

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 283—Wisdom for Husbands & Wives)

Introduction: The “fear of the Lord” has a profound impact on the happiness of a husband and wife in marriage. Cultivation of proper character, a peaceable disposition, and a selfless and loyal love will provide a safeguard against immorality.

Lesson aim: To show how a wise mate conducts himself/herself in the home.

The need for godly character

1. Whose house does Solomon affirm will stand? (12:7) What does he say the righteous considers? (21:12)
2. Character does matter. What kind of woman attains honor? (11:16) What kind of man brings blessings to his home? (11:17)

Cultivating a peaceable atmosphere

1. How did Solomon affirm the blessing of a peaceable relationship with one’s wife? (17:1)
2. How does a man’s family affect his life and outlook? (19:13)
3. What did Solomon say about living with a contentious or vexing woman? (21:9,19;25:24) Was he optimistic that such a woman would change? (27:15-16)

Features of a godly wife

1. What does Solomon say about the man who finds a good wife? (18:22)
2. What can one inherit from one’s father? (19:14) What can only come from the Lord?
3. Is beauty more than “skin deep”? (11:22) What feature did Solomon say was important in a woman?
4. What role does a woman have in building her house? (14:1)

5. How does Solomon affirm the value of an excellent wife? (12:4)
6. Read the description of the “excellent wife” in 31:10ff. Make a summary list of the important features of a godly woman.
7. What can we learn about an excellent husband from this text?

Encouragement to be a loyal husband

1. To what does Solomon compare the woman who strays from home? (27:8)
2. To what does Solomon compare a wife? (5:15-18a) What is the point of this metaphor?
3. What is the man told to do? (5:18-19) Such a relationship is a safeguard against what sin? (5:20)
4. What warning does Solomon issue to the man who is tempted to commit adultery? (5:21-23)