

The background features a watercolor illustration of a forest with several evergreen trees. In the foreground, there is a large, light-colored rock with a rough, textured surface. The text is overlaid on this scene.

WISDOM LITERATURE

reflection guide

Week 2

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 THE FEAR OF THE LORD

WEEK TWO
April 19 – April 25

Instructions

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

Key Verse

*Whoever fears the Lord walks uprightly.”
- Proverbs 14.2a*

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 14.20-21, Proverbs 14.31, Proverbs 21.2-3, Proverbs 29.2, Proverbs 29.7, Proverbs 31.8-9, Ecclesiastes 3.17**

In your own words, how would you define what wisdom literature says about righteous living or justice?

Movement #3 | Personal Reflection Thought

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

To walk along God's path of wisdom is to embrace a life of active righteous living. This isn't an abstract ideal, but a practical requirement clearly defined in **Micah 6:8**: *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* Justice. Mercy. Humility. These are the essential markers for anyone choosing to follow His path of wisdom. The flow of Wisdom Literature — specifically **Proverbs 8**— complements this by presenting wisdom as the sacred language of God's own heart. If wisdom is the language God speaks, then righteous living is the voice we use to speak that language to those around us.

Living with true wisdom demands that we see people through the eyes of their Creator. The wisdom of **Proverbs 14:31** insists, *"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him."* This draws a profound truth: our vertical relationship with the Lord is directly measured by our horizontal relationship with our neighbor.

To walk the path of wisdom is to live righteously by loving our neighbors, whomever they may be. The oppressed and the oppressor, the rich and the poor; all are created and loved by the Lord, and all are meant to be recipients of His wisdom poured out through our righteous living. Ultimately, to walk the path of wisdom—to truly fear the Lord—is to surrender control and follow Him into a life defined by justice, mercy, and humility.

WISDOM IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD WEEK ONE

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 your life?

Where do you feel "resistance" with God in your life?

What do you need to do to realign with God's Wisdom for your life?

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

“Look deep enough underneath any horizontal human-against-human injustice and you will always find a vertical human-against-God injustice” – **Thaddeus Williams**,

Recommended Resources For A Deeper Dive

- › **Podcast:** *Live No Lies Podcast*: J.T. Thomas on the Spiritual Realities Behind Racism, Trauma and True Peace-Making
- › **Book:** *Confronting Injustice without Compromising Truth* by Thaddeus Williams

Family Activity

Neighborhood Walk!

As a family, go on a morning or evening walk through your neighborhood or one close by. As you walk, use a journal to take note of any “needs” you might see (*littered trash, overgrown lawns or flowerbeds, the need for food, etc.*) Take some time to explain to your family that these “needs” in the neighborhood are opportunities for God’s goodness to be seen and practiced. When you return home, discuss the needs you saw and pick one that your family can help meet. Come up with a time and a plan on meeting that need together!

*Recommended Scripture Memorization

Proverbs 11.25
Proverbs 14.31
Proverbs 29.2