

Wisdom

Bible Study at a Glance:

This study is intended to expose participants to the book of Wisdom. It explores a few passages with reflection questions on each.

(Explain to the Group) Let the group know this bible study is just to explore a sampling of passages from the book of Wisdom in order to give everyone a sense of the content of the book.

(Explain to the Group) = You don't have to read this word for word, but this is the general idea of what to explain before moving on.

- **Q: These are questions to ask the whole group**
 - *A: Hopefully the group arrives at most of the answers on their own, but if they don't, redirect the discussion towards these answers, and be sure to tell the group the answers if no one quite got it.*

CCC/Verses and quotes to read out loud are in boxes.

Wisdom 1:1-2:

*Love righteousness, you who judge the earth;
think of the Lord in goodness,
and seek him in integrity of heart;*

² *Because he is found by those who do not test him,
and manifests himself to those who do not disbelieve him.*

- **Q: Have we (you) tested God, or not believed him even subconsciously? If so, how?**
 - *A: There is no right answer. We have all done this. This question is simply to generate discussion and allow participants to share their experiences honestly in a safe environment.*

Wisdom 2:12-19:

*Let us lie in wait for the righteous one, because he is annoying to us;
he opposes our actions,
Reproaches us for transgressions of the law
and charges us with violations of our training.*

¹³ *He professes to have knowledge of God*

and styles himself a child of the Lord.

¹⁴ *To us he is the censure of our thoughts;
merely to see him is a hardship for us,*

¹⁵ *Because his life is not like that of others,
and different are his ways.*

¹⁶ *He judges us debased;
he holds aloof from our paths as from things impure.*

*He calls blest the destiny of the righteous
and boasts that God is his Father.*

¹⁷ *Let us see whether his words be true;
let us find out what will happen to him in the end.*

¹⁸ *For if the righteous one is the son of God, God will help him
and deliver him from the hand of his foes.*

¹⁹ *With violence and torture let us put him to the test
that we may have proof of his gentleness
and try his patience.*

²⁰ *Let us condemn him to a shameful death;
for according to his own words, God will take care of him."*

- **Q: Can you see the messianic references here?**

- A: A few examples allusions to Christ are:

- Verse 12: Christ is the righteous one. He opposed the actions of the unjust and confronted them with violations God's laws
- Verse 13: He is God's Son and
- Verse 16: God is his father
- Verse 18-20: This is similar to what was said of Christ while on the cross
- Verse 20: The cross was a shameful death

Wisdom 3:1-9:

*The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.*

² *They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction*

³ *and their going forth from us, utter destruction.*

But they are in peace.

⁴ *For if to others, indeed, they seem punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;*

⁵ *Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.*

⁶ *As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

⁷ *In the time of their judgment they shall shine
and dart about as sparks through stubble;*

⁸ *They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.*

⁹ *Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:*

*Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with the elect.*

- **Q: This passage speaks about the experience of the righteous ones. Are there ways in which you find it comforting? Are there ways you find it not comforting?**
 - *A: There is no right answer but the group will likely see how it is comforting to experience all the benefits described, but there are also difficult references to being tried or chastised by God.*

(Explain to the Group) In the following passage, the word “she” is referring to Wisdom.

Wisdom 10:15-18:

*The holy people and their blameless descendants—it was she
who rescued them from the nation that oppressed them.*

¹⁶ *She entered the soul of the Lord’s servant,
and withstood fearsome kings with signs and wonders;*

¹⁷ *she gave the holy ones the reward of their labors,
Conducted them by a wondrous road,
became a shelter for them by day
a starry flame by night.*

¹⁸ *She took them across the Red Sea
and brought them through the deep waters.*

- **Q: This passage is describing the Israelite's Exodus from Egyptian slavery. Can you identify where it is referencing the Exodus?**

- *A: Some examples are:*

- *Verse 15: the nation that oppressed them was Egypt*
- *Verse 16: the Lord's servant is Moses*
- *Verse 17: the cloud that led them by day and fire by night*
- *Verse 18: when God parted the Red Sea for them to cross into safety*

- **Q: How is it that "Wisdom" is what did all this? Wasn't it God who led them out of Egypt?**

- *A: Christ is the Wisdom of God. The bible often refers to Wisdom as a person in various passages.*