

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 285—Children)

Introduction: Solomon offers many words of encouragement to children to be wise. He encourages children to accept their parents discipline. Also, he gives examples and the consequences of both wise and foolish behavior.

Lesson aim: To learn how to be a wise child.

Importance of listening and accepting discipline

19:27 Cease listening, my son, to discipline, *And you will* stray from the words of knowledge.

15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is prudent.

12:1 WHOEVER loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.

23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 Buy truth, and do not sell *it*, *Get* wisdom and instruction and understanding. 24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. 25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

The conduct and consequences of a foolish child

30:11 There is a kind of *man* who curses his father, And does not bless his mother.

20:20 He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness.

30:17 The eye that mocks a father, And scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

28:24 He who robs his father or his mother, And says, "It is not a transgression," Is the companion of a man who destroys.

28:7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son, But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.

19:26 He who assaults *his* father *and* drives *his* mother away Is a shameful and disgraceful son.

29:3 A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad, But he who keeps company with harlots wastes *his* wealth.

17:2 A servant who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully, And will share in the inheritance among brothers.

The conduct and consequences of a wise son

20:11 It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself, If his conduct is pure and right.

27:11 Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, That I may reply to him who reproaches me.