

Our Savior's Lutheran

Songs for the Soul Bible Study



Week Five ~ Psalms & Songs of Wisdom

Bible Study Participant Guide

Welcome and Framing

What are the sources of wisdom in your life?

Notes:

Large Group Teaching

Ancient Israel understood wisdom differently than modern culture.

Key Ideas:

- The Old Testament has five clear sections:

Torah	Genesis through Deuteronomy
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Historical Books	Joshua through Esther
Wisdom Books	Job through Song of Solomon (including Psalms)
Major Prophets	Isaiah through Daniel
Minor Prophets	Hosea through Malachi

- Today, we often think wisdom means _____.
- Biblical wisdom:
 - is learning to live in harmony with _____.
 - was woven into creation itself.
 - was not invented by human beings. It came from _____.
 - grows from paying close attention to how life actually works.
 - means learning to live inside _____.
- Modern wisdom: What _____ do you have?
- Biblical wisdom: Are you living in alignment with _____?
- Instead of speaking directly to God, wisdom Psalms often teach the community.
- Wisdom Psalms often include: two _____, reflection on consequences, questions about justice, _____ language, everyday faithfulness, and long-term perspective.

Notes:

Reading: Psalm 1

What did you notice?

Table Conversation 1

Discuss one or two of the following questions:

1. What contrasts stand out in this Psalm?
2. How is wisdom woven into creation in this Psalm?
3. How do habits shape people over time?
4. What voices most shape our lives?

Notes:

Song Listening 1: “Closer to Fine” by Indigo Girls

What did you notice?

Lyrics

I'm trying to tell you something 'bout my life
Maybe give me insight between black and white
And the best thing you ever done for me
Is to help me take my life less seriously
It's only life after all, yeah

Well, darkness has a hunger that's insatiable
And lightness has a call that's hard to hear
And I wrap my fear around me like a blanket
I sailed my ship of safety till I sank it
I'm crawling on your shores

And I went to the doctor, I went to the mountains
I looked to the children, I drank from the fountains
There's more than one answer to these questions
Pointing me in a crooked line
And the less I seek my source for some definitive
(The less I seek my source)
Closer I am to fine, yeah
Closer I am to fine, yeah

And I went to see the doctor of philosophy
With a poster of Rasputin and a beard down to his knee
He never did marry or see a B-grade movie
He graded my performance, he said he could see through me
I spent four years prostrate to the higher mind
Got my paper and I was free

And I went to the doctor, I went to the mountains
I looked to the children, I drank from the fountains
There's more than one answer to these questions
Pointing me in a crooked line
And the less I seek my source for some definitive
(The less I seek my source)

Closer I am to fine, yeah

Closer I am to fine, yeah

I stopped by the bar at 3 A.M.

To seek solace in a bottle or possibly a friend

And I woke up with a headache like my head against a board

Twice as cloudy as I'd been the night before

And I went in seeking clarity

I went to the doctor, I went to the mountains

I looked to the children, I drank from the fountains

We go to the doctor, we go to the mountains

We look to the children, we drink from the fountain

Yeah, we go to the Bible, we go through the workout

We read up on revival, we stand up for the lookout

There's more than one answer to these questions

Pointing me in a crooked line

And the less I seek my source for some definitive

(The less I seek my source)

Closer I am to fine

Closer I am to fine

Closer I am to fine, yeah

Table Conversation 2

Discuss one or two of the following questions:

1. Where is wisdom sought in this song? Does this better represent our modern definition of wisdom or the Biblical definition of wisdom?
2. How does this song connect with the sources of wisdom that you have sought in your own life?
3. How does this song connect with the scripture and Psalms of wisdom?
4. What topics and emotions are named in this Psalm and song? How are these topics and emotions expressed in church life - or your life outside of the church?

Notes:

Song Listening 2: “Let It Grow” by Eric Clapton

What did you notice?

Lyrics

Standing at the crossroads
Trying to read the signs
To tell me which way I should go
To find the answer
And all the time I know
Plant your love and let it grow

Let it grow, let it grow
Let it blossom, let it flow
In the sun, the rain, the snow
Love is lovely, let it grow

Looking for a reason
To check out of my mind
Trying hard to get a friend that I can count on

But there's nothing left to show
Plant your love and let it grow

Let it grow, let it grow
Let it blossom, let it flow
In the sun, the rain, the snow
Love is lovely, so let it grow
Let it grow, let it grow

Time is getting shorter
And there's much for you to do
Only ask and you will get what you are needing
The rest is up to you
Plant your love and let it grow

Let it grow, let it grow
Let it blossom, let it flow
In the sun, the rain, the snow
Love is lovely, so let it

Let it grow, let it grow
Let it blossom, let it flow
In the sun, the rain, the snow
Love is lovely, so let it grow

Table Conversation 3

Discuss one or two of the following questions:

1. Where is wisdom sought in this song? Does this better represent our modern definition of wisdom or the Biblical definition of wisdom?
2. How does this song connect with the sources of wisdom that you have sought in your own life?
3. How does this song connect with the scripture and Psalms of wisdom?

4. How is wisdom woven into creation in this song?
5. What topics and emotions are named in this Psalm and song? How are these topics and emotions expressed in church life - or your life outside of the church?
6. What other songs could we have chosen to connect with Psalms of wisdom?*

Notes:

Wrap Up

Wisdom is rarely instant. The Psalms remind us that character is formed over time.

Notes:

* A few other potential wisdom songs... Big Yellow Taxi, Blowin' in the Wind, Both Sides Now, The Circle Game, The Dance, Don't Worry Be Happy, Father and Daughter, Father and Son, Have It All, Let It Be, Living and Living Well, Mercy Mercy Me, Saltwater Runs in My Eyes, Smile, Turn Turn Turn

What others would you add?
