

Suz's Proverbs 1 Notes

6:36 Welcome!

6:39 Workbook

6:44 Class rhythm: together, video, me, together, quiet, Jesus

6:45 Wisdom Warm-Up (13 minutes + feedback time)

7:00 How did the class define wisdom?

7:02 Fav saying or proverb or cliché? Examples: "You get what you pay for." "Don't bite off more than you can chew." "A penny saved is a penny earned."

7:04 What do you think *the fear of the LORD* means? [healthy respect, even awe, for God and His definitions of good and evil, and the resulting choice to live by His ways. We learn His boundary lines for a good life and respect them. We see that following His ways yields rewards and not following His ways yields consequences. There is a better path, and it begins with fearing the LORD, respecting Him, being in awe of Him.]

7:06 Our Own Wise Women: Elisabeth Sansom

7:14 Our Chapter: 1

What is a proverb? A brief wisdom saying.

It's purpose is to help us live our lives skillfully in this world.

It's based on the moral law God wove into the fabric of creation when He used wisdom to create the universe.

A proverb often follows a pattern of using comparisons [___ BUT ___ or metaphors and similes] or two phrases bringing together a string of related information.

Proverbs emphasize a cause & effect pattern of living.

Wisdom is available for anyone; anyone can develop the skill of living a good, wise, fruitful, God-honoring life.

Author: Mainly King Solomon. To understand a book, know the author.

Parents: David (warrior, poet, passionate, King of Israel) & Bathsheba (the wife of Uriah, one of David's closest soldiers and David's love interest). Crazy extended, complicated family. Lots of rifts and strife.

Encounter with God and Solomon's request: 2 Chronicles 1 and 1 Kings 3.

10 "Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" The words meant wit, cleverness; craftsmanship, design; skill in war and technical work; understanding, discretion, reason; intelligence, especially in an argument; ability to think within your soul; to distinguish between or consider; to judge or govern people.

His kingdom: Wealthy beyond belief, but the circumstances and people surrounding his rise to wealth and fame did not help him stay on the godly path. As Solomon entered his later years, the cool breeze of success-tainted compromise turned into the cold wind of abandonment as he chose to follow himself rather than God. What were Solomon's areas of compromise? In what parts of his life did he progress from whole-hearted to half-hearted to cold-hearted? Why did he grow older and colder?

His poor choices: Through his international trading, Solomon and Israel prospered greatly. The dark side of prosperity began to show, however, as Solomon's love of luxury became a lifestyle and stressed the people's resources (1 Kings 10:14-29). The link here between slave labor and luxury is a distressingly familiar one. The elite who enjoy the luxury are separated from lives of the producers of the products the elite enjoy. This disconnect is often filled with stories of destruction and abuse. It was that way then, and is that way now. He also sharply disappointed his long-time work partner Hiram.

Solomon used women as a means to meet an end: his 700! royal wives and 300 concubines afforded him alliances, trade routes, and sexual pleasure. But people are not to be *used*; they are to be loved and respected.

Solomon not only made a place in society for his wives' idols; the wording indicates he constructed high places and temples for them as he had done for the Lord, and participated, engaging in this worship himself. He was treating God Almighty like "one of the boys," just another god who had demands and power. God HATED this. He knew idolatry would lead His people into sin and into harm ... and it did.

His sad finish: Rather than experiencing God's blessing and reward, Solomon ended his life experiencing consequences for his choices.

Unanswered questions (see Introduction of booklet)

Overview of book

"My son." A manual for the education of Solomon's boys. A primer passing down the wisdom of father to son. Often chapters will begin with an admonition such as *listen to my words, pay attention to my words, do not forget my words, do not forget your mother's teaching.* 1:8,9.

How does Solomon approach wisdom? He continually anchors wisdom back to the LORD. Wisdom begins with fearing and respecting Him (1:7, 1:29, 2:5, 9:10), is a gift from Him (2:6), expresses Him through creation (3:19,20), keeps a person on the right path, benefits a person with God's blessing (3:33,34). We receive rewards or consequences from God's hand.

[Now you and I know that life doesn't always work that way. That's why we also have Job, Psalms, and Ecclesiastes in the section of the Bible called Wisdom Literature. Life isn't as fair as a formula.]

God sees our lives (5:21 - A person's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all our paths).

Chapter One

Purpose of Proverbs: verses 1-6.

Presenting the two paths: our choices bring either reward and blessing or consequences and heartache. It's God's rule of life, what He put into play when He created time and space and people and earth. We reap what we sow; so don't blame it all on God. Instead, watch your choices, watch how you walk, pay attention to the path you take. It matters!

10-19 Don't go with sinners. It's not wise! It reaps bad consequences!

20-33 Wisdom's call; warnings & consequences of rejecting wisdom. *32,33

Let's open to page 6 and experience a few minutes of this workbook together. Thank you to Michellie Johnson for her artwork!

7:33 ~~-Workable Wisdom-~~

7:50 ~~-Quiet-~~

Write a prayer based on James 1:5,6.

7:55 ~~-Jesus-~~

Jesus is the wisdom of God, everything we could ever ask for, more than we could ever fathom.

Proverbs can shape us practically by improving our businesses, our family lives, our relational skills, and our work ethics, but **Jesus** can actually change our hearts and souls.

Jesus takes practical wisdom to the next level – within.

He interrupted the cause - effect pattern of Proverbs with His mercy, shown on the cross, empowered at the resurrection. Even when we have played the fool, He makes it possible for us to sit by His throne, crowned with His lovingkindness. How?

He reaped what we sowed. On the cross.

He saw humanity's foolishness and collaborated with His Father and the Holy Spirit to make a path to save us and make us wise in His ways. That path led Him to the cross, the grave, and then back to heaven in victorious love and power.

He hears the wisdom of mankind, these proverbs, and through them leads us to an even deeper place: to His own heart.

In His heart, mercy triumphs over judgment.

In His heart, salvation is more important than penalty.

In His heart, love is the best response to sin.

Wisdom can be our goal, but it can't be our idol.

If you need wisdom, look to Jesus.
One greater than Solomon is here,
and He is generous
and relational
and eager for you to be a woman who is wise in His eyes.

As the embodiment of the wisdom of God, He also says "If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you" (1:23). So do you need to humble yourself right now? Do you need to respond to God humbly, so that you will have the privilege of knowing the very thoughts of Christ?

He longs to pour out His heart to you.

What do you need to shift in your life
to make space for Jesus, the wisdom of God?