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**SESSION 2 | Wisdom for Life**

## I. WISDOM IN PROVERBS

Wisdom is:

- Not just heady, theoretical. It's also skill, craftiness, aptitude, consciousness and humility.
- An attribute of God.
- An attribute that we can have (communicable).
- God is inviting to wisdom.

## II. PROVERBS: GENRE, THEMES, AND STYLE

Proverbs are a 'key to life' on:

- Family
- Friendships
- Marriage
- Sexuality
- Work
- Finances
- Ethics
- Justice
- Integrity
- Spirituality

Its challenge for the reader is to pose the question: *Is this wisdom or folly?*

Proverbs is poetry. It should be read as such.

A biblical perspective on the good life.

## III. PARALLELISM IN PROVERBS

Hebrew poetry is different than modern English poetry. There is no rhyming of sounds, rather, ideas and structures rhyme.

## GET WISDOM! DISCERNMENT FOR DAILY LIFE FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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### **Parallelism of equals (synonymous)**

The different lines express similar ideas.

Proverbs 17:25,

"A foolish son brings grief to his father, and bitterness to the one who bore him."

Proverbs 11:25,

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Proverbs 18:15,

"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

### **Parallelism of opposites (antithetical)**

The different lines express same truth but from opposite perspectives.

Proverbs 10:1,

"A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother."

Proverbs 10:19,

"When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent."

### **Synthetic parallelism**

Lines bound together by their construction, but they are not synonymous or contraries.

### **Imagery:**

Proverbs 10:26,

"Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him."

Proverbs 11:22,

"Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion."

**Better-than:**

Proverbs 15:16-17,

"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it.

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it."

#### **IV. JESUS IN THE PROVERBS**

- Jesus is "the wisdom of God."  
He is the exemplification of the teaching of Proverbs
- Wisdom is an invitation from God to himself  
He is good and wisdom, and he wants us to be like himself.

1 Corinthians 1:23-25, 30-31

"...we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.... It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."