

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 284—Wisdom for Parents)

Introduction: Nowhere is wisdom needed more than in training children. The proverbs contain many practical sayings about this important relationship.

Lesson aim: To discover wisdom about the parent-child relationship

The joy and glory of family

1. How does Solomon show us the joy and glory of family life? (17:6)
2. We may delight or glory in the features of one's growth from young manhood to old age. What are those features? (20:29)

The joy of having wise children

1. What impact does a foolish child's life have on his parents? (10:1; 17:25; 17:21) A wise one?
2. How does a foolish son treat his mother? (15:20)

Encouragement to train children to be wise

1. What assurance does Solomon give to parents? (22:6)
2. What hope does the parent have who corrects his children? (29:17)

The use of discipline by reproof and by the rod in making a child wise

1. What are parents urged to do to their children? (19:18) What happens to those children who do not receive it?
2. What does Solomon say about the child who gets his own way? (29:15) What antidote to this problem did he recommend?
3. How can a parent help a child overcome the "foolishness" children may display? (22:15)

4. Is physical discipline a manifestation of love? (13:24)
5. Discuss the modern trend away from corporal punishment for children. Is it Biblical? (23:13-14) How should parents react toward those who criticize their actions? When does discipline become abuse?