

Introduction to Old Testament Wisdom Literature
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PBCC Men's Retreat 2013

Talk One:

Becoming a Man of Wisdom in a Fallen ("Under the Sun") World (Ecclesiastes)

Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

The Two Voices of the Book of Ecclesiastes

The Message of the Teacher (1:12-12:7)

"Meaningless, meaningless, everything is meaningless"

Death

Injustice

Inability to Discern the Proper Time

So, Carpe Diem!

The Message of the Second Wise Man (1:1-11; 12:8-14)

The Teacher is Right!

Fear God, Obey the Commandments, and Live in the Light of the Future
Judgment

Jesus Overcomes the Meaninglessness of the Fallen World (Rom. 8:18-25)

Talk Two:

Becoming a Man of Wisdom by Listening to Woman Wisdom (Proverbs)

Read Proverbs 1:1-7

The Practical and Ethical Nature of Wisdom

The Theological Foundation of Wisdom: Fear the Lord

Read 9:1-6 and 12-18: Dining with Woman Wisdom or Woman Folly

How Do the Proverbs Help Us Navigate Life Wisely?

Proverbs Are Not Always True!

Proverbs Don't Make Promises!

That Said, What Can We Learn?

Example: Money

God Blesses the Righteous with Wealth (3:9-10)

Foolish Behavior Leads to Poverty (6:6-11)

The Wealth of Fools Will Not Last or Help with What's Important (13:11)

Poverty is the Result of Injustice and Oppression (13:23)

Those with Money Must be Generous (28:27; 29:7)

Wisdom is Better than Wealth (15:6, 17)

Wealth has Limited Value (13:8)

How to Use the Handout

Jesus and Woman Wisdom

Talk Three:
Becoming a Man of Wisdom in the Midst of Pain (Job)

The Message of the Book of Job

Chapters 1-2: The Problem

Chapter 3: Job's Complaint

Chapters 4-31: The Debate

Chapters 32-37: Elihu

Chapters 38:1-42:6: Yahweh's Speeches and Job's Responses

Chapter 42:7-17: The Restoration

How Then Do We Navigate the Pain of Life?

Talk 4:
Becoming a Man of Wisdom in Our Sex Lives (Song of Songs)

What is the Song of Songs and Why is It in the Bible?

Allegory versus Love Poetry

Drama or Love Psalter?

What Do I Learn about Sex from the Song?

God Loves Sex: Song of Songs 4:1-5:1

Intimacy is Not Easy: Song of Songs 5:2-6:3

The Glory of Sex: Song of Songs 8:5-7

Love is Mutual, Equal, Intense, Exclusive

Marital Love is a Picture of God's Love