

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 287—Wisdom About Relationships)

Introduction: All of us need wisdom in dealing with others. Solomon offers great insight into who we should befriend and how to treat them. Following his advice will help us avoid unworthy companions and enable us to enjoy lasting friendships.

Lesson aim: To show how to be a true friend to others.

Warnings about entering unwise relationships

1. What warning does Solomon issue to his son? (1:8-19) How do such violent gang make their appeal to the naïve? (v. 11-14) What does Solomon say will be the outcome of such an unwise association?
2. With what kind of people does Solomon urge those seeking wisdom to avoid? (29:24; 22:24; 23:6-8; 23:19-21; 24:21-22) Why does he say it is unwise to be associated with each?
3. With what kind of people would Solomon advise the young to associate? (13:20)
4. *In this connection, Solomon warned about becoming partners or becoming a surety for certain people.* What principles does he teach? (11:15; 27:13; 20:16)

Advice on how to treat neighbors & friends

1. What two principles does Solomon give about doing good to others around us? (3:27-28) What does he urge us not to do to a neighbor? (3:29-30)
2. What observation had Solomon made about the power of wealth in securing friends? (19:6-7) What lesson do you think he is teaching here?
3. How does Solomon portray the value of love? (15:17)
4. How can one man help another? (27:17; 27:9; 27:6)

5. What advice does Solomon give about how we treat our friends? (27:14)
What did he say about a “brother offended”? (18:19)
6. What quality of friendship does Solomon stress in these proverbs (27:10;
20:6; 18:24)
7. Solomon offers some interesting suggestions on “reading” other people.
Does a happy face always signal a happy person? (14:10; 15:13; 14:13)
8. What did Solomon observe to be most difficult to bear? (18:14)
9. What insight concerning understanding others is given in 27:19?