

The background features a watercolor illustration of three evergreen trees in shades of grey and teal, set against a light grey wash. Below the trees is a large, textured rock formation in a similar muted teal color. The text is overlaid on this background.

WISDOM LITERATURE

reflection guide

Week 4

What is Wisdom Literature?

Wisdom literature is an Old Testament genre that contains a collection of wise proverbs, moral teachings, poems, life observations, and testimonies that are meant to guide the reader along the path of “wisdom” that leads to a life of *shalom* in Christ. Traditionally, the Old Testament books Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are considered wisdom literature.

What Is Shalom?

The word *Shalom* is a Hebrew word meaning “peace” and “wholeness.” In **Proverbs 3.17**, wisdom is depicted as a woman whose “paths all lead to *shalom*”. The promise of Scripture is that those who follow the Lord’s path of wisdom will inherit a life of *shalom* - a life of peace and wholeness in Christ.

How Do I Use This Guide?

This 7-week guide is designed to help you be with Jesus as you interact with wisdom literature, reflect personally, and pray with intention. For each week, there are four different movements: *Centering Prayer, Scripture Reading, Personal Reflection, and Realigning Prayer.*

Each movement should be done at your own pace and at your own time. You can do all the movements in one sitting or (as we recommend) space them out in the week.

Keep in mind that this is not meant to be something you work to accomplish, but instead a practice to enjoy, as you be with, become like, and love like Jesus.

WISDOM IN WEALTH

WEEK FOUR

May 3 – May 9

Instructions

Interact with the following four movements at your own pace throughout the week.

Key Verse

Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. – Proverbs 11.25

Movement #1 | Centering Prayer

Spend a dedicated amount of time (however long is good for you personally) where you are intentionally focusing your full attention on the Lord in **silence, solitude, and stillness**.

Find a comfortable spot where you can safely be in solitude for the duration of the time you've set aside. Do your best to sit still and avoid speaking. Take deep breaths and try to quiet your mind as best you can. The purpose of this is to simply be present with the Lord during this time.

When you are ready, spend a few minutes repeating aloud or writing this verse down: ***"The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord."*** – Proverbs 1:7

Movement #2 | Scripture Reading

As you read the following, write down or highlight anything that stands out to you: **Proverbs 11.24–28, Proverbs 13.11, Proverbs 16.8, Proverbs 19.1, Proverbs 22.1–2, Proverbs 28.20**

In your own words, how would you define what wisdom literature says about wealth?

Movement #3 | Personal Reflection Thought

Please read the following and respond to the reflection questions provided.

We are called to be good stewards of what we've been given, so how we manage our money *matters*. Wisdom literature shows us that wealth isn't just about what we have, but how we use it and how it affects our hearts. **Proverbs 11:24–25** says, *"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."*

We tend to think that holding onto our wealth leads to security, but Proverbs teaches that generosity is actually *where the blessing is*. It is good to be responsible with our wealth, but when we withhold from those in need, we miss what it was meant for. Proverbs also reminds us that *"wealth gained hastily will dwindle"* (13:11) and that *"better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice"* (16:8). Wisdom points us toward faithfulness, not just accumulation.

You might have heard the phrase, *"you can't take it with you,"* and it's true. In a society that measures success by what we have, wisdom literature reminds us that earthly possessions are actually fleeting. Storing it up and trusting in it may bring comfort now, but it has no eternal value. True wealth isn't found in what we have, but in a life marked by faithfulness to God and our trust in Him.

**written by Kayla Katzer*

Movement #3 | Personal Reflection Questions

Spend a few minutes reflecting on these questions. This would be a great time to journal if that helps you process.

What is Resonance?

Feeling a deep alignment with God and His path of wisdom.

What is Resistance?

Feeling a tension in your alignment with God and His path of wisdom.

Reflection Questions

Where do you feel “resonance” with God in how you manage your money

Where do you feel “resistance” with God in how you manage your money?

What do you need to do to realign with God’s Wisdom?

Movement #4 | Realigning Prayer

For this fourth movement, take a walk or find a comfortable place to relax. Bring to mind your reflection responses, praying through them and asking the Lord for His wisdom and guidance over your next steps and the decisions ahead of you. Ask him to lead you in a life of righteous living.

When you're ready, read or listen to **Proverbs 3.5-8**. If you'd like, use this Scripture as a guide in praying to your Father.

Wisdom Quote

"Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can"
- **John Wesley**

Recommended Resources For A Deeper Dive

- › **Podcast:** The Stewardology Podcast: Episode 113: Biblical Wisdom vs. Worldly Wisdom
- › **Book:** *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn

Family Activity

A Reverse Scavenger Hunt

For a fun weekend activity, have your family sit down and plan out a "reverse scavenger hunt" where instead of taking things, you leave things for other people to find and enjoy! Create 5-10 "gifts" (*i.e. gift card in a book, money in a bottle, basket of candy or flowers, etc.*).

Then plan out a route where you can drop off those gifts in places where you know people will find them and benefit from them (*i.e. park, library, grocery store*). Take this opportunity to tell your family how God has blessed you to be a blessing to others! Tell them about the beauty of generosity and how freeing it can be!