

June 8, 2025  
CONFIRMATION LESSON

### Wisdom Literature & Psalms

The Bible is a collection of different writings from different authors across many different centuries. These writings come in several different genres.

A “genre” is a specific category or style of communication (usually writing, video, or other artistic medium). Examples of genres would be sci-fi movies or romance novels.

**DISCUSS:** What genres do the people in your household particularly enjoy? Superhero movies? Historical novels? Poetry?

Genres help us know what to expect and how to interpret something we read or watch. It wouldn't make a lot of sense to be disappointed that a biography of a historical figure didn't have any wizards in it. A biography is a different genre than fantasy.

**Note:** genres are not black & white labels, and they are not mutually exclusive categories. A science fiction book series might also have romance in it. Genres are guidelines.

Wisdom literature is a genre of Biblical writing. It is designed to help us think more deeply about what it means to be human and how we ought to live our lives.

Proverbs is a book of wisdom writings. **ACTIVITY:** Fill in the blanks of these proverbs, trying to guess the messages before looking at the correct answers:

From the \_\_\_\_\_ of their words, good persons eat good things, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the treacherous is for wrongdoing. (fruit, desire)  
(Prov 13:2)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the poor may yield much food, but it is \_\_\_\_\_ away through injustice. (field, swept)  
(Prov 13: 23)

The simple are adorned with \_\_\_\_\_, but the \_\_\_\_\_ are crowned with knowledge. (folly, clever)  
(Prov 14:18)

**WATCH:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gab04dPs\\_uA&t=57s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gab04dPs_uA&t=57s) (The Bible Project: Proverbs)

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Scripture acknowledges that there will be many different phases and stages of life—good times and bad. Wisdom and experience can be contextual. “Wear bright colors” might be good advice for a theme park so your group can find one another, but it is less likely to be good advice for a funeral.

The book of Psalms is the prayerbook or hymnbook of ancient Israel. **WATCH:** Pastor Rob Bell’s video “Rhythm” about living in tune with the music of God:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HVhYYk0hM0>

There are psalms for all kinds of moods and occasions. **READ:**

- I. Praise (Psalm 24)
- II. Royal Occasions (Psalm 72)
- III. Complaint (Psalm 13)
- IV. Lament (Psalm 55)
- V. Imprecatory (wishing harm to our enemies) (Psalm 58)
  - A. **DISCUSS:** Knowing that we are supposed to love and pray for our enemies, what does it mean that the Bible has psalms that wish harm on our enemies?
    1. Our whole selves, all our feelings, are allowed in prayer. Honesty before God matters. It’s okay to feel uncomfortable or even offended that these words are in our scriptures—they remind us that God wants to know about everything we go through, even our anger and disappointments and failures.

**ACTIVITY:** Choose a psalm and re-write it in modern language.

What music do you feel like expresses your deepest thoughts and feelings? What music makes you feel closer to God?

Wisdom literature is at the center of our Bibles. If you’re ever feeling uncertain what to read or how to pray, open your Bible to the middle and you are very likely to find yourself in Psalms, Proverbs, or Ecclesiastes.