

A Three Year Course of Study for Adults

Section Six: The Wisdom Literature Year 2, Quarter 2

Compiled by Gene Taylor

Preface

These lessons were first compiled over a three year period from April 1988 through March 1991. The then Westside church of Christ in Tallahassee, Florida (Now the Centerville Road church relocated to 4015 Centerville Road in Tallahassee) determined to place all their Sunday morning Bible classes on the *Amplified Bible Curriculum* (Hereafter referred to as *ABC*) developed by JoLinda Crump and Cathy Valdes.

While their curriculum recommended materials from preschool through senior high, we desired to place our college, young adult, and adult classes on the same schedule. The volume of material in L.A. Mott's studies, recommended in the *ABC* for source material and lesson development, did not easily lend itself to a once a week study since he designed his lessons to be studied twice each week.

Considering these factors, I took it upon myself to compile these lessons. We used them successfully while cycling through the curriculum twice in our senior high, college, young adult, and adult classes from April 1988 through March 1994. They were edited and revised prior to the second study of them. They have been revised a second time and reformatted in 1997.

I have tried to parallel the *ABC* as much as possible so that adults and children would be studying the same lesson at the same time only on different levels. But this series, or any one of its twelve study guides, may be used independently.

Each lesson contains a schedule for daily Bible reading. It can be used as a format for family devotionals in the home even if the whole family is not on the curriculum.

I hope you enjoy your study.

Gene Taylor July 1997

Table of Contents

Preface	1
Table of Contents	2
Lesson One: Job	3
Lesson Two: Job - II	4
Lesson Three: Psalms of Praise	5
Lesson Four: Psalms of Guidance	6
Lesson Five: Messianic Psalms	7
Lesson Six: Instructional Psalms	9
Lesson Seven: Psalms of Nature	11
Lesson Eight: Psalms of Repentance	12
Lesson Nine: Child/Parent Relationships	14
Lesson Ten: Purity	16
Lesson Eleven: The Worthy Woman	17
Lesson Twelve: The Whole (Duty) of Man	18
Lesson Thirteen: The Song of Solomon	20

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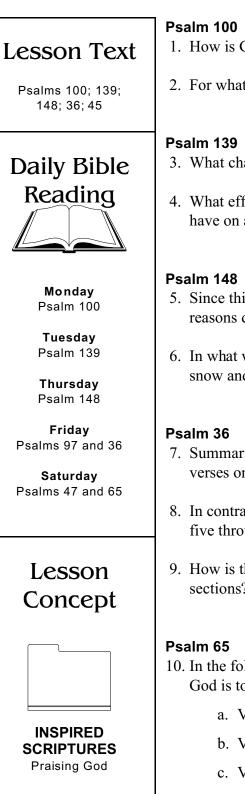
Lesson One: Job

Lesson Text Job 1:1 - 2:13	 A Description of Job (1:1-5) 1. Describe the character and life of Job. 2. Why is it important to have the above description at the beginning of the book?
Daily Bible Reading	 The Council in Heaven: Job's Affliction Decreed (1:6-12) 3. Since the name "Satan" means "adversary," why is it such an appropriate name for this character? 4. What important point lies in the fact that Satan had to come before God before he could do anything against Job? 5. What is Satan's charge against Job? 6. Considering the nature of his trial, what of Job's is being tested?
Job 1-3 Tuesday Job 4-7 Thursday Job 8-12 Friday Job 13-16 Saturday Job 17-20 1 Corinthians 10:13 James 1:13	 Job's First Trial (1:13-22) 7. List, in order, the things that happened to Job in these verses. Did these things happen over a long or short period of time? 8. What was Job's reaction to this trial? Job's Second Trial (2:1-10) 9. Since he is not willing to admit defeat, what further proposal does Satan make? 10. What additional affliction was put on Job?
Lesson Concept FAITH Strengthening faith through trials	 11. How did Job's wife become an additional trial to his faith? What could she have done instead? What should be the role of a wife in such circumstances? 12. What was Job's attitude after this second trial? The Three Friends (2:11-13) 13. Why did these men come to Job? 14. What was the reaction of these men upon arriving and seeing Job? 15. What conclusion did these men reach about Job's suffering?

Lesson Two: Job - II

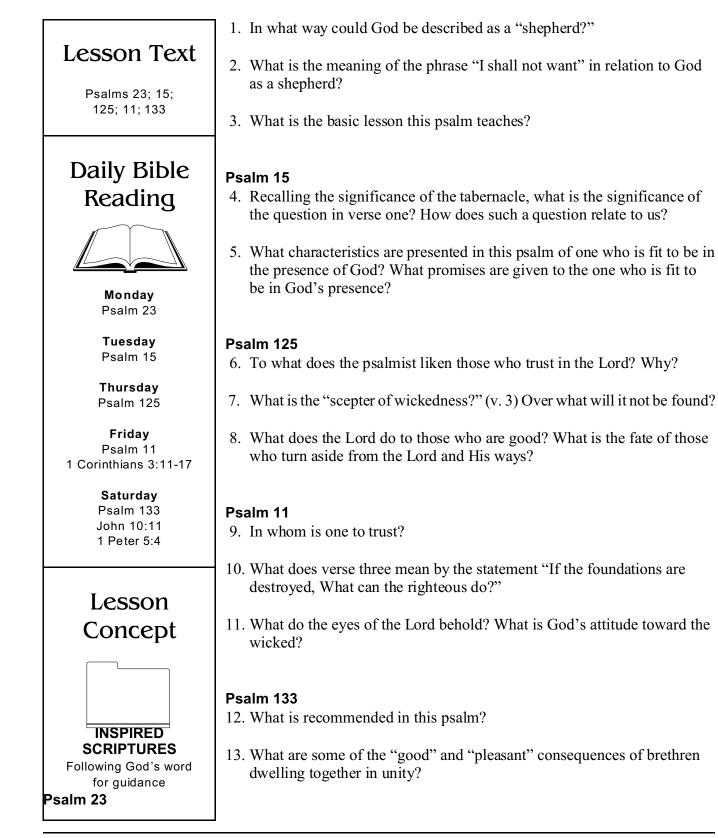
Lesson Text	God's First Speech (38:1 - 40:5) 1. What is the general subject of this questioning directed at Job?
Job 38:1 - 42:17	2. What is the purpose of the questioning? What, do you think, God wants to accomplish by it, i.e., what does He want Job to see?
Daily Bible Reading	 What does the examination in chapters 38 and 39 cause Job to realize? (40:3-5)
Monday	God's Second Speech (40:6 - 42:6)4. What is the implied charge against Job? (40:6-9)
Job 21-24	5. What challenge is put to Job? Why is he challenged in this way?
Tuesday Job 25-29	6. From 42:1-6:
Thursday Job 30-33	a. Summarize the state of mind to which Job had been reduced.b. What is the significance of the statement made in verse five?
Friday Job 34-38	
Saturday Job 39-42 James 1:2-12 1 Kings 16:34	The Latter End (42:7-17)7. Why are the friends of Job condemned? In what way had they "not spoken of me [God] what is right?"
	8. Do you think Job lived in Patriarchal or Mosaic times? Provide support for your answer.
Lesson	9. What lessons does James 5:11 draw from this book?
Concept	10. Considering the entire book of Job, what is meant by "the patience of Job?"
FAITH Rewarding the faithful	

Lesson Three: Psalms of Praise

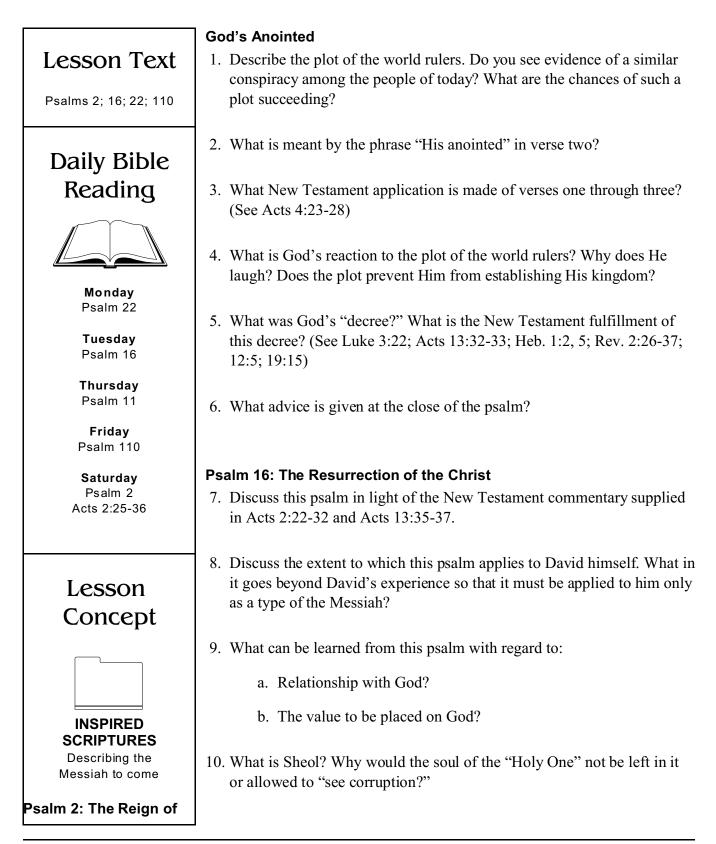


- 1. How is God to be praised? By whom is God to be praised?
- 2. For what reason is God to be praised?
- 3. What characteristics of God are emphasized in this psalm?
- 4. What effect do each of the characteristics of God you have listed above have on a person?
- 5. Since this psalm calls upon the entire creation to praise God, what reasons does it give as to why He should be praised?
- 6. In what way(s) do such things as the sun, moon, stars, fire and hail, snow and vapor, stormy wind, etc., praise God?
- 7. Summarize the main features in the character of the wicked set forth in verses one through four.
- 8. In contrast to the wicked, what characteristics of God stand out in verses five through nine?
- 9. How is the psalmist's prayer (vv. 10-12) related to each of the preceding sections?
- 10. In the following verses, find different functions of divinity for which God is to be praised.
 - a. Verses 1-4.
 - b. Verses 5-8.
 - c. Verses 9-13.

Lesson Four: Psalms of Guidance



Lesson Five: Messianic Psalms



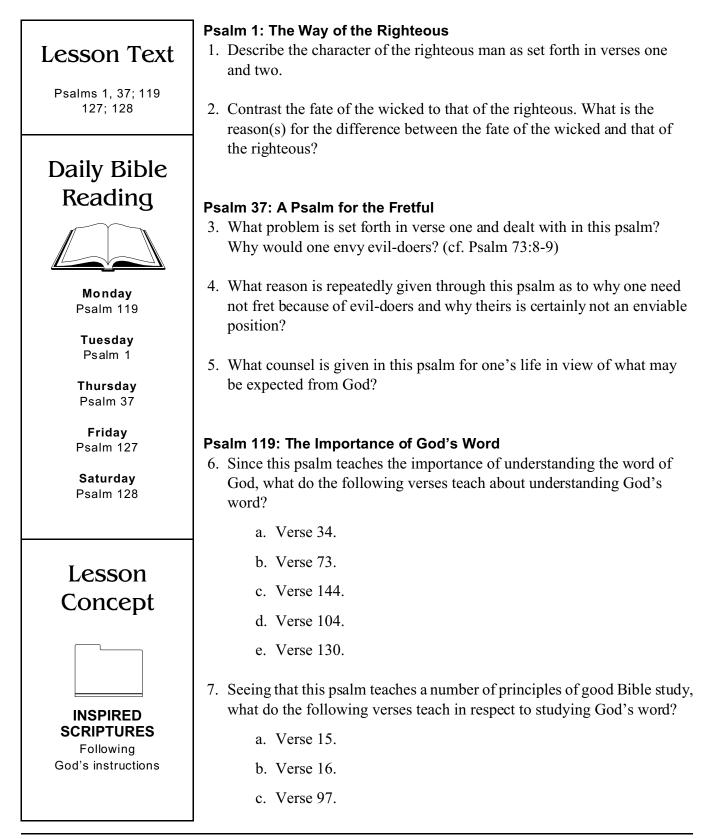
Psalm 22: The Sufferings of the Christ and the Glories That Follow

- 11. Though this psalm deals with the suffering of David, since his sufferings are repeated with even greater intensity in Jesus Christ, compare the following verses in this psalm about the suffering of David with the New Testament passages that speak of the suffering of Jesus.
 - a. Verse 1 with Matthew 27:46.
 - b. Verse 7 with Matthew 27:39.
 - c. Verse 8 with Matthew 27:43.
 - d. Verse 16 with Matthew 27:35 and John 20:25.
 - e. Verse 18 with Matthew 27:35 and John 19:24.
 - f. Verse 22 with Hebrews 2:12.
- 11. Summarize, in your own words, the predominant theme of each of the two main parts of this psalm. (vv. 1-21 and vv. 22-31)
- 12. Relate the two parts of this psalm to 1 Peter 1:11.

Psalm 110: King and Priest

- 13. Point out the New Testament fulfillment of this psalm by comparing:
 - a. Verse 1 with Matthew 22:41-46; Acts 2:33-36; 1 Corinthians 15:25f; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:11-14 and 1 Peter 3:22.
 - b. Verse 4 with Hebrews 5:5-10 and Hebrews 7.
- 14. Discuss the significance of verses one through four and their application to Jesus Christ.

Lesson Six: Instructional Psalms



- 8. Since this psalm shows the word of God to be the answer to man's problem with sin, what do the following verses teach about how God's word can keep one from sinning?
 - a. Verse 11.
 - b. Verse 133.
 - c. Verse 128.

Psalm 127: The Blessings From Following God

- 9. What seems to be the main point of verses one and two?
- 10. What is meant in verse two by the phrase "To eat the bread of sorrows?"
- 11. How are children "a heritage from the Lord?"
- 12. What is meant by the following phrases found in verse four?
 - a. "Arrows in the hand of a warrior?"
 - b. "Children of one's youth?"

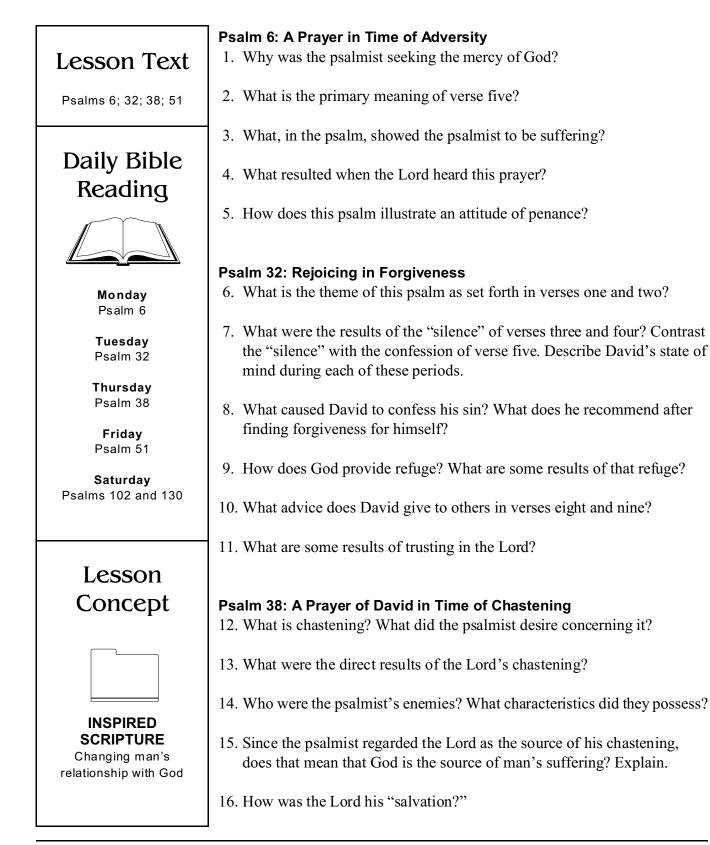
Psalm 128: The Blessings From Fearing God

- 13. What seems to be the overall theme of this psalm?
- 14. What illustrations are used to show how one who fears the Lord will be blessed?
- 15. Can any application be made of this psalm today?

Lesson Seven: Psalms of Nature

Lesson Text Psalms 19; 33; 8	 Psalm 19: God's Works and Words 1. List the two ways in which God has revealed Himself that this psalm sets forth. 2. Name the characteristics, values and uses of God's law as found in
Daily Bible Reading	 verses 7 through 11. 3. Name and explain the two types of sins specified in verses 12 and 13. 4. Summarize the prayer of verses 12 through 14 in relation to what precedes it.
Monday Psalm 19 Tuesday Psalm 33 Thursday Psalm 8 Friday 1 Corinthians 11:3 Saturday Psalm 65	 Psalm 33: The Reign of God in His Creation 5. How is the earth "full of the goodness of the Lord?" (v. 5) 6. How were the heavens made? How should the earth's inhabitants respond to that fact? 7. What characteristics of God are emphasized in the following verses? a. Verses 10-12. b. Verses 13-14. c. Verses 15-17. d. Verses 18-19.
Lesson Concept	 8. In what way is the Lord "our help and our shield?" (v. 20) 9. Upon whom does the mercy of the Lord rest? Why?
INSPIRED SCRIPTURES Learning about God through nature	 Psalm 8: The Glory of God in His Creation 10. According to this psalm, why is God worthy of praise? 11. What is it that makes man's position such a marvel to the psalmist? 12. What is man's position in relation to the rest of creation? How does this correspond with his God-given responsibilities in Genesis 1:26-28?

Lesson Eight: Psalms of Repentance



Psalm 51: David's Prayer of Repentance

- 17. What prompted the writing of this psalm?
- 18. What is the chief lesson to be learned from this psalm?
- 19. What is meant in verse five when David says he "was brought forth in iniquity" and that "in sin" his mother conceived him?
- 20. What are some natural consequences of one who has been forgiven by God?

Lesson Nine: Child/Parent Relationships

Lesson Text	Wise Counsel From a Father to His Son (4:1-7) 1. What is implied in this chapter as to the responsibility of a father?
Proverbs 4:1-7; 20:11; 1:7-10; 6:16-23; 3:1-10	2. What does verse three suggest as to why parents teach and guide children as they do?
Daily Bible	3. What one thing stands out as of such supreme importance that it must not be missed? Why?
Reading Monday Proverbs 4:1-7	 Reputation Gained and Earned (20:11) 4. By what is a child known? Is this a fair measurement? Explain. 5. What relationship, if any, does the principle set forth by Jesus in Matthew 7:16 have with this passage? Explain.
Tuesday Proverbs 20:11	A Warning to Listen to Parents and to Avoid Sinners (1:7-10) 6. How is "fear of the Lordthe beginning of knowledge?"
Thursday Proverbs 1:7-10 Friday Proverbs 6:16-23	7. What is meant by the "instruction of a father" and the "law of a mother?" In what ways are they "an ornament on your head" and "chains about your neck?"
Saturday Proverbs 3:1-10	8. Why would one be "enticed" by sinners? What reason is given in this chapter for avoiding them?
Lesson Concept	 The Need For a Child to Remember the Ways of the Lord (6:16-23) 9. Give, along with a brief summary of each, the seven things listed in these verses which are an abomination to God. Can any of these be applied to the way an adolescent typically views his parents? Explain.
	10. In relationship to the commands of the law of God, what does it mean to:
	a. Bind them continually upon your heart?
	b. Tie them around your neck?
INSPIRED	11. How will the commands of the Lord:
SCRIPTURE Building family love	a. Lead you when you roam?
	b. Keep you while you sleep?
	c. Speak with you when you awake?

12. How are "reproofs of instruction" (v. 23) the way of life?

Wise Guidance For the Young (3:1-10)

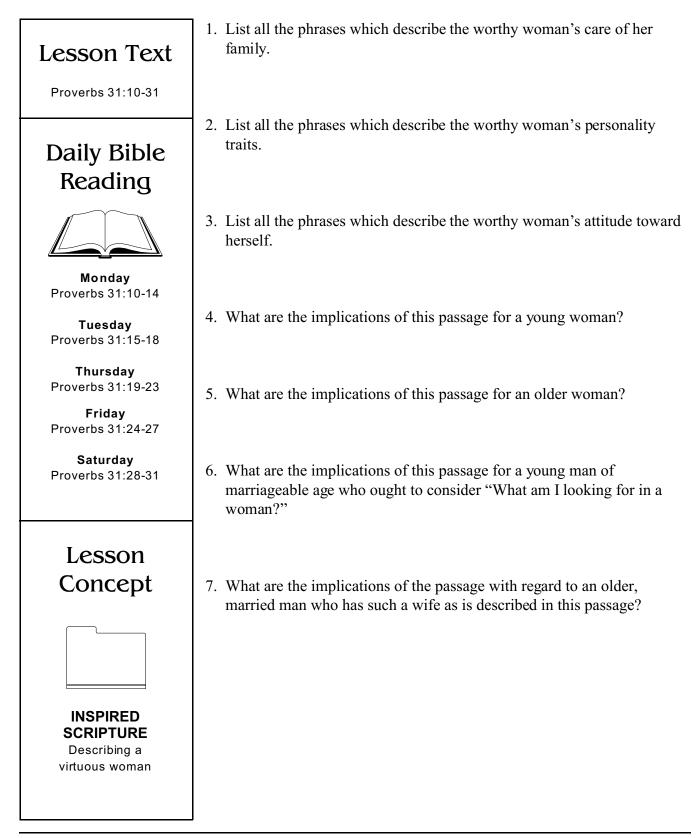
- 13. How do verses one and two relate to Exodus 20:12? Why does obedience to parents make life longer and better as a general rule?
- 14. List as many points as you can from verses 3 through 10 which define the proper relation to God?
- 15. What benefits come to the one who, in relation to God, lives right?
- 16. What are some differences between "wisdom" and ordinary human intelligence which are contrasted in verses five through eight? Why is it important to know those differences?

Lesson Ten: Purity

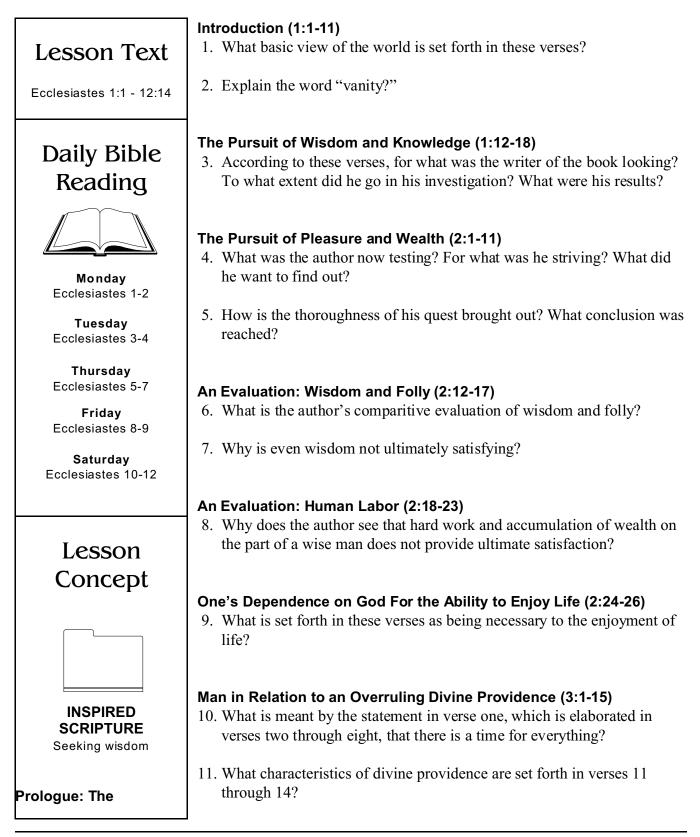
1. What good results can be expected from following "the way of wisdom?"

Lesson Text 2. Summarize the instruction in "the way of wisdom" given in verses 14 through 17. Proverbs 4:10-27; 5:15-21; 6:25-33; 7:1-5 3. Discuss the wisdom of the above advice in light of verses 18 and 19. 4. Discuss the meaning and application of the wise counsel (vv. 20-27) **Daily Bible** with regard to: Reading a. Heart. b. Mouth. c. Eyes. d. Feet. Monday Proverbs 9:13-18 Purity In Marriage (5:15-21) 5. What shows the complete folly of falling for the seductive woman of Tuesday verse three? List the consequences of yielding to her seductions. Proverbs 7:1-5; 2:10-18 Thursday 6. What is the divine alternative to being with the sinful woman? Proverbs 4:10-27 7. Is the sexual relationship a sinful thing in itself? Is it something which Fridav cannot be enjoyed by God-fearing people? According to this chapter, Proverbs 6:25-33 where is the real joy to be found in these matters? Saturday Proverbs 5:15-21 The Dangers of Adultery (6:25-33) 8. What results of sexual immorality are listed in this text? Give the meaning of each figure of speech used to describe them. Lesson 9. Summarize the differences in the contrast between a thief and an adulterer. Concept 10. Since permanent physical and emotional scarring which Scripture compares to no other (1 Cor. 6:18) results, discuss some of the great damage that can be done by the sin of adultery. The Way to Keep Morally Pure (7:1-5) **INSPIRED** 11. What is set forth in this passage that provides protection against sin? SCRIPTURE Being pure 12. What is the meaning of verse four? Purity in Living (4:10-27)

Lesson Eleven: The Worthy Woman



Lesson Twelve: The Whole (Duty) of Man



12. With God having such control as set forth in this passage, what would seem to be essential to human happiness in the world?

The Problem of Injustice in the World (3:16-22)

- 13. What confidence does the believer have to keep him from being overwhelmed with frustration over the problem of injustice?
- 14. What divine purpose is seen in such world conditions as described in verse 16?
- 15. In what way are people like beasts?

Illustrations of the Vanity of Earth Life (4:1 - 6:12)

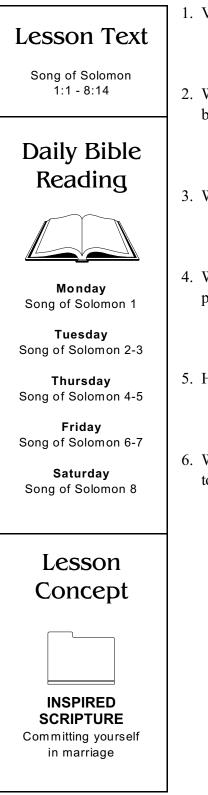
16. Describe the author's treatment of the following by explaining each.

- a. The futility of earthly endeavor. (4:4-6)
- b. The futility of the acquisition of wealth. (4:7-12)
- c. The vanity of the quest for high position. (4:13-16)
- d. The warning against vanity in religion. (5:1-7)
- e. The vanity of riches. (5:10-20)
- f. The possession of wealth without the enjoyment of it. (6:1-6)
- g. The insatiability of human desire. (6:7-9)
- h. Man's limitations. (6:10-12)

Wise Counsel For Living in a World of Vanity (7:1 - 12:14)

- 17. Summarize the three comparisons made in 7:1-10 as to some things which were "better." Why are these things to be considered better?
- 18. Of what value is wisdom? (See 7:11-12) Why, according to 7:13-14, is complete understanding beyond man's reach?
- 19. Summarize the findings of the author's search for wisdom. (See 7:27-29)
- 20. What is the wise person's position in relation to government? (See 8:2-8)
- 21. List two points that a wise person must realize with regard to the work of God under the sun. (See 8:16 9:1)
- 22. Discuss the author's observations which caused him to see two points with regard to wisdom as it bears on life. (See 9:13-16)
- 23. What view of life is taken in 11:1-8? What does the writer recommend as to how life should be approached? Give details to support your answer.
- 24. What reason is given in 11:9-12:8 as to why one should begin early in life to serve God?
- 25. What is the author's final conclusion on life and living? Why is this a valid conclusion?

Lesson Thirteen: The Song of Solomon



- 1. Very briefly describe the theme of this book.
- 2. What do you think is the possible connection of this book with the other books in the Bible, i.e., why do you think it is included in Scripture?
- 3. What lessons did Solomon learn which he tries to teach in this song?
- 4. What do verses six and seven of chapter eight teach about love and the person one marries?
- 5. How different are lust and love? Which one gives fulfillment? Explain.
- 6. What applications can be made of the teachings of the Song of Solomon today?

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