

Sirach

Bible Study at a Glance:

This study is intended to expose participants to the book of Sirach. 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 Sirach 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.

(Explain to the Group) It would probably be helpful to ask the question for this next passage before you have someone read it. You can ask the group to think about the question as the passage is read, and then discuss it.

Sirach 3:17-24: *My son, conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.*

¹⁸ *Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find mercy in the sight of God.*

²⁰ *For great is the power of the Lord;
by the humble he is glorified.*

²¹ *What is too sublime for you, do not seek;
do not reach into things that are hidden from you.*

²² *What is committed to you, pay heed to;
what is hidden is not your concern.*

²³ *In matters that are beyond you do not meddle,
when you have been shown more than you can understand.*

²⁴ *Indeed, many are the conceits of human beings;
evil imaginations lead them astray.*

- **Q: Are there any aspects of this passage that you find convicting? Anything that resonates and makes you want to change something in your spiritual life?**

Sirach 18:33: *Do not become a beggar by feasting with borrowed money, when you have nothing in your purse.*

- **Q: Can you rephrase this verse with modern language? What is he advising us to do or not do?**
 - *A: Don't spend money you don't have on pleasures and become a beggar in the process, i.e., put yourself in a bad situation financially. Think of credit card debt and how we manage that as an example.*

Sirach 7:36: *In all you do remember the end of your life, and then you will never sin.*

- **Q: How would regularly remembering the end of our life help us not to sin?**
 - *A: There can be many thoughts on this but an obvious one is that it reminds us that death is certain to come and along with it our final judgment. It's a reminder that there will be an accounting for our sins and therefore it is better to avoid them.*

Sirach 35:21: *The prayer of the humble passes through the clouds, and it will never stop until it draws near to God. It will never withdraw until the Most High takes notice,*

- **Q: What are some key points that stand out to you in this verse? What do you find striking?**
 - *A: The word "never", it will never stop until it reaches God. Again, it will "never" withdraw until God hears it. These are very strong terms that encourage us to be humble with God.*