



WISDOM (POETRY)

Wisdom literature is intended to impart, well... wisdom. Books like Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon combine narrative, poetry, imagery, and parallel statements to convey wisdom for the various seasons and circumstances of life. To grow in godly wisdom, however, takes time, practice, and the willingness to wrestle with some of life's biggest issues.

Before you get started, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand, believe, and obey his Word. Bible study, after all, is intended to help us see more clearly and savor more intensely our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 1:1-6

1 How happy is the one who does not
walk in the advice of the wicked
or stand in the pathway with sinners
or sit in the company of mockers!
2 Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction,
and he meditates on it day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams
that bears its fruit in its season
and its leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.
4 The wicked are not like this;
instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to ruin. (CSB)

COMA QUESTIONS FOR PSALM 1:1-6

Work your way through each section of COMA, allowing the questions to guide your journey through the text.

Context

- Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written?
- What has happened so far?

Observation

- Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the passage?
- What images or metaphors does the author use? What do they indicate about God or the other people in the text? What might they indicate about modern readers?
- What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing?
- What is the main point or points?
- What surprises are there?

Meaning

- Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands?
- How does the author motivate the reader/audience, or make his appeal?
- What does the passage teach us about God, and his people, and life in his world?
- Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way?

Application

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?

*The COMA study method and questions are produced by Matthias Media and Holy Trinity Church. They have been taken from *One-to-One Bible Reading* by David Helm. For more one-to-one Bible reading resources, or to purchase the book, please visit www.matthiasmedia.com.