

# Liberating Faith Studies

Summer Quarter – 2020

## ***MANY*** faces of ***WISDOM***



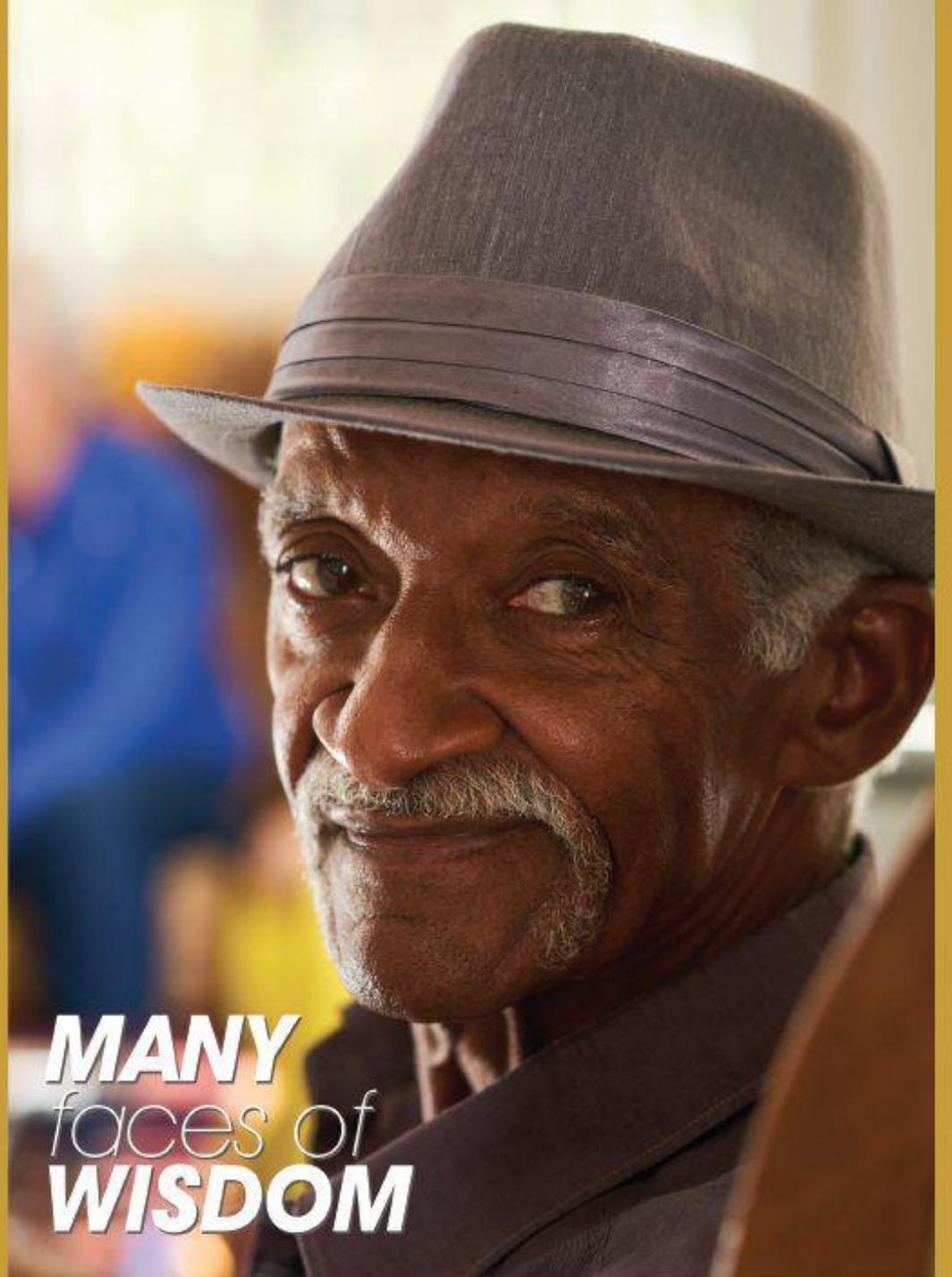
The focus is the many faces of God's wisdom  
& God as sovereign, liberating, and all wise



**LIBERATING  
FAITH STUDIES**



**MANY**  
*faces of*  
**WISDOM**



**MANY**  
*faces of*  
**WISDOM**

# Summer Quarter 2020

► **Unit 1:** The Book of Proverbs – Explores the nature of God's Wisdom

June 6: **The Call of Wisdom**, Proverbs 1:1-4, 7,8,10,20-22,32,33

June 13: **The Value of Wisdom**, Proverbs 2:1-11

June 20: **The Gifts of Wisdom**, Proverbs 8:8-14, 17-21

June 27: **Wisdom's Feast**, Proverbs 9:1-6, 8-10, 13-18

► **Unit 2:** Wisdom in the Gospels – Explores Jesus' teachings as presented in the Gospels

July 4: **Vindicating Wisdom**, Matthew 11:7-19

July 11: **The Boy Jesus**, Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7; Luke 2:39-52

# Summer Quarter 2020 *cont'd*

## ► **Unit 2:**

**Wisdom in the Gospels – Explores Jesus' teachings as presented in the Gospels**

July 18:

**The Wisdom of Jesus, Mark 6:1-6**

July 25:

**Wisdom: The Way, Truth, and Life, John 14:1-14**

## ► **Unit 3:**

**Faith and Wisdom in James – Explores the New Testament letter attributed to James**

August 1:

**Faith and Wisdom, James 1:1-11**

August 8:

**Hearing and Doing the Word, James 1:19-27**

August 15:

**Faith Without Works is Dead, James 2:14-26**

August 22:

**Taming the Tongue, James 3:1-12**

August 29:

**Two Kinds of Wisdom, James 3:13-18; 5:7-12**

# Key Verses

- Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. **Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)**
- For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. **Proverbs 2:6 (NLT)**
- Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. **Proverbs 8:10-11 (NRSV)**
- Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight. **Proverbs 9:6 (NRSV)**

## Key Verses *Cont'd*

- Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. **Proverbs 1:7 (NLT)**
- The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results. **Matthew 11:19 (NLT)**

# Wisdom Present and Active During Creation

## Proverbs 8:22-31

**28** I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established springs deep in the earth.

**29** I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations,

**30** I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence.

**31** And how happy I was with the world he created; how I rejoiced with the human family!

# Choose Wisdom and Live

## Proverbs 8:32-36

- 32** “And so, my children, listen to me,  
for all who follow my ways are joyful.
- 33** Listen to my instruction and be wise.  
Don’t ignore it.
- 34** Joyful are those who listen to me,  
watching for me daily at my gates,  
waiting for me outside my home!
- 35** For whoever finds me finds life  
and receives favor from the LORD.
- 36** But those who miss me injure themselves.  
All who hate me love death.”

# Seeking God's Wisdom

## Solomon Asks God for Wisdom

(2 Chr. 1:8-12)

<sup>8</sup> Solomon replied to God, “You showed great and faithful love to David, my father, and now you have made me king in his place.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD God, please continue to keep your promise to David my father, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth!

<sup>10</sup> **Give me the wisdom and knowledge** to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?”

<sup>11</sup> God said to Solomon, “Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather **you asked for wisdom and knowledge** to properly govern my people—

<sup>12</sup> **I will certainly give you the wisdom and knowledge you requested.** But I will also give you wealth, riches, and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future!”

# The Book of Proverbs

- Solomon wrote most of this book, with Agur and Lemuel contributing some of the later sections.
- “Proverb” means “to be like”

## **Purpose:**

**To teach people how to attain wisdom, discipline, and a prudent life, and how do what is right, just, and fair—in short , to apply divine wisdom to daily life and to provide moral instructions**

- Proverbs is a book of comparisons between common, concrete images and life’s most profound truths.
- Proverbs are simple, moral statement (or illustrations) that highlight and teach fundamental realities about life
- Solomon sought God’s wisdom (2 Chronicles 1:8-12) and offered simple saying designed to make people contemplate:
  1. the fear of God, and
  2. living by His wisdom (1:7; 9:10)
- **The sum of God’s wisdom is personified in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30)**



Reflect on and answer the these questions.

1. What is wisdom?
  2. Where does wisdom come from?
  3. How do you obtain wisdom?
  4. Why is having wisdom important?
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# Wisdom's Vindication

Follow God's Wisdom Despite the World's Rejection

**Lesson Scripture:** Matthew 10:1-14; 11:1-19

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 11:7-19

**Key Verse:**

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. **Matthew 11:19 (NRSV)**



# God's Wisdom

## ► Manifest in Christ

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24) NLT

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. (1 Corinthians 1:30) NLT

# Jesus and John the Baptist

## Matthew 11

- 1** When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went out to teach and preach in towns throughout the region.
- 2** John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, <sup>3</sup> “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”
- 4** Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—
- 5** the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.”
- 6** And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.

# Jesus teaches about the Kingdom

**7** As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind?"

**8** Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces.

**9** Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet.

**10** John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.'<sup>1</sup>

**11** "I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!"

# Jesus teaches about the Kingdom

**12** And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it.

**13** For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time.

**14** And if you are willing to accept what I say, he is Elijah, the one the prophets said would come.

**15** Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

**16** “To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

# Jesus Criticizes His Generation

**16** “To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends,

**17** ‘We played wedding songs,  
and you didn’t dance,  
so we played funeral songs,  
and you didn’t mourn.’

**18** For John didn’t spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, ‘He’s possessed by a demon.’

**19** The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, ‘He’s a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!’ **But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”**

(True wisdom is vindicated by its consequences—what it produces [James 2:14-17])

**17** And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

### John the Baptist Sends Messengers to Jesus

**18** Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things.

**19** And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

**20** When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ”

**21** And that very hour He cured many of <sup>[e]</sup>infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.

**22** Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them.

**23** And blessed is *he* who is not offended because of Me.”

## Luke 7:17-35

NKJV

**24** When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

**25** But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts.

**26** But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

**27** This is *he* of whom it is written:

‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,  
Who will prepare Your way before You.’

## Luke 7:17-35

NKJV

- 28 For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”
- 29 And when all the people heard *Him*, even the tax collectors [h]justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.
- 31 And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like?
- 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying:  
‘We played the flute for you,  
And you did not dance;  
We mourned to you,  
And you did not weep.’
- 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’
- 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’
- 35 But wisdom is justified by all her children.”