain why you think that it is important to realize that now is the time to do the things that the Lord has given you to do since life can end very suddenly.

Solomon watched and observed another thing that brought questions to his mind. One day, a very powerful king with a great army came to fight against a small city. This powerful king surrounded the city and built high towers so that his soldiers could shoot their arrows into the city. However, a poor man with great wisdom delivered the city from this powerful king. Solomon realized that wisdom is more valuable than strength. The thing that he could not understand was the fact that the people of that city quickly forgot the poor man that had delivered the city for the powerful king.

10. Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-18 and write two things that this chapter says wisdom is better than.

11. Explain what this chapter teaches about the dangers of human wisdom.

12. Explain why you think that the people of the city quickly forgot the poor man that had delivered their city from the powerful king.

We go to read about the dangers of folly. Folly is another word for foolishness. A few foolish acts on the part of a man will ruin his reputation as certainly as a dead fly will cause perfumed ointment to give off an evil odor. A man that is a fool shows the fact that he is a fool to everyone by the way that he walks and talks. We need to act wisely in the presence of those who are rulers. Many times a ruler makes the mistake of appointing a person that is a fool to a position of authority. Then, fools sit in positions of leadership while those who should be leaders exercise no leadership at all. Men that should be servants are princes and people that are princes have become servants.

13. Read Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 and write what happens to the one that digs a pit.

14. Explain why a fool will show the fact that he is a fool by the way that he walks and talks.

15. Explain why you think that a few acts of foolishness will ruin your reputation if you choose to commit those acts of foolishness.

We see that many times those who dig a pit to trap or destroy others fall into their own pit. We are given a summary of the dangers involved in doing certain things so that we will be careful in those situations. A man that is not careful when he removes a hedge may be bitten by a snake that is hiding in the hedge. There are also certain dangers involved in moving stones or cutting wood. We also see that it takes more strength to cut wood when the ax is dull. A man that is wise will speak with wisdom when he speaks. The fool will bring destruction upon himself by his own words. His entire conversation from beginning to end is full of foolishness and madness.

16. Read Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 and write what the fool is full of.

17. Explain why this chapter shows that we need to think before we act if we want to be effective in what we do.

18. Explain why you think that a man that is wise often does not talk a lot but when he speaks people listen.

The fool shows that he is a fool by talking all of the time. He talks and gives his opinions about everything even though he has no idea what is actually going to happen. He causes everyone

else to become tired because he refuses to listen to them. Any country is in a sad condition when the king is a child and the leaders think only of satisfying themselves. In contrast, the country is blessed that has a king and princes that are dependable. When people are lazy and fail to take care of their homes or other buildings, those buildings will decay and collapse. Those who speak evil of others will suddenly discover that the things that they spoke in secret are known by others.

19. Read Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 and write what the words of a wise man's mouth are.

20. Explain what you learn about the way that a fool acts from this chapter.

21. Explain why you think that people become tired because of the fact that a fool refuses to listen to them.

We go on to see that the length of our life is very uncertain. This is why we should use the time that the Lord gives to us in the right way. We are encouraged to cast our bread on the waters. This is a reminder to share with those who are in need. Then, in our time of need, the Lord will supply our needs because we responded to the needs of others in the past. The things that happen on the earth are not under the control of man. When the clouds are full of water, they empty themselves on the earth whether people want it to rain or not. In the same way, man cannot change the direction that a tree falls once that tree is on the ground.

22. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 and write what a person will not do if he observes and watches the wind.

23. Explain why it is important to share with others in their times of need and trust the Lord to supply for us in our times of need.

24. Explain why you think that it is important to make wise use of your time since the length of your life is uncertain.

The man that is always watching the weather will never get his crops planted. If he finally does get them planted, he will never get them harvested. People must go ahead and do their work without worrying about the weather. Mankind cannot truly understand everything about the weather just as mankind cannot understand how the bones of an infant are formed before that infant is born. These are the works of God and He controls them. For this reason we should work to plant our crops while it is the time of planting. This is also true of spiritual planting. We do not know whether part or all of the seed will take root but the important thing is to get the seed planted during the time of planting or it will be too late to plant.

25. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 and write what the light is like.

26. Explain why it is important to realize that both physically and spiritually we must plant the seed during the time of planting and not wait until it is too late.

27. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to plant the seed of the Word of God by regularly sharing the Word of God with others.

Here, we see that light is sweet. This means that it is important to use the light while we have the light. We are to use all of the time that the Lord gives us to the best advantage. Otherwise our lives will be lives of emptiness and darkness. Then, Solomon gave some particular instructions to those who are young. During the time of their youth, young men are encouraged to be full of joy. The person that is joyful during his youth will also be joyful when he becomes old. We are to walk in the ways of the Lord because we realize that He is the One that is the Righteous Judge.

28. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 and write in what young men are told to rejoice.

29. Explain what these verses teach us about the way that we should work for the Lord as Christians.

30. Explain why you think that it is important to use the time that the Lord gives you to the best advantage.

As we come to the final chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes, we are reminded again to place our

trust in the Lord while we are young. Otherwise the time will come when we will find no pleasure in life. Then, we are given a description of some of the things that happen to a person as that person grows old. In old age our hands will begin to tremble. Our legs will become weak which makes walking more difficult. The teeth do not work very well because they have become few in number. It also becomes more difficult for a person to see as we get older. Often many older people also find that it becomes very difficult to hear.

31. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 and write when the older person begins to get up in the morning.

32. Explain why it is important to encourage people to put their trust in the Lord while they are young.

33. Explain why you think that Solomon reminds us of some of the physical problems that we will have as we grow older.

Many times older people also find it very difficult to sleep. As a result, they rise up very early in the morning. Because of their poor hearing, many older people find it hard to distinguish the various musical notes. It also becomes hard for an older person to go where he or she must do a lot of climbing. He is fearful as he walks through the busy streets because he is afraid of falling. The hair of an older person also changes color like an almond tree. He is hardly able to drag himself along and normal human desires disappear as the person approaches death. Suddenly, the life is gone, just as the silver cord that holds a golden lamp breaks and destroys the lamp.

34. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 and write what happens to the spirit in that day.

35. Explain why the fear of falling is one of the problems that people face in their lives as they grow older.

36. Explain why you think that many older people get up very early in the morning as they grow older.

In this chapter we see that the body returns to the dust at the time of death but the spirit returns to the Lord. This is the reason why life is a life of emptiness if the Lord is not in control in the life of a person. This brings us to the conclusion of the entire discussion in the book of Ecclesiastes. The only way to enjoy life on this earth is to fear God and keep His commandments. Anything else will only produce a life of emptiness. The Lord is the One that is going to serve as the Righteous Judge of both the good and the evil when the Day of Judgment comes.

37. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 and write what the words of the wise are like.

38. Explain what you think is the purpose of the book of Ecclesiastes.

39. Explain why you realize that the only way to really enjoy life is to fear God and keep His commandments.

Solomon also gave a summary of his ministry on this earth. Because the Lord had given him wisdom, he spent his time teaching the people. He also spent much time writing out the proverbs that the Lord had given him so that those proverbs could instruct the people. He wanted to spend his time writing words of truth. For this reason he wanted to teach the people the words that came from the One that is the True Shepherd. Many of the books that people spend their time writing only bring emptiness and weariness to the flesh. This is the reason why Solomon wanted to spend his time writing the truth that comes from the Lord.

40. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 and write what Solomon said is the whole duty of man.

41. Explain why it is important that those who want to help others by writing should write words of truth.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to teach others the words that come from the True Shepherd.

Reread Ecclesiastes 9:1-12:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon

Lesson 13

Song of Solomon 1:1-5:1

Many different interpretations have been given to this book called the Song of Solomon. The Jews saw the book as an allegory that pictured the relationship between God and the nation of Israel. Many people today interpret the book as an allegory that pictures the relationship between Christ and the church. However, there is nothing in this book that says that this book is an allegory. This means that the book must be given a literal interpretation. A literal interpretation of the Song of Solomon gives us a beautiful picture of the true love that there should be between a husband and a wife. Once we have given a true interpretation, then we can make many applications. As we study the book, we will see that many applications can be made to the relationship between Christ and the church.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why it is important for a husband and wife to speak words of love to each other.
- Tell about the words of the Shulamite girl.
- Tell about the dream of the Shulamite girl.
- Explain why Solomon gave a description of his bride.

This book begins with the bride expressing her desire to be with the one that she loved. She found his kisses and his love more pleasant and more satisfying than any other thing. As Christians, we need to ask ourselves if we have the same desire to spend time with Christ. The desire of the bride was that she would be able to run together with her beloved. At that time she had been brought into the palace of Solomon but the waiting period before the wedding had not yet been completed. The daughters of Jerusalem were glad for the bride and they could see why Solomon had a great love for the Shulamite girl.

1. Read Song of Solomon 1:1-17 and write what the bride says about her color.
2. Explain why it should be the desire of every bride and groom to be with the one that they love.
3. Explain why you think that this bride said that the kisses of her beloved and his love were more satisfying than anything.

The bride had become very dark from the sun. This had happened because her brothers had been angry with her and had forced her to work taking care of the vineyards in the hot rays of the sun. As a result of her work in the vineyards, the bride had not been able to care for her outward appearance. Now, her desire was to go and view Solomon even though he was out on the hills caring for the sheep. We see that Solomon also wanted to spend time in fellowship with his bride. In the same way Christ also wants us to enjoy constant fellowship with Him.

4. Read Song of Solomon 1:1-17 and write to what Solomon compared his bride.
5. Explain why the work in the vineyards had made it impossible for the bride to care for her outward appearance.
6. Explain why you think that the desire of the bride was to see Solomon even though he was caring for the sheep.

The bride had just said that she had no beauty in herself. However, Solomon told her that her beauty was very great. The horses that Solomon had bought from Pharaoh to pull his chariots were some of the most beautiful horses in the world. In the same way, in ourselves we see no beauty in our lives because of our sin. However, Christ sees beauty in our lives because He has taken away our sins. The bride also described the beauty of Solomon. The women of that day

would hang a pouch of myrrh between their breasts so that it would give a fragrant smell wherever they went. The bride said that Solomon was like this fragrant odor and that his beauty was like the beauty of the yellow and white henna blossoms (a very beautiful flower).

7. Read Song of Solomon 1:1-17 and write where the bride said the henna flowers were growing that she compared to her beloved.
8. Explain how these verses give us a picture of our relationship with Christ as well as giving us an understanding of the love between Solomon and the Shulamite.
9. Explain why you think that even when you see no beauty in yourself because of your sin that Christ still sees beauty in your life.

Solomon also described the beauty of his bride by comparing her eyes to the eyes of a dove. The eyes of a dove give us a picture of both beauty and purity. In addition to being beautiful, the bride had also kept herself a virgin for the one that she was about to marry. As the bride looked at Solomon, she again spoke of the fact that he was very handsome. In contrast she said that there was nothing beautiful about her. She said that she was no more than a flower of the valley. Solomon responded that she might only be a flower but in comparison the rest of the young women were like thorns. He said that her beauty was far beyond the beauty of the rest of the women.

10. Read Solomon 2:1-17 and write to what kind of a tree Solomon was compared.
11. Explain why it was important to the bride that she had kept herself as a virgin for the one that she was about to marry.
12. Explain why you think that Solomon said that the beauty of his bride was far beyond the beauty of the rest of the women.

The apple tree provides wonderful fruit. The fruit is so delicious that the apple tree is better than any of the trees of the forest. The Shulamite maiden knew that Solomon would provide shade and protection to her as well as providing for her needs. He had already brought her into his banquet hall and was protecting her with the banner of his love. He was providing her with wonderful food to help her love for him grow. In the same way our love for Christ should also continue to grow as we see Him provide for our needs and provide us with wonderful spiritual food. The bride was also looking forward to the day when she would be able to lay in the arms of the one that she loved.

13. Read Song of Solomon 2:1-17 and write what the daughters of Jerusalem are warned not to stir up.
14. Explain why it is important for every man to learn to love his bride and learn to provide protection for his bride.
15. Explain why you think that Christ also wants to provide you with good spiritual food to help you in your spiritual growth.

Love is a very tender thing that must be handled very carefully or it will be destroyed. Here is a reminder that passions must not be stirred up that cannot be satisfied. Many couples cause their marriages to be filled with distrust because they stirred up their passions and satisfied them, contrary to the instructions of Scripture, prior to their marriage. We go on to see that the Shulamite girl had been saying these words about Solomon while she was separated from him. Now, she was eagerly looking forward to his return. She could remember his voice as he had come to visit her in the home of her parents. While she was waiting for him to come to her again, she was reviewing his marriage proposal to her.

16. Read Song of Solomon 2:1-17 and write what her beloved had said to her.
17. Explain why couples often cause their marriages to be filled with distrust because they stirred up passions before marriage that could not be satisfied in a godly manner.
18. Explain why you think that that it is important to remember that love is a very tender thing that must be handled very carefully.

Here, we see that Solomon had told his bride that they had both reached maturity and that the time had come for their wedding. Just as the winter was past and the plants were beginning to put forth their fruit, they had both reached maturity and the time had come for them to marry. Solomon was also eager to see his bride and hear her voice. However, they had been some little foxes that had been ruining their vineyard. This is a reference to the little problems and disagreements that had come between them. Those little disagreements might seem small but they could completely destroy love if the problems were not corrected. As a result, the bride closes this chapter with a request for the groom to return and come quickly from the mountains of Bether (separation).

19. Read Song of Solomon 2:1-17 and write what kind of grapes were on the vines.

20. Explain why little disagreements and problems that are not corrected in a marriage can destroy a loving marriage.

21. Explain why you think that Solomon felt that the time had come for their marriage since they had both reached maturity.

We go on to see that the bride had a dream while the two of them were separated. She dreamed that she had gone searching throughout the streets for the one that she loved. The watchmen of the city had found the bride as she was searching. She asked the watchmen if they had seen her beloved. As she continued her search after talking to the watchmen, she found the one that she loved very quickly. In the same way we are reminded that Christ quickly restores our fellowship with Him when we confess our sins to Him. In her dream, the bride then brought Solomon to the house of her mother so that they could enjoy fellowship together.

22. Read Song of Solomon 3:1-11 and write what Solomon told the daughters of Jerusalem.

23. Explain why the bride wanted to see her beloved and enjoy fellowship with him.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord is eager to restore fellowship with you quickly when you confess your sins to him.

Solomon realized that emotions are stirred up when there has been a disagreement between a young couple. In fact some young men today actually start disagreements with a girl that they are dating because they realize that they can use those emotions to satisfy their own lusts when they straighten out the disagreement. Such actions show that the young man is controlled by lust and not love. Because of the different emotions of a woman, she has less control of herself when she is in a highly emotional state. Here, Solomon shows us that true love will never cause a man to use emotions to satisfy his own lusts.

25. Read Song of Solomon 3:1-11 and write the question that the bride asked as she saw something coming toward them from the wilderness.

26. Explain why Solomon did not want to stir up the passions of his bride until the appropriate time after they were married.

27. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that strong emotions are stirred up when a couple has a disagreement.

The bride thought that the person that she saw coming toward them was the one that she greatly loved. We see that the bride and the groom were both eagerly looking forward to the day of their wedding. Here, we see that Solomon was coming for the wedding. Because Solomon was an important king, he was guarded by sixty of the bravest men in the army of Israel. Solomon was riding in a chariot of gold, silver and purple. The interior of the chariot was a gift from the daughters of Jerusalem. He was also wearing a crown as he came.

28. Read Song of Solomon 3:1-11 and write where the wood came from that was used to make the chariot of Solomon.

29. Explain why the bride was eagerly watching for the one that she greatly loved.

30. Explain why you think that the bride and the groom were both eagerly looking forward to the day of their wedding.

Once a bride and a groom have completed their wedding vows, they enter a new period in their love relationship. Up until that time they have carefully avoided the arousal of physical passions in order to enter their marriage relationship as pure virgins. Now that they were married, we see that Solomon began to describe the beautiful wife that the Lord had given to him. Here, we see that it is important for a husband to take time to describe the beauty of the wife to her after they are married. Many husbands begin to take their wives for granted once they are married and this hinders the development of their love for each other.

31. Read Song of Solomon 4:1-5:1 and write how Solomon described the eyes of his wife.

32. Explain why it is important for a husband to take time to describe the beauty of his wife to her.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for a person to continue to speak of the beauty and blessing of their partner after they are married.

Because Solomon loved his wife, he noticed the beauty in her eyes. He saw the waves of her hair and compared them to flocks of goats on the trails of Mount Gilead. He even noticed the beauty of the teeth of his wife. The lips, temple and neck are also described. Solomon also described the beauty of the breasts of his wife. As her husband, he was now enjoying the beauty of the entire body of his new bride. Prior to marriage, they had been careful not to arouse the physical passions of each other. Now, in marriage, the situation is changed. Solomon wanted to arouse the physical passions of his wife so they could enjoy together the sexual oneness that belongs in marriage.

34. Read Song of Solomon 4:1-5:1 and write how Solomon summarized the physical beauty of his wife.

35. Explain why a man that loves his wife will take time to express to his wife the things that he appreciates about her.

36. Explain why you think that after Solomon was married that he wanted to arouse the physical passions of his wife so that they could experience oneness in marriage.

Solomon went on to describe the great longing that he had for his wife before their marriage. It seemed to him like she had been a long way from him when they were not together. Solomon continued his words to his new bride by telling her of his great love for her. He said that her love was much better than the best wine. Solomon also enjoyed the smell of her ointments. He said that the kisses of her lips were like honey. Solomon also praised his wife because she had kept herself a virgin for him.

37. Read Song of Solomon 4:1-5:1 and write where the wife invited her husband to come.

38. Explain why it is important for a husband to tell his wife regularly how much he loves her.

39. Explain why you think that couples need to continue to express their great love for each other throughout all of their years of marriage.

Solomon said that his beloved was like a garden. Like a productive garden, her life produced the best fruits and spices. Her life was like a fountain that produced living water. A fountain of living water is one that is pure and brings honor to God. God also wants us to live lives that are pure and bring honor to Him. Following this beautiful description of the bride and her life, the bride invited Solomon to enjoy the sexual relationship that would honor the Lord because they had kept their lives pure. Solomon accepted this invitation as he continued to express his love.

40. Read Song of Solomon 4:1-5:1 and write the invitation that the bride gave to Solomon.

41. Explain why it is important to make it our goal to bring honor to the Lord by having a marriage that is pleasing to Him.

42. Explain why you think that a life that is pure and holy is compared to a fountain that produces living water.

Reread Song of Solomon 1:1-5:1 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon
Lesson 14
Song of Solomon 5:2-8:14

In our last lesson, we saw the importance of keeping ourselves pure and holy for the one that we will marry. We also studied the dream of the bride which showed that little disagreements between a couple can hinder the development of love. Today, we will be studying another dream. In this dream we will see another thing that can cause problems in marriage. This is the problem of failing to recognize the needs of the partner. It is very easy to become concerned about our own needs and forget the needs of our partner. This can hinder the development of love between a husband and a wife.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why we should be concerned about the needs of our partner.
- Explain what Solomon said about his bride.
- Explain how Solomon describes his bride.
- Tell about the concern that the brothers of the bride had when she was young.

As we begin our study today, we see that the bride was having another dream. In this dream the bride dreamed that she was in bed when her beloved came and knocked on the door. When he knocked on the door, her first thought was of her own desires. She did not feel like getting dressed so that she could answer the door. She had also washed her feet and they would get dirty if she had to walk to the door. Here, we see an attitude that can destroy the love of a couple if that attitude continues in their marriage. When either partner thinks only of his or her own desires and forgets the needs and desires of the partner, there will be conflict in that marriage.

1. Read Song of Solomon 5:2-16 and write what the groom finally did when his bride failed to respond to his request to open the door.
2. Explain why in marriage if either partner thinks only of their own needs and forgets the needs and desires of the partner that it will cause conflict in that marriage.
3. Explain why you think that God wanted to show this bride the results of only thinking about her own needs and desires.

In the dream of the bride, the groom finally reached to open the door latch. That aroused the love and concern of the bride and she got out of bed to open the door. However, her beloved was gone when she opened the door. Because of her self centered attitude, he had withdrawn in sadness. This is a real picture of the sadness of Christ when His bride, the church, becomes self centered instead of desiring the will of the Lord. When the bride called to her husband and there was no answer, she went searching for him. The watchmen of the city found her and beat her because they thought that she must be an evil woman. Here, we see that the self centered person often suffers as well as the partner when there are unmet needs.

4. Read Song of Solomon 5:2-16 and write what the bride told the daughters of Jerusalem to tell her husband.
5. Explain how you think that Christ feels when He sees His bride, the church, become self centered instead of desiring the will of the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord allowed the bride to suffer in her dream when she failed to meet the needs of her partner.

Suddenly, the bride was forced to evaluate her own love for her beloved. She realized that she had a great love for him and she did not want her attitude to be an attitude that would destroy their love. The daughters of Jerusalem asked her to tell why her beloved was any different than

the husbands of the other women. This caused the bride to give a description of her husband. He was very good looking. No other man could be compared to him. Even in a group of ten thousand men it would be easy to find him because he was much more handsome than any of the others.

7. Read Song of Solomon 5:2-16 and write to what his head was compared.

8. Explain why it is important for any couple to evaluate their love so that they do not develop an attitude that will destroy that love.

9. Explain why you think that it is important for every person that is married to regularly think about the reasons why they love their partner.

Here, we see that the bride gave a description of her beloved. In some ways this description was similar to the description given by Solomon of his bride. She said that his hair was bushy and black. His eyes were compared to the eyes of a dove. These parts of the body were followed by descriptions of the cheeks, the lips, the hands, the belly and the legs. From head to foot the bride realized that her beloved was very handsome. His beauty was so wonderful that she compared his beauty to the cedars of Lebanon. The cedars of Lebanon were the most beautiful trees in that entire area. The bride realized that her beloved was altogether lovely.

10. Read Song of Solomon 5:2-16 and write to what the bride compared the legs of her beloved.

11. Explain why these verses teach us that it is dangerous to be self centered if we want to build a strong marriage.

12. Explain why you think that it is important for couples to talk about the things that they enjoy about one another.

We see that the daughters of Jerusalem had also become interested in helping the bride seek her beloved after they had heard this description. As we speak of Christ, others people will also begin to seek Him. However, the bride no longer needed the help of the daughters of Jerusalem to seek her beloved. She had found him and had been reunited with her beloved. Then, we learn an important lesson about the relationship of a husband and a wife. We see that each of them belongs to the other. Their desire should be to please each other rather than seeking to please themselves. This is also an example of the fact that our desire should be to please Christ rather than to please ourselves.

13. Read Song of Solomon 6:1-13 and write to what cities the beauty of the bride is compared.

14. Explain why it is important to realize that others will also want to seek Christ and learn more about Him as we tell others about Him.

15. Explain why you think that it is important for a couple to make it their goal to please their partner instead of only trying to please themselves.

We go on to read another description that the groom gave of the beauty of his bride. This time he began by comparing her beauty to two of the most beautiful cities of that day. He was overcome as he looked into the eyes of his beautiful bride. He compared the waves of her hair to a flock of goats coming down from the side of Mount Gilead. He said that her teeth and her temples were also beautiful. As king, Solomon had many wives and concubines but none of them could compare in beauty to his bride. In the same way, Christ sees great beauty in His bride, the church.

16. Read Song of Solomon 6:1-13 and write how many daughters the mother of the bride had among her children.

17. Explain why Solomon was overcome with love as he looked into the eyes of his beautiful bride.

18. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord sees great beauty in His bride, the church.

Solomon went on to describe the words of the women of the court. They said that the beauty of his bride was like the dawn. They also said that her beauty could be compared to the full moon. They said her purity was like the sun. In response the bride told of the way that she had gone to

look at her garden to see how it was growing. Suddenly, she had changed from a poor country girl to the place where she now had the position of the queen. Because of the description of the bride by Solomon, the daughters of Jerusalem had also become aware of her beauty. This reminds us of the fact that we become beautiful in the sight of God when we place our trust in Christ because Christ forgives and cleanses us from all of our sin.

19. Read Song of Solomon 6:1-13 and write why the women asked the Shulamite to return to them.

20. Explain why we are now beautiful in the sight of God in spite of the fact of our former sinful condition.

21. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the Lord had changed and transformed our lives.

The daughters of Jerusalem wanted to view the bride again. However, the desire of Solomon was to express his love to his bride in private. Once the two of them were alone Solomon continued his description of his bride by discussing her physical beauty. We have seen in the early part of the book that such detailed descriptions are to wait until the couple is united in marriage. However, once a couple is married, we see that it is important for a husband and a wife to spend time together discussing their physical beauty. It is especially important for the husband to talk about the beauty of his wife prior to sexual relationships to prepare them for sexual relationships that are enjoyable to both partners.

22. Read Song of Solomon 7:1-13 and write how Solomon described the joints of his bride.

23. Explain why it is important for couples once they are married to begin to talk about both the spiritual and physical beauty of their marriage partner.

24. Explain why you think that a man needs to learn to express his love for his bride when they are in private.

In this description of the bride, Solomon began with the feet. Then, he went up from these to describe the thighs, the navel, the belly, the breasts, the neck, the eyes, the nose, the head and the hair. He gave a summary by saying that her entire body was wonderful. Only after describing her entire body did the groom describe his embrace of his beautiful bride. At this point we see that the bride responded by saying that she belonged to her husband. This thought is emphasized in I Corinthians 7:1-7 where we see that the body of the wife belongs to the husband and the body of the husband belongs to the wife. They belong to each other.

25. Read Song of Solomon 7:1-13 and write where the bride suggested that they go as a couple.

26. Explain why it is important for couples to realize that their bodies belong to each other.

27. Explain why you think that the groom took time to talk about the various parts of the body of his bride.

Here, we see that the desire of the bride was to go and visit the country where she would give him her love. Many times a man becomes so busy in his work that he forgets to meet the needs of his wife. At such a time it is good for the wife to suggest that they take a day to just spend some time together. They need to get away from their regular schedule of activities so that they can spend time alone sharing their love for one another. The bride even spoke of the mandrakes whose smell was used to heighten sexual desire and whose fruit was supposed to increase the possibility of bearing children. Here, we see that she was letting her husband know about some of her needs.

28. Read Song of Solomon 7:1-13 and write what the bride said about the mandrakes.

29. Explain why Solomon took time to describe the physical beauty of his wife to her as they spent time together.

30. Explain why you think that the bride wanted to take time for the two of them to get away and spend time alone together.

The bride also spoke of the fact that she wished that Solomon was like her brothers. As the

king, his actions had to be more formal because there were always servants along with him wherever he went. If they could only be alone when they were outside, then she could kiss him and show her love for him. Here, we see that true love will cause us to be careful in our actions when we are in public. The bride said that since she could not kiss him in public that she would take him to the house of her mother when they went to the country. She looked forward to the fact that he would feel free to embrace her when they were in the home of her mother.

31. Read Song of Solomon 8:1-14 and write what instructions were given to the daughters of Jerusalem.

32. Explain why it is important for couples to be sensitive to others so that their actions in public are appropriate.

33. Explain why you think that the bride wanted to take her beloved to the home of her mother so that he would feel free to embrace her.

This is the third time that the daughters of Jerusalem had received this set of instructions. The other two times had been before the wedding. This time this statement is a reminder that true love will awaken in its proper time. Suddenly, we hear the words of the brothers of the bride as they saw someone walking through the wilderness. Here, we see that Solomon had accepted the suggestion of his bride and they were going into the country. They were talking as they walked. Solomon spoke of the first time that he had seen his beloved. He had asked her to place him as a seal over her heart. That meant that her love would be for him alone.

34. Read Song of Solomon 8:1-14 and write what cannot quench love.

35. Explain why it is important for couples to talk about some of the special memories of the past as they talk to each other.

36. Explain why you think that it is important for couples to just spend time alone talking to one another.

Nothing can destroy true love just as nothing can buy love. The bride also reminded Solomon of the words that her brothers had spoken when she was young. They were concerned about helping her to remain pure and holy until the day of her marriage. They said that if she were like a wall that kept young men at a proper distance that they would be joyful and recognize her as a tower of silver. However, they said that if they were concerned that she would yield easily like a door, they would protect her so that she would not suffer from her own weakness.

37. Read Song of Solomon 8:1-14 and write what the bride said that she was as she was growing to maturity.

38. Explain why it is important for a family to help their young girls protect their purity from those who might try to take advantage of them.

39. Explain why you think that it is important for the family to recognize whether their daughters are like walls or like doors.

The bride had been like a wall as she protected her virginity. This was the reason why she had found favor in the eyes of Solomon. Regardless of the changing moral values of a nation, men still want to marry a virgin. Solomon had leased his vineyard to other men so that they could raise crops and Solomon could provide for the financial needs of his family. However Solomon said that his bride also had a vineyard. Her desire was to give her vineyard to the one that she loved. In fact she wanted to be a vineyard that gave herself totally to her husband. She wanted to be submissive to him as a way of showing her love to him.

40. Read Song of Solomon 8:1-14 and write the final invitation that she gave to her husband.

41. Explain why the bride said that it was her desire to give her vineyard to the one that she loved.

42. Explain why you think that the book of Song of Solomon was written and included in the Bible.

Reread Song of Solomon 5:2-8:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.