

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Old Testament Survey

Job – Song of Solomon

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Instructions for the Review Leader

Prepare

- Find 2–4 believers to review your translated passages, and plan where to meet.
- Gather pens and paper, a printed copy of the Reviewers' Guide (RG), one copy of the source text, and printed copies of the translation.
- Read through the RG, source text, and translation before you meet with the reviewers.

Start Review Session

- Bring everything you prepared.
- Welcome reviewers. Pray together.
- Tell reviewers the following:
 - “The questions in this review are not meant to test your Bible knowledge. Instead, they are meant to test how clear the translation is. When I ask questions, please answer from what you find in the text we just read.”
 - “You will not be asked or expected to suggest changes or edits for any issues that are found.”
 - “I will tell you the verse reference for each question. If needed, you can refer to that verse while answering the question.”
- Give reviewers copies of the translated passages.

Conduct Review for Each Passage

- Read (aloud) any **Background** for the passage.
- Read (aloud) the passage in the translation. Reviewers should follow along while you read.
- Ask reviewers to retell the passage, using their own words. They may look at the passage as they retell it.
 - As you listen, mark the box by each **Part 1** item if it is understandable from the way reviewers retell the passage.
 - Write notes on the RG about what they understand and do not understand.
- Ask reviewers the **Part 2** questions. Tell reviewers the verse that each question is about so that they can look at the right verses as they answer.
 - As you listen, mark by each **Part 2** item if it is understandable from how reviewers answer the question. Reviewers do not need to quote directly.
 - As needed, ask additional questions to clarify. (For example, ask reviewers to show or tell which words in the verses led to their answer.)
 - You may also look at your source text to confirm answers.

You may use the **Comment Section** to take any other notes about what they say.

- Some questions in **Part 2** include the phrase “do you think.” These questions are designed to test if implied information can be understood. Any answer that fits with the text is OK. Participants may also answer these questions based on knowledge of other Biblical passages and based on how they react to this passage.

Finish Review Session

- Pray together.
- Thank reviewers.
- As needed, talk about when to meet to review more passages.

After the Review

- Arrange a time to meet with the translation team.
- At that time, bring all the notes from your Review Session(s) to the translation team.
- Show them what was found by reviewers. The team should decide what to change and how to do that.

Job 1:6-22 God allows Satan to test Job

Background: The Book of Job is about a man named Job who experienced disaster even though he was faithful to Yahweh. Job spoke with three friends and asked why Yahweh let him experience trials and losses. The book teaches that we cannot understand all of Yahweh's ways, and when we suffer, it is more important to trust Yahweh than it is to understand the reason for the suffering.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Satan came into the presence of Yahweh after roaming the earth. [1:6-7]
- ☐ Yahweh told Satan to consider Job, a righteous man who feared God and turned away from evil. [1:8]
- ☐ Satan asked God to remove the barrier around Job, his family, and his possessions. [1:9-10]
- ☐ Satan said that Job would curse God if harm was brought on everything that Job had. [1:11]
- ☐ Yahweh said that Satan could bring harm to all that Job had, but that Satan could not bring harm to Job himself. [1:12]
- ☐ A messenger told Job that enemies had killed Job's servants and stole Job's oxen and donkeys. [1:14-15]
- ☐ That same day, another messenger told Job that fire killed Job's sheep and the people caring for the sheep. [1:16]
- ☐ That same day, another messenger told Job that robbers stole Job's camels and killed Job's servants who cared for them. [1:17]
- ☐ That same day, another messenger told Job that all of Job's sons and daughters were dead. [1:18-19]
- ☐ Job responded by humbling himself and worshiping God. [1:20-21]
- ☐ Job did not sin or accuse God of wrongdoing. [1:22]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:6-7] When Satan appeared before Yahweh, where did he say he had been?
He had been wandering on the earth and going back and forth on it.
2. [1:7-8] What did Yahweh say to Satan?
He asked if Satan had considered Yahweh's servant Job. Yahweh said that there was no one like Job on the earth, an upright man who feared God and turned away from evil.
3. [1:9-10] How did Satan say that God had protected Job?
He said that God had put a barrier around Job, around his house, and around everything that he had.
4. [1:11] What did Satan think would cause Job to curse God to his face?
He said that Job would curse God if God brought harm on all that Job had.

Job 1:6-22 continued

5. [1:12] What did Yahweh do next?
He told Satan that everything that Job was now in Satan's hand. But he told Satan not to stretch his hand out against Job himself.
6. [1:12] What do you think it meant when Yahweh said that all Job had was in Satan's hand, and when he told Satan not to stretch his hand out against Job himself?
The rest of the passage indicates that this meant that Satan could harm everything Job had. But Satan was not permitted to harm Job himself.
7. [1:13] What was happening on the day described in verse 13?
Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house.
8. [1:14-15] What did the messenger tell Job that the Sabeans had done?
They killed all Job's servants in the field and took away all of Job's oxen and donkeys. Only the messenger had escaped.
9. [1:16] What did the second messenger tell Job had happened to his sheep?
The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned them up along with the servants. Only the messenger had escaped.
10. [1:17] What did the third messenger tell Job had happened to his camels?
The Chaldeans came and stole all of Job's camels and killed all of Job's servants there. Only the messenger had escaped.
11. [1:18-19] What news did the fourth messenger bring to Job?
A strong wind hit the house where Job's sons and daughters were feasting. The house collapsed onto all of Job's sons and daughters, and they died. Only the messenger had escaped.
12. [1:20] What did Job do after he got all these messages?
Job tore his robe, shaved his head, fell to the ground, and worshiped God.
13. [1:20] What do you think it meant when Job tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell to the ground?
(Answer may vary.) These were probably signs of Job's grief and of Job's humbleness before God.

Job 1:6-22 continued

14. [1:21] What do you think Job meant when he said that he had come from his mother's womb naked and that he would be naked when he returned there?
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps Job meant that he had nothing when he was born and that he would have nothing when he died. Perhaps he also meant that God had given to Job all that Job had, and that all these things still belonged to God, so God could justly collect everything back from Job. Perhaps Job meant that he was not in a worse condition or in a better condition than at the start of his life.
15. [1:21] Who did Job say gives and takes away?
Job said that Yahweh gives and takes away.
16. [1:20-21] How did Job's actions prove that Yahweh was right (and that Satan was wrong) about how Job would respond when everything he had was taken away?
Job still worshiped God. He blessed Yahweh's name. He did not sin or accuse God of wrongdoing.

Comment Section:

Job 2:1-10 God allows Satan to attack Job's health

Background: In Chapter 1, Satan had told God that if everything was taken away from Job, Job would curse God. Enemies stole all of Job's animals and killed all of his servants. All of Job's sons and daughters died that same day. But Job continued to worship God and did not accuse God of doing wrong.

When this passage mentions bones and flesh, it means all of a person's body.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Satan came before Yahweh a second time, after roaming the earth. [2:1-2]
- ☐ Yahweh told Satan that Job continued to have integrity after all the terrible things that had happened to Job. [2:3]
- ☐ Satan said that if harm happened to Job's body, Job would then curse God. [2:4-5]
- ☐ Yahweh said that Satan had power over Job to harm him but must not kill him. [2:6]
- ☐ Satan struck Job with painful boils all over his body. Job scraped his wounds while sitting in ashes. [2:7-8]
- ☐ Job's wife said that Job should curse God and die. [2:9]
- ☐ Job said that his wife was foolish to say this. He asked whether they would only accept good things from God, not hardship. [2:10]
- ☐ Job did not say anything sinful. [2:10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] Who came with the sons of God when they presented themselves before Yahweh?
Satan also came before Yahweh.
2. [2:2] Where did Satan say he had been?
Satan said that he had been wandering on the earth and going back and forth on it.
3. [2:3] What did Yahweh say that Job did after Satan tried to have Job destroyed without a cause?
Yahweh said that Job held onto his integrity.
4. [2:3] What do you think it meant that Job held onto his integrity?
Yahweh said that Job was an upright man who feared God and turned away from evil. When the passage says that Job held onto his integrity, it seems to mean that Job continued to behave the same way as he did before his troubles, doing what was good and right in God's eyes.

Job 2:1-10 continued

5. [2:5] What did Satan say would cause Job to curse God?
Satan said that if God stretched out his hand and touched Job's bone and flesh, Job would curse God.
6. [2:5] What do you think Satan meant by Job's bone and flesh being touched in this passage?
The surrounding verses indicate that Satan meant that harm should be done to Job's body.
7. [2:6] What did Yahweh say next?
He said that Satan could have power to harm Job's body but must not end Job's life.
8. [2:7] How did Satan bring harm to Job's body?
Satan struck Job with severe boils all over his body.
9. [2:8] What did Job do after Satan struck him with these painful sores?
Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself as he sat in ashes.
10. [2:9] What did Job's wife tell him to do?
She told Job to curse God and die.
11. [2:10] What did Job say to his wife?
He said that she was talking foolishly. He asked her if they should only be willing to receive what was good from God.
12. [2:10] What does the end of verse 10 say about Job?
In all of this, Job did not say anything sinful.

Comment Section:

Job 7:5-21 Job complains

Background: Job responded to words spoken by Eliphaz the Temanite, one of Job's friends who came to comfort him. This passage mentions going down to Sheol, which was a way that the Israelites spoke of death.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Job talked about the sores on his skin and about how hopelessly his days passed. [7:5-6]
- ☐ Job asked God to remember how soon he would die. [7:7-10]
- ☐ Job complained to God about his anguish and about the terrifying dreams he had when he tried to sleep. All this made Job so miserable that he wished he could choose death. [7:11-15]
- ☐ Job wanted God to leave him alone. [7:16-19]
- ☐ Job asked what he had done and why he was God's target. [7:20]
- ☐ Job asked why God would not forgive him. [7:21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [7:5] How did Job describe what was happening to his skin?
He said that his skin was clothed with worms and dirt. He said the sores on his skin would harden and then there would be fresh sores again.
2. [7:6] What did Job say about how his days went by?
He said that they passed quickly ("faster than a weaver's shuttle," in some translations).
3. [7:6] How did Job say that his days ended?
He said that his days ended without hope.
4. [7:7-8] What did Job say to God?
He asked God to remember that his life was like a breath. Job said that his own eyes would no longer see good things. Job said that the eyes that saw him would not see him any longer. Then Job said that God's eyes would see him, but Job would be gone.
5. [7:9-10] To what did Job compare the man who goes down to Sheol?
Job said he was like a cloud that could no longer be seen.
6. [7:11] In what way did Job speak and complain?
He spoke in anguish and complained bitterly.

Job 7:5-21 continued

7. [7:13-15] What did Job say that God did when Job tried to comfort himself by going to bed?
He said that God scared him with dreams and visions, so that Job wished that he could choose death.
8. [7:16] Why did Job say that he wanted God to leave him alone?
Job believed that his days were useless.
9. [7:17-18] What did Job say that God did to people?
God paid attention to people, setting his mind on them, watching them every day and testing them every moment.
10. [7:19] What did Job ask God to leave him alone long enough to do?
He asked to be left alone long enough to swallow his own saliva.
11. [7:20] What did Job ask in verse 20?
Job asked how anything he had done could affect God, even if Job had sinned. Job asked why he had become God's target.
12. [7:21] What did Job think God would not do?
Job thought God would not forgive him or take away his sin.
13. [7:21] What do you think Job meant when he said he would lie down in the dust?
(*Answer may vary.*) He might have said this to indicate that his life was not worth living, or that his situation was so severe that he would rather die. Or he might have meant that he did not deserve anything better.

Comment Section:

Job 8:1-7 Bildad tells Job to seek God

Background: Bildad the Shuhite was one of Job's friends who came to comfort him.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Bildad the Shuhite compared Job's words to wind. [8:1-2]
- ☐ He asked Job if God would pervert justice or righteousness. [8:3]
- ☐ Bildad thought Job's children died because they sinned against God. [8:4]
- ☐ Bildad told Job that God would restore him if he were pure and upright. [8:5-7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [8:2] To what did Bildad compare the words of Job's mouth?
He said Job's words were a mighty wind.
2. [8:3] How do you think Bildad expected Job to answer his questions of whether God perverted justice and righteousness?
Bildad probably would have expected Job to answer that God did not pervert justice and righteousness.
3. [8:4] How did Bildad say he knew that Job's children sinned?
He said he knew this because God had handed Job's children over to their sin.
4. [8:4] What do you think Bildad meant when he said God had handed Job's children over to their sin?
He probably meant that Job's children had been justly punished by God for their sin, or that Job's children deserved to die.
5. [8:6] How did Bildad say God would bless Job if he was pure and upright?
He said God would act and would restore Job to his rightful place.
6. [8:7] What did Bildad say Job's life would be like if Job did not have sin?
He said Job's condition would be much greater than it was before.

Comment Section:

Job 16:1-5 Job answers his troublesome comforters

Background: After answering his other two friends, Job responded to more words spoken by Eliphaz the Temanite.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Job said that his friends' words were troublesome and useless. [16:1-3]
- ☐ Job told his friends that he too could speak mocking words. [16:4]
- ☐ Job said that he would have been a better friend to them and strengthened them with his words.

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [16:1-2] What did Job say about the comfort of his friends?
Job said they were all troublesome comforters.
2. [16:1-2] What do you think Job meant when he said his friends were troublesome comforters?
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps it meant that they accused Job and his children of sinning instead of using their words to truly comfort Job. Perhaps it meant that these friends caused him more trouble and misery than if they had not come at all.
3. [16:3] What did Job ask them in verse 3?
Job asked if their useless words would ever end. He asked what was wrong with them that made them continue to talk.
4. [16:4] What did Job say that he could do that would be like how they treated him?
He could speak and mock them as they had done to him.
5. [16:5] What other way did Job say he could speak to his friends if their roles were reversed?
Job said that he could strengthen them with his mouth. He said that if his lips moved, he could bring them relief.
6. [16:5] What do you think Job meant when he referred to his mouth and lips?
He seems to have meant that he would use his words differently than his friends had done. He seems to have meant that his words would bring his friends strength, relief, and comfort instead of the trouble that his friends had caused with their words.

Comment Section:

Job 42:1-6 Job confesses and repents

Background: Job continued to complain. He demanded that Yahweh answer him and tell him why he deserved so much suffering when he had not sinned.

A younger man, Elihu, became angry and spoke. He scolded Job's friends because they had accused Job of sin but did not answer him. Next, Elihu scolded Job for speaking so much about his own righteousness instead of praising and trusting Yahweh.

Then Yahweh himself spoke to Job out of a fierce storm. Yahweh asked where Job had been when Yahweh created all things. Then Yahweh asked Job many more questions. These questions showed how great Yahweh's power and knowledge are. The questions also showed that people can know and do very little compared to God.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Job answered Yahweh and said that he knew that Yahweh could do all things. [42:1-2]
- ☐ Job admitted that he had spoken about things that he did not understand. [42:3]
- ☐ Yahweh had told Job to listen and to answer Yahweh's questions. [42:4]
- ☐ Job said that before this he had heard of Yahweh, but now he saw Yahweh. [42:5]
- ☐ Job repented. [42:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [42:2] What did Job say about Yahweh?
He said he knew that Yahweh can do all things. He knew that Yahweh's purpose could not be stopped.
2. [42:3] What kind of things did Job say that he had spoken about?
He said he had spoken about things that were too difficult for him to understand.
3. [42:4] What had Yahweh said to Job?
Yahweh had told Job to listen and to answer questions that Yahweh would ask.
4. [42:5] What did Job say had changed in how he perceived Yahweh?
Job said that he had heard about Yahweh before, but now he saw Yahweh with his eye.
5. [42:5-6] How did Job respond after he saw Yahweh with his eye?
Job despised himself. He repented in dust and ashes.

Comment Section:

Job 42:7-17 God rebukes Job's friends and restores Job's wealth

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh was angry with Eliphaz and Job's other two friends for saying things about Yahweh that were not right. Yahweh required them to make a burnt offering for their sin. [42:7-8]
- ☐ Job's three friends did what Yahweh told them to do. Yahweh accepted Job. [42:9]
- ☐ Job prayed for his friends, and Yahweh blessed Job with twice as much as he had before. [42:10-12]
- ☐ Job had seven sons and three daughters, and he lived 140 years. [42:13-19]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [42:7] What did Yahweh say that Eliphaz and his two friends had done wrong?
They had not said the right things about Yahweh, as Job had done.
2. [42:8] What did Yahweh tell Eliphaz to give as an offering?
He told Eliphaz to take seven bulls and seven rams to offer for himself and his friends as a burnt offering.
3. [42:8] What did Yahweh say that Job would do for them, and how would Yahweh respond?
Job would pray for his friends, and Yahweh would accept his prayer. Then Yahweh would not deal with Job's friends according to their folly.
4. [42:9] What did Job's three friends do?
They did what Yahweh had told them to do.
5. [42:9] Whom did Yahweh accept?
Yahweh accepted Job.
6. [42:10] What happened after Job prayed for his friends?
Yahweh restored Job's fortunes and gave him twice as much as what he had possessed before.
7. [42:11] Who came to Job to eat with him and comfort him?
Job's brothers and sisters, and all who knew him before, came to eat with him and comfort him.
8. [42:11] What did each person give to Job when coming to comfort him?
They each gave him a piece of silver and a ring of gold.

Job 42:7-17 continued

9. [42:12] How did Yahweh bless Job at the end of his life?
Yahweh blessed Job more than in the first part of Job's life. He had thousands of animals.
10. [42:13] How many more sons and daughters did Job have?
He had seven sons and three daughters.
11. [42:15] What was unique about Job's daughters?
There were no women in the land as beautiful as Job's daughters, and he gave them an inheritance with their brothers.
12. [42:16] How long did Job live after this time?
He lived 140 more years.

Comment Section:

Psalms 1:1-6 The ways of the righteous and the wicked

Background: Psalms is a book of Hebrew poetry, which includes many comparisons, word pictures, and parallel lines. Parallel lines say the same thing two times in a row, using different words.

Psalms 1 is often considered to be a "wisdom psalm," which gives advice to those who hear it read or sung.

Some psalms identify the author, and some do not. When the psalm does not identify the author, this Reviewers' Guide will refer to the author as "the psalmist."

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A person is blessed when he does not walk with the wicked, when he does not stand with sinners, or when he does not sit among mockers. [1:1]
- ☐ A person is blessed when he delights in the law of Yahweh. [1:2]
- ☐ This blessed person is compared to a tree by rivers of water. [1:3]
- ☐ The wicked are compared to chaff blown away by wind. [1:4]
- ☐ The righteous person is blessed, but the wicked person will perish. [1:5-6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] What three things did the psalmist say about the man who is blessed?
He does not walk in the advice of the wicked, he does not stand in the path with sinners, and he does not sit in the assembly of mockers.
2. [1:2] What does the blessed person delight in?
His delight is in the law of Yahweh. He meditates on Yahweh's law in the day and at night.
3. [1:3] How is the blessed person like a tree planted by streams of water?
Just like a tree planted by streams of water produces fruit and its leaves do not wither, the blessed man prospers in everything he does.
4. [1:4] How did the psalmist describe the wicked?
He said the wicked are like chaff that the wind drives away.
5. [1:5] What did the psalmist say about the wicked and sinners?
They will not stand in the judgment, nor in the assembly of the righteous.

Psalms 1:1-6 continued

6. [1:6] What did the psalmist say about the ways of the righteous and of the wicked?
Yahweh approves the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Comment Section:

Psalms 2:1-9 Yahweh's Messiah will reign

Background: Psalm 2 is usually considered a royal psalm because it is about the king. It was probably first sung when a new man became the king. Psalm 2 is commonly understood to prophetically speak of the promised Messiah (which means "the Anointed One"). This psalm mentions Zion, which meant Mount Zion in Jerusalem, where the temple of Yahweh was.

Part 1

- ☐ The psalmist described nations, kings, and rulers who took a stand against Yahweh and his Messiah. [2:1-3]
- ☐ Yahweh, who sits in heaven, mocked the rulers. [2:4]
- ☐ Yahweh said he had set his king in place on Zion. [2:5-6]
- ☐ Yahweh announced his plan to give the son an inheritance, which was the earth. [2:7-8]
- ☐ The son would break the other rulers with a rod of iron. [2:9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [2:1] How did the psalmist describe the nations and peoples?
The nations were in turmoil, and the peoples devised vain plans.
2. [2:2] What did the psalmist say about the kings and rulers?
The kings and rulers of the earth took their stand against Yahweh and against his anointed one (or Messiah).
3. [2:3] What did the kings and rulers say?
They said that they would tear off the shackles and chains that were on them.
4. [2:4] How did he who sits in the heavens respond to the kings and rulers?
He mocked the kings and rulers.
5. [2:5-6] What would the Lord say to the kings and rulers?
He would speak angrily to them and say that he himself set his king in place on Zion, his holy mountain.
6. [2:7] What did Yahweh's say in his decree?
Yahweh said, "You are my son! This day I have become your Father."
7. [2:7] What person do you think Yahweh spoke to when he said, "You are my son!"
It is indicated that Yahweh spoke to the Messiah (see verse 2).

Psalms 2:1-9 continued

8. [2:8] What would Yahweh give to his son?

Yahweh would give the nations for his son's inheritance, and the ends of the earth for his son's possession.

9. [2:9] What did Yahweh say the son was going to do with the iron rod?

The son was going to break them like a potter's jar. He would smash them to pieces.

10. [2:9] Who do you think were those that the son was going to break?

From the previous verse, it seems that the son would break the nations and the ends of the earth.

Comment Section:

Psalms 8:1-9 The Lord reveals his glory

Background: Psalm 8, which was written by David, is a psalm of worship and praise to God. This psalm was intended to be sung by a choir.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David said that Yahweh's name is magnificent in all the earth. [8:1]
- ☐ David said that Yahweh had established praise to come from infants, to silence his enemies. [8:2]
- ☐ When David looked at the heavens that Yahweh had created, he wondered why Yahweh would pay attention to humans. [8:3-4]
- ☐ He said that Yahweh had made humans a little lower than heavenly beings and gave humans glory and honor. [8:5]
- ☐ David was amazed that Yahweh placed human beings on the earth to rule over the works of Yahweh's hands. [8:6-8]
- ☐ David wrote again that Yahweh's name is magnificent in all the earth. [8:9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [8:1] What did David say about Yahweh's name, when he spoke to Yahweh in verse 1?
He said that Yahweh's name is magnificent in all the earth.
2. [8:1] Where is Yahweh's glory revealed?
It is revealed in the heavens above.
3. [8:2] Why did Yahweh establish praise that came from the mouths of babies and infants?
He did this because of his enemies, to silence the enemy and the avenger.
4. [8:3-4] What did David wonder when he looked at the heavens and saw the moon and stars that Yahweh created?
He wondered what would cause Yahweh to notice or pay attention to humans.
5. [8:5] What did Yahweh make humans a little lower than?
He made them a little lower than the heavenly beings.
6. [8:5] What did Yahweh crown humans with?
He crowned them with glory and honor.

Psalms 8:1-9 continued

7. [8:6-8] Over what did David say that Yahweh made humans rule?
Yahweh made humans rule over the works of Yahweh's hands, all sheep and oxen, wild animals, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea.
8. [8:9] What did David repeat at the end of the psalm?
Yahweh's name is magnificent in all the earth.

Comment Section:

Psalms 19:1-6 God's creation speaks of His glory

Background: Psalm 19 is a praise psalm, praising God for his creation and for his law. It was written by David.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David said that the heavens declare the glory of God. [19:1]
- ☐ He said that the heavens speak of God's glory to the ends of the world, even though there are no words or voice that can be heard. [19:2-4]
- ☐ David described the movement and power of the sun. [19:5-6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [19:1] What do the heavens and skies declare and make known?
The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim the work of God's hands.
2. [19:2] What happens day after day and night after night?
Day after day, speech pours out. Night after night, it reveals knowledge.
3. [19:3-4] What did David say about the speech that pours out from the heavens?
There are no spoken words or a voice that can be heard, yet their words go to the end of the world.
4. [19:1-4] What do you think it means that the heavens do not speak a word, yet their words go all over the world?
It probably means that the vast beauty of the heavens is evidence of God's glory. The heavens do not speak out loud, but people know about God's glory by looking at the heavens.
5. [19:5] How did David describe the sun?
The sun is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber. It is like a strong man running a race.
6. [19:6] What further thing does David say about the sun?
The sun rises from one horizon and crosses to the other. Nothing escapes its heat.

Comment Section:

Psalms 22:1-15 David asks why God has forsaken him

Background: Psalm 22 is a messianic psalm, which means that it prophetically speaks of the promised Messiah. Jesus said words from this psalm when he was on the cross. It is also a psalm of individual lament and praise. It was written by David.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David cried out to God by day and by night, asking why God abandoned him. [22:1-2]
- ☐ David said that God is holy, and he is praised by Israel. [22:3]
- ☐ When David's ancestors cried out to God and trusted him, God rescued them. [22:4-5]
- ☐ David said that he was despised and mocked by the people. [22:6-7]
- ☐ The people said to let Yahweh deliver David if he delighted in him. [22:8]
- ☐ David said that Yahweh had been his God from the time when David was a baby. [22:9-10]
- ☐ David asked God to be near to him when there was trouble and when no one would help him. [22:11]
- ☐ David said that he was surrounded, and he no longer had strength. [22:12-15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [22:1] What did David cry out to God?
He asked why God had abandoned him and was so far away from him.
2. [22:2] How did David describe the times when he cried out to God?
David said that he cried out in the daytime, but God did not answer. David also cried out during the night.
3. [22:3] Even though David felt God had abandoned him, what did he still say about God?
He said that God is holy, and Israel praises him as the king.
4. [22:4-5] What happened when David's ancestors cried out to God and trusted God?
They were rescued. They were not disappointed.
5. [22:6-7] How did the people treat David?
They despised him. They taunted him, mocked him, and shook their heads at him.
6. [22:8] What did they say when they mocked David?
They said to let Yahweh come and save him, because he delighted in him.

Psalms 22:1-15 continued

7. [22:9-10] What had Yahweh done at the beginning of David's life?
Yahweh had brought David out of his mother's womb. Yahweh had David trust him when David was still a baby on his mother's breasts. Ever since David was in his mother's womb, Yahweh was David's God.
8. [22:11] Why did David ask God not to be far away from him?
David asked God this because trouble was near and there was no one to help David.
9. [22:12-13] What surrounded David?
David said that many strong bulls surrounded him. He said that their mouths were wide open against him, like a lion ripping its victim.
10. [22:12-13] What do you think David was talking about when he spoke about bulls in verses 12 and 13?
This probably meant that many enemies were ready to destroy him.
11. [22:14-15] How did the speaker describe himself in verses 14 and 15?
He described himself in this way:
- He was being poured out like water.
 - All his bones were dislocated.
 - His heart was melting like wax.
 - His strength was dried up.
 - His tongue stuck to the roof of his mouth.
 - He said that God laid him in the dust of death.

Comment Section:

Psalms 23:1-6 Yahweh is my shepherd

Background: Psalm 23 is a psalm of praise to God for his continued care and protection. The author was David, who worked as a shepherd before he became a soldier and then a king. Shepherds brought their sheep to good places to find food and water. They used their rods and their staffs to guide their sheep and to protect them against enemies.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh was a shepherd to David, so David lacked nothing. [23:1]
- ☐ Yahweh brought David to green pastures and tranquil water. [23:2]
- ☐ Yahweh always led David on the right path. [23:3]
- ☐ David was not afraid when he walked through the darkest place because Yahweh was with him. [23:4]
- ☐ When David's enemies were present, Yahweh gave David plenty for his needs and anointed David's head. [23:5]
- ☐ Yahweh would always show goodness and faithfulness to him. [23:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [23:1] What did David say that Yahweh was for him?
David said that Yahweh was his shepherd, so David lacked nothing.
2. [23:2] With Yahweh as his shepherd and David speaking as a sheep, how did Yahweh lead David?
Yahweh led David to lie down in green pastures. Yahweh led David beside tranquil waters.
3. [23:2] What do you think David meant when he said that Yahweh led him to lie down in green pastures and led him beside tranquil waters?
David probably meant that Yahweh provided for his needs and gave him rest and peace.
4. [23:3] What did Yahweh do for his name's sake?
He guided David along the right paths.
5. [23:4] What did David say about walking through the darkest valley?
David said that he would fear no harm because Yahweh was with him. Yahweh's rod and staff comforted David.
6. [23:5] What did Yahweh do in the presence of David's enemies?
Yahweh prepared a table for David, anointed his head with oil, and gave him so much that his cup overflowed.

Psalms 23:1-6 continued

7. [23:6] What did David say about Yahweh's goodness and faithfulness?

David said that Yahweh's goodness and faithfulness would pursue him all the days of his life.

Comment Section:

Psalms 42:1-5 Why are you downcast, O my soul?

Background: Psalm 42 is a psalm of praise written by the sons of Korah. These men were music leaders. This psalm refers to the house of God, which is another name for the temple of God.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The psalmist wrote that the way a deer panted for water was like the way that the psalmist thirsted for God. [42:1-2]
- ☐ The psalmist said that he cried when people asked where his God was. [42:3]
- ☐ The psalmist reminded himself of how he once went to the house of God with praise. He reminded himself to once again put his hope in God. [37:4-5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [42:1-2] To what did the psalmist compare a deer who panted for streams of water?
The psalmist compared the deer's thirst to his own thirst for the living God.
2. [42:1-2] What do you think it meant to thirst for God?
It probably meant to desire God greatly and to be eager to please him.
3. [42:3] What did the psalmist say had been his food day and night?
He said that tears had been his food day and night.
4. [42:3] What did people ask the psalmist all day long?
They asked him where his God was.
5. [42:3] What do you think the psalmist meant when he said that tears had been his food when people asked him all day long where his God was?
(Answers may vary.) He probably meant that he was too sorrowful to eat, and instead he found himself crying constantly. And maybe this was made worse because people were mocking him by asking him where God was in all his trouble.
6. [42:4] What did the psalmist call to his mind when he poured out his soul?
He called to his mind how he went with the people, leading them to the house of God with joy and praise.
7. [42:5] What did the psalmist ask of his soul?
He asked why his soul was upset within him.

Psalms 42:1-5 continued

8. [42:5] What did the psalmist tell his soul to do?
He told his soul to hope in God and to praise God again.

Comment Section:

Psalms 50:7-17 God rebukes his people

Background: Psalm 50 is a wisdom psalm written by Asaph, who was a worship leader. Asaph quotes God directly throughout this psalm.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God told his people to hear him testify against them. [50:7]
- ☐ God said that he did not need more animal sacrifices from them, because all the animals in the world were already his. [50:8-13]
- ☐ God reminded his people to offer him thanksgiving, to fulfill their vows to him, and to call on him on the day of trouble. [50:14-15]
- ☐ God asked the wicked why they would speak about God's laws and covenant when they hated God's instruction. [50:16-17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [50:7] What did God tell his people in verse 7?
God told them to hear him. He said that he would testify against them.
2. [50:8] What did God say about Israel's sacrifices?
God said that he was not reproving Israel for their sacrifices. He said that their burnt offerings were always before him.
3. [50:9-11] Why would God not take a bull or goat from the people?
He would not take them because all the animals in the world belonged to him: all animals of the forest, the cattle on a thousand hills, all the birds of the mountains, and all the wild beasts of the field.
4. [50:12] What would God not tell the people and why?
He would not tell them if he were hungry, because all things in the world are his.
5. [50:13] What did God ask Israel in verse 13?
God asked them if he would eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats.

Psalms 50:7-17 continued

6. [50:12-13] Why do you think God spoke of being hungry in verse 12 and asked the question in verse 13?
Probably God spoke of being hungry and asked if he would eat flesh or drink blood to show how ridiculous it would be to think that he would need such things, because his people should already know that he did not have needs like these. God also reminds them through these words that he wants more from his people than just animal sacrifices. He wants people to praise and thank him from their hearts, as they love and obey him.
7. [50:14] What did God say that the people should do?
They should offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving. They should pay their vows to the Most High.
8. [50:15] What would happen when they called on God in the day of trouble?
God would rescue them, and they would glorify him.
9. [50:16-17] What did God ask the wicked?
He asked why they would speak about God's laws and covenant when they hated God's instruction and threw his words away.

Comment Section:

Psalms 51:1-17 A prayer for forgiveness

Background: Psalm 51 is a psalm of repentance from sin. David wrote this after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ David cried out to God for mercy and forgiveness based on God's covenant faithfulness. [51:1-2]
- ☐ David kept thinking about how he had sinned against God. [51:3]
- ☐ He said that God is blameless when he judges. [51:4]
- ☐ David said that he was sinful from birth, but that God wanted David's inner self to be trustworthy. He said that God would teach him wisdom. [51:5-6]
- ☐ David said that if God purified him, he would be clean. [51:7]
- ☐ He asked God to let him rejoice again. [51:8]
- ☐ He asked God to blot out his sin and to create a clean heart in him. [51:9-10]
- ☐ David asked not to be cast out of God's presence or to have God's Spirit taken away from him. [51:11]
- ☐ David asked God to restore to him the joy of salvation. David said that he would then teach sinners about God's ways. [51:12-13]
- ☐ David asked God to forgive his guilt for shedding blood. Then he would sing about God's righteousness and he would speak God's praise. [51:14-15]
- ☐ David said that God did not delight in the sacrifice or burnt offerings, or else David would do that. [51:16]
- ☐ David said that God wanted the sacrifice of a broken spirit and a contrite heart. [51:17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [51:1] What did David ask God to do?
He asked God to have mercy on him because of God's covenant faithfulness. He asked God to blot out his sins for the sake of God's many merciful acts.
2. [51:1-2] In what ways did David ask God to forgive his sins, other than to blot out his transgressions?
He also asked God to wash him from his iniquity and to cleanse him from his sin.
3. [51:3] What did David say about his transgressions and sin?
He said that he was aware of his transgression and constantly thought about his sin.
4. [51:4] What did David say he had done?
He had sinned against God only. He had done what was evil in God's sight.

Psalms 51:1-17 continued

5. [51:4] David said that God is blameless when he does what?
God is blameless when he judges.
6. [51:5] How early in David's life had he been a sinner?
David said he was born in iniquity. He said that as soon as his mother conceived him, he was in sin.
7. [51:6] What does God desire in the inner self?
God desires trustworthiness in the inner self.
8. [51:6] What did David say that God would teach him?
David said that God would teach him wisdom.
9. [51:7] What did David say that he would be if God purified him with hyssop and washed him?
David said that he would be clean and whiter than snow.
10. [51:7] What do you think David meant by saying that he would be whiter than snow?
Here, David was probably using the word "white" to refer to cleanness. The passage indicates that he meant that if God would forgive him, there would be no filth or blemish on him from his sin.
11. [51:8] What did David want to hear?
He wanted to hear joy and gladness so that his broken bones could rejoice.
12. [51:9] What did David want God to do about his sins?
He wanted God to hide his face from David's sins and to blot out all of David's iniquities.
13. [51:10] What did David want God to do for his heart and spirit?
David wanted God to create a clean heart and a right spirit within him.
14. [51:11] What did David ask God in verse 11?
David asked not to be driven away from God's presence. David asked God not to take his holy Spirit away from David.
15. [51:12] What did David ask God to restore to him?
David asked for his joy of God's salvation to be restored to him.
16. [51:13] What would David do after God did this?
David would then teach transgressors God's ways, and sinners would be converted to God.

Psalms 51:1-17 continued

17. [51:14] For what did David ask God to forgive him in verse 14?
He asked God to forgive him for his guilt in shedding a person's blood.
18. [51:14] Which sin do you think David was repenting for in verse 14?
He was probably repenting for the sin of having Bathsheba's husband killed.
19. [51:15] What would David do if God opened his lips?
David would praise God.
20. [51:16] Why did David say about what God thought of sacrifices and burnt offerings?
David said that God did not delight in sacrifices and burnt offerings, or else David would bring them.
21. [51:17] What did David say were the sacrifices of God?
The sacrifices of God were a broken spirit and a contrite heart.

Comment Section:

Psalms 53:1-6 The foolishness and wickedness of people

Background: Psalm 53 is a wisdom psalm. It was written by David. Zion, which is mentioned in this psalm, was the hill in Jerusalem where God's temple was located. Sometimes Zion is used as a word picture to refer to the city of God, or the eternal reign of God.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The fool says that there is no God. [53:1]
- ☐ God looked at mankind for someone who sought him, but there was not even one person who did good. [53:2-3]
- ☐ The wicked appeared to have no understanding when they devoured God's people and refused to call on God. [53:4]
- ☐ The wicked would be very afraid because God would scatter their bones. They would be put to shame because God had rejected them. [53:5]
- ☐ David hoped the salvation of Israel would come from Zion. When God brought his people back, they would rejoice. [53:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [53:1] What does the fool say in his heart?
The fool says, "There is no God."
2. [53:2] When God looked down on mankind, what did he want to see?
God wanted to see if any person understood or sought after him.
3. [53:3] Did God find anyone who understood and sought after him?
No, they had all turned away from him. They were corrupt. Not even one person did what was good.
4. [53:4] What did those who behaved wickedly and had no understanding do?
They devoured God's people as though they were bread. They did not call upon God.
5. [53:4] What do you think it meant that those who behaved wickedly devoured God's people as though they were bread?
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps it meant that they attacked God's people and thought that it was a normal thing to do. Perhaps it meant that they took things like food away from God's people.
6. [53:5] Why were those who behaved wickedly in great fear?
They were greatly afraid because God would scatter their dead bones.

Psalms 53:1-6 continued

7. [53:5] Why would people who did not call on God be put to shame?
They would be put to shame because God had rejected them.
8. [53:6] What did David long for?
He longed for the salvation of Israel to come from Zion.
9. [53:6] When would the people of Israel rejoice and be glad?
This would happen when God brought his people back from captivity.

Comment Section:

Psalms 73:1-17 The wicked only appear to prosper

Background: Psalm 73 was written by Asaph. The people of Israel were also called God's children in this psalm. God's temple was called his sanctuary. God is also referred to as the Most High in this psalm.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Asaph said that God was good to Israel and to those with a pure heart. [73:1]
- ☐ Asaph admitted that he had almost stumbled because he envied the wicked people's prosperity. [73:2-3]
- ☐ He said that the arrogant and wicked had no pain and were free from trouble. [73:4-5]
- ☐ Asaph said that such wicked people openly showed they were prideful and violent. [73:6]
- ☐ They were blind, which led to sinful thoughts and words. They even spoke against heaven and people turned back to them. [73:7-9]
- ☐ Yet they asked how God would know or have knowledge. [73:11]
- ☐ Asaph said to notice that such wicked people were always at ease, growing richer. [73:12]
- ☐ Asaph felt like he had guarded his heart from evil in vain because he had been afflicted. [73:13-14]
- ☐ He knew that if he spoke this way to God's children, it would be a betrayal. [73:15]
- ☐ Yet it was too difficult for him to understand these things. [73:16]
- ☐ But when Asaph went into God's sanctuary, he understood the fate of the wicked. [73:17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [73:1] To whom was God good?
God was good to Israel, to those with a pure heart.
2. [73:2-3] Why did Asaph's feet nearly slip?
His feet nearly slipped because he was envious of the arrogant when he saw the prosperity of the wicked.
3. [73:2-3] What do you think Asaph meant when he said that his feet almost slipped?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant that he became weak and almost stopped trusting God.
4. [73:4-5] How did Asaph describe the arrogant and wicked?
He said that they had no pain and that they were strong and well fed. He said that they were free from trouble and were not afflicted like other men.

Psalms 73:1-17 continued

5. [73:6] What was pride and violence like to the wicked?
Pride was like a necklace around their neck. Violence clothed them like a robe.
6. [73:7] What was the result of the blindness of the wicked?
Out of this blindness came sin and evil thoughts.
7. [73:8-9] What things did the wicked say?
They mocked, saying evil things, threatening violence. They spoke against heaven.
8. [73:11] What did people ask about God?
They asked how God would know. They questioned if there was knowledge with the Most High.
9. [73:12] What did Asaph observe about the wicked?
They were always at ease, and they became richer and richer.
10. [73:13-14] Why did Asaph feel that he guarded his heart in vain?
Asaph had been afflicted all day long and disciplined every morning, even though he was innocent.
11. [73:15] What would happen if Asaph had said these things?
He would have betrayed this generation of God's children.
12. [73:16] Why did Asaph say he could not understand these things, although he tried?
It was too difficult for him.
13. [73:17] What happened when Asaph went into God's sanctuary?
He came to understand the fate of the wicked.

Comment Section:

Psalms 79:1-10 A prayer for God to punish their enemies

Background: Psalm 79 was written by Asaph, asking for God's deliverance. It was written after God's allowed Jerusalem and its people to be attacked, as a consequence of their sins. Many people were killed. The nation of Israel was named after one of their ancestors whose other name was Jacob.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Foreign nations had defiled the temple. They turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins. [79:1]
- ☐ They killed many people. Animals and birds were eating the dead bodies. There was no one to bury them. [79:2-3]
- ☐ The people of Israel had become objects of contempt to their neighbors, who mocked and derided them. [79:4]
- ☐ Asaph asked God how long he would be angry. [79:5]
- ☐ Asaph asked God to pour out his wrath on the nations that do not know God because they destroyed Jacob's villages. [79:6-7]
- ☐ He asked God not to hold their forefathers' sins against them, but instead to bring his merciful actions to them. [79:8]
- ☐ He asked God to help them for the glory of his name, and to save and forgive them. [79:9]
- ☐ Asaph did not want the nations to ask, "Where is their God?" Instead, he wanted God to avenge the blood that God's servants had shed. [79:10]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [79:1] What happened when the foreign nations came into Israel?
They defiled the temple and turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins.
2. [79:2-3] What happened to those in Jerusalem that the foreign nations attacked?
Birds and animals were eating their dead bodies. Their blood was poured out like water around Jerusalem. There was no one to bury them.
3. [79:4] What had God's people become to their neighbors?
They became objects of contempt, mocking, and derision.
4. [79:5] What did Asaph ask Yahweh?
Asaph asked Yahweh if he would stay angry forever. He asked Yahweh if his jealous anger would burn like fire.
5. [79:6-7] What did Asaph want God to do?
He wanted God to pour out his wrath on the nations that did not know God and on the kingdoms that did not call upon God's name, because they had laid waste Jacob's villages.

Psalms 79:1-10 continued

6. [79:8] In verse 8, what did Asaph ask God?
He asked God not to hold the sins of their forefathers against them.
7. [79:9] What reason did Asaph give for asking God's mercies to come to them quickly?
He said that the people were very low.
8. [79:9] Why did Asaph say that God should save Israel?
Asaph begged God to save them for the sake of the glory of his name.
9. [79:10] What did Asaph not want the nations to say?
He did not want the nations to say, "Where is their God?"
10. [79:10] What did Asaph want to happen before their eyes?
Asaph wanted them to see God avenge the shed blood of his servants.

Comment Section:

Psalms 84:1-12 I long for the courts of Yahweh

Background: Psalm 84 was written by the sons of Korah. Each year, the people of Israel would take a joyful journey to Yahweh's temple in Jerusalem. The temple was on a hill called Mount Zion. Those who went there would enter the temple's courts. They would bring sacrifices, which would be offered on the temple's altars. Yahweh had told the people of Israel that his presence would fill the temple, and it would be his home among them.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The psalmist said that the place where Yahweh dwelled was lovely. [84:1]
- ☐ He said that he longed for Yahweh's temple and that he shouted for joy to God. [84:2]
- ☐ The psalmist said that even birds would want their homes or nests to be near Yahweh's altars. [84:3]
- ☐ He said that all who lived there were blessed. They praised Yahweh all the time. [84:4]
- ☐ He said that all those who journey to Zion are blessed. [84:5-9]
- ☐ The psalmist said that one day in Yahweh's courts was better than a thousand years elsewhere. [84:10]
- ☐ The psalmist called Yahweh his people's sun and shield. He said that Yahweh did not withhold good things from those who walked with integrity. He said to Yahweh that the person who trusts in Yahweh is blessed. [84:11-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [84:1] What did the psalmist say about the place where Yahweh of hosts lives?
He said that the place where Yahweh of hosts lives is lovely.
2. [84:2] For what did the psalmist long?
He longed for the courts of Yahweh.
3. [84:2] To whom did the psalmist call out in joy?
The psalmist's heart and his whole being called out in joy to the living God.
4. [84:3] Where did the sparrow and the swallow find a house or a nest?
They found their house and nest near the altars of Yahweh.
5. [84:3] What other names did the writer use for Yahweh of hosts in verse 3?
He also called Yahweh "my King" and "my God."
6. [84:4] How did the psalmist describe those who lived in Yahweh's house?
He said that they were blessed and that they praised Yahweh continually.

Psalms 84:1-10 continued

7. [84:5] Who else did the psalmist describe as blessed?
He said the man who was made strong by Yahweh was blessed.
8. [84:5] What did the psalmist say was in that man's heart?
He said that the roads up to Zion were in that man's heart.
9. [84:5] What do you think the psalmist meant when he said that the roads to Zion were in that man's heart?
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps he meant that a man whose strength was in Yahweh would enjoy each journey to Zion. Perhaps he meant that the roads to Zion would be special to that man because Yahweh's temple was the place where the roads led.
10. [84:6] Where did those who were blessed find springs of water to drink?
They found these as they passed through the Valley of Tears.
11. [84:7] Where did the blessed people appear?
They appeared before God in Zion.
12. [84:8] What did the psalmist ask Yahweh God to do in verse 8?
He asked Yahweh God to hear his prayer.
13. [84:9] Who did the psalmist ask Yahweh God to show concern for?
He asked for Yahweh God to show concern for his anointed.
14. [84:10] What did the psalmist say about a day in Yahweh's courts?
He said that one day in Yahweh's courts was better than a thousand anywhere else.
15. [84:10] What did the psalmist say that he preferred to living in the tents of the wicked?
He said that he would prefer to be a doorkeeper in the house of his God.
16. [84:11] What did the psalmist say about Yahweh in verse 11?
He said that Yahweh was a sun and shield for them. He said that Yahweh would give grace and glory. He said that Yahweh would not withhold good things from those who walked with integrity.
17. [84:12] What did the psalmist say to Yahweh in verse 12?
He said that those who trusted Yahweh were blessed.

Comment Section:

Psalms 90:1-12 God has no beginning or end

Background: This psalm was written by Moses, the man of God. This psalm refers to a watch in the night, which meant a portion of the night when one guard would watch out for danger.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The Lord has been a refuge for all generations. [90:1]
- ☐ Before God made the world, from everlasting to everlasting, the Lord is God. [90:2]
- ☐ The Lord returns man to dust. [90:3]
- ☐ In the Lord's sight, a thousand years is like a day, or like a watch in the night. [90:4]
- ☐ Moses compared the lives of mankind to grass that sprouts up and then withers in a day. [90:5-6]
- ☐ God's anger consumes and dismays people when their sins are revealed in his presence. [90:7-8]
- ☐ The lives of humans come to an end quickly under God's wrath, in seventy or eighty years, and they are full of trouble. [90:9-10]
- ☐ Moses asked whether anyone knew the power of God's anger. [90:11]
- ☐ Moses prayed that God would teach us to consider our life, to gain a heart of wisdom. [90:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [90:1] How long did Moses say that the Lord had been a refuge for him and his people?
The Lord had been a refuge throughout all generations.
2. [90:2] Before the Lord formed the world, from everlasting to everlasting, what is true?
The Lord is God.
3. [90:3] What does the Lord do to man?
He returns man to dust.
4. [90:4] What are a thousand years like in the sight of the Lord?
They are like yesterday when it is past. They are like a watch in the night.
5. [90:5-6] What did Moses say that people were like?
They were like the grass that sprouted up, bloomed, and then withered and dried up, all in a day.

Psalms 90:1-12 continued

6. [90:7-8] Why were people consumed in the Lord's anger and terrified in his wrath?
They were consumed and terrified because the Lord set their hidden sins in the light of his presence.
7. [90:9] What did Moses say about human lives?
The years of human lives quickly pass like a sigh.
8. [90:10] How many are the years of mankind?
They may live for seventy years, or for eighty years if they are healthy.
9. [90:10] What are even mankind's best years full of?
Their years are full of trouble.
10. [90:11] What did Moses ask if anyone knew?
He asked if anyone knew the power of the Lord's anger.
11. [90:12] What did Moses ask the Lord to teach mankind?
He asked the Lord to teach mankind to consider their life, so that they might gain a heart of wisdom.

Comment Section:

Psalms 95:1-11 God's warning against unbelief

Background: Psalm 95 is the first in a series of six worship psalms (Psalms 95-100). The author is not named. The psalmist mentions the day of Massah, when the people of Israel rebelled against God at Meribah, before they were initially meant to enter the Promised Land. God would not let them enter then, because of their sin. As a consequence, they had to wander for 40 more years in the wilderness.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The psalmist called people to sing and shout to Yahweh. [95:1]
- ☐ He called them to enter into Yahweh's presence with thanksgiving and praise him. [95:2]
- ☐ Yahweh is superior to all gods. [95:3]
- ☐ All things belong to him, and he made all things. [95:4-5]
- ☐ The psalmist again invited the people to bow and worship Yahweh. [95:6]
- ☐ He said that Yahweh was their God, and they were all Yahweh's sheep. [95:7]
- ☐ The psalmist said that if they heard Yahweh's voice that day, they must not harden their hearts the way that happened in the wilderness, when their forefathers tested Yahweh. [95:7-9]
- ☐ For 40 years, Yahweh was angry with that generation who did not know his ways. [95:10]
- ☐ Yahweh vowed in his anger that he would not let them enter his resting place. [95:11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [95:1] What did the psalmist invite people to come and do?
He invited them to come sing to Yahweh. He invited them to shout joyfully to the rock of their salvation.
2. [95:2] How did the writer encourage everyone to enter Yahweh's presence?
The writer encouraged everyone to enter Yahweh's presence with thanksgiving and with psalms of praise.
3. [95:3] How does Yahweh compare to other gods?
Yahweh is a great God, and he is a great King who is superior to all gods.
4. [95:4-5] What examples does the psalmist give of how great Yahweh is?
The depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains, and the seas that Yahweh made are all his, for he made them. His hands also formed the dry land.
5. [95:6-7] Why should everyone worship by bowing down and kneeling before Yahweh, their Creator?
Everyone should worship Yahweh because he is their God, and they are his sheep.

Psalms 95:1-11 continued

6. [95:6-7] Why do you think that the psalmist called Yahweh's people his sheep?
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps he meant that Yahweh takes good care of his people, the way a shepherd takes good care of his sheep. Perhaps he meant that the people should follow and trust Yahweh the way that sheep follow and trust their shepherd.
7. [95:8-9] What warning does the psalmist give in 95:8-9?
He warned the people not to harden their hearts, as happened at Meribah and on the day of Massah in the wilderness, when their forefathers tested Yahweh, even though they had seen what God did.
8. [95:10] How long was Yahweh angry with that generation of people?
Yahweh was angry with them for 40 years.
9. [95:10] How did Yahweh describe the people who challenged his authority?
Yahweh said that they were people whose hearts wander astray. He said that they had not known his ways.
10. [95:11] What did Yahweh vow in his anger?
Yahweh vowed in his anger that the people who provoked him would never enter into Yahweh's resting place.

Comment Section:

Psalms 98:1-9 A call to praise God for his righteousness

Background: In the time of the Old Testament, one musical instrument that was used in praising God was a stringed instrument called a harp or lyre. Other musicians played instruments that made music when they blew air into them, such as the trumpet and the horn.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The psalmist told the people to sing to Yahweh because he had done amazing things, and he was victorious. [98:1]
- ☐ Yahweh revealed his salvation and justice to all the nations. [98:2]
- ☐ All the ends of the earth will see the victory of Israel's God. [98:3]
- ☐ Everyone should shout for joy and sing Yahweh's praises, also using musical instruments. [98:4-6]
- ☐ The psalmist invited all the world, including the sea and rivers and hills, to praise Yahweh. [98:7-8]
- ☐ Yahweh will judge the world with righteousness and fairness. [98:9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [98:1] Why did the psalmist tell the people to sing a new song to Yahweh?
Yahweh had done marvelous things. His hand and arm gave him victory.
2. [98:1] What do you think the psalmist meant when he said that Yahweh's hand and arm gave him victory?
(Answers may vary.) Perhaps this meant that Yahweh's power gave him victory. Perhaps Yahweh had used his people to bring victory.
3. [98:2] What had Yahweh revealed to all the nations?
Yahweh made known his salvation and justice to all the nations.
4. [98:3] What did Yahweh call to the psalmist's mind?
Yahweh reminded the psalmist about his steadfast love and faithfulness for the house of Israel.
5. [98:3] Who would see the victory of Israel's God?
Everyone all over the earth would see the victory of Israel's God.
6. [98:4] What did the psalmist tell everyone to do?
Everyone should shout for joy and burst into song, singing Yahweh's praises.

Psalms 98:1-9 continued

7. [98:5-6] What instruments did the psalmist tell people to use to sing praises and make a joyful noise before Yahweh?
The psalmist told them to use the harp, trumpets, and horn.

8. [98:7-8] How did the psalmist encourage Yahweh's creation to respond to his coming?
He said that the sea and everything in it should shout. He said that the world and those who lived in it should shout. He said that the rivers should clap their hands, and the mountains should shout for joy.

9. [98:7-8] What do you think the psalmist meant when he told the rivers to clap their hands and the mountains to shout for joy?
(*Answers may vary.*) Perhaps he meant that the beauty of things that Yahweh created could bring praise to him. Perhaps he wanted to show that when Yahweh comes to the earth, it will be so great that even rivers and mountains would praise him, as if they were living things.

10. [98:9] How will Yahweh judge the world?
Yahweh will judge the world with righteousness. He will judge the nations with fairness.

Comment Section:

Psalms 110:1-7 Yahweh's priest and king

Background: Psalm 110 is a royal psalm. This psalm honors the king and is often read as a prophecy about the Messiah. It was written by David. This psalm mentions a man named Melchizedek. This was a priest of the Most High God whom Abraham met in the book of Genesis. The psalm also mentions Zion, which was the hill in Jerusalem where Yahweh's temple was located.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh asked David's lord to sit at his right hand until he made his enemies his footstool. [110:1]
- ☐ Yahweh will strengthen the king, and the people will follow him. [110:2-3]
- ☐ Yahweh swore to David's lord that he would be priest forever after the manner of Melchizedek. [110:4]
- ☐ The king will be victorious over his enemies. [110:5-7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [110:1] What did Yahweh ask David's lord to do?
Yahweh asked him to sit at his right hand until he made his enemies his footstool.
2. [110:1] What do you think it meant for his enemies to be made his footstool?
(Answer may vary.) It probably meant that his enemies will be defeated. Perhaps it also meant that they will be so humbled that they will lie before him where he can put his feet on them.
3. [110:2] What will Yahweh hold out?
Yahweh will hold out the scepter of the lord's strength from Zion.
4. [110:2] What do you think it meant for Yahweh to hold out the scepter of the lord's strength from Zion?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps this meant that Yahweh would strengthen the lord and make him a powerful king in Zion.
5. [110:3] What will his people do on that day?
They will follow him willingly in holy garments.
6. [110:4] What did David say that Yahweh has sworn and will not change?
He has sworn to David's lord that he will be a priest forever like Melchizedek.

Psalms 110:1-7 continued

7. [110:5] What will David's lord do to kings who oppose him on the day of his anger?
He will kill them.
8. [110:6] What will happen when David's lord judges the nations?
He will fill the battlegrounds with dead bodies and kill the leaders in many countries.
9. [110:7] What will David's lord do after he drinks from the brook along the road?
He will lift his head up high after victory.

Comment Section:

Psalms 119:9-16 Seeking Yahweh and learning his word

Background: Psalm 119 is a psalm about the law of Yahweh. This psalm is an acrostic, which means that each section in the psalm begins with a different letter in the Hebrew language. The verses in this section all begin with Beth, which is the second letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The psalmist speaks to Yahweh with love and respect in these verses.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A young person can stay pure by obeying Yahweh's word. [119:9]
- ☐ The psalmist said that he sought Yahweh with all of his heart. He did not want to wander from Yahweh's commands. [119:10]
- ☐ The psalmist had stored Yahweh's word in his heart so that he would not sin against Yahweh. [119:11]
- ☐ The psalmist blessed Yahweh. He asked Yahweh to teach him. [119:12]
- ☐ The psalmist said that he recited the righteous words that had come from Yahweh. [119:13]
- ☐ The psalmist said that he rejoiced in Yahweh's ways more than he rejoiced in all riches. [119:14]
- ☐ He said that he would meditate on Yahweh's commands and keep his eyes on Yahweh's ways. [119:15]
- ☐ He promised to delight in Yahweh's commands. He promised not to forget Yahweh's word. [119:16]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [119:9] How can a young person stay pure?
A young person can stay pure by obeying Yahweh's word.
2. [119:10] How did the psalmist say that he sought Yahweh?
He sought Yahweh with all of his heart.
3. [119:10] What did the psalmist ask Yahweh to help him avoid?
He asked for Yahweh's help so that he would not wander from Yahweh's commands.
4. [119:11] What had the psalmist done to help himself to avoid sinning against Yahweh?
He had stored Yahweh's word in his heart.
5. [119:11] What do you think the psalmist meant when he said that he had stored Yahweh's word in his heart?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant that he had memorized Yahweh's word. Perhaps he meant that he cared deeply about Yahweh's word, or that he spent time reading it and learning about it.

Psalms 119:9-16 continued

6. [119:12] What did the psalmist do in verse 12?
He blessed Yahweh. He asked Yahweh to teach him.
7. [119:13] What did the psalmist say that he had done?
The psalmist said that he had spoken the righteous words that had come from Yahweh.
8. [119:14] How much did the psalmist rejoice in Yahweh's ways?
He rejoiced in Yahweh's ways more than he rejoiced in all riches.
9. [119:15] In verse 15, what did the psalmist tell Yahweh that he would do?
He would meditate on Yahweh's instructions and keep his attention on Yahweh's ways.
10. [119:16] What did the psalmist tell Yahweh in verse 16?
He said that he delighted in Yahweh's commands and would not forget Yahweh's word.

Comment Section:

Psalms 127:1-5 Prosperity comes from Yahweh

Background: Psalm 127 is a wisdom psalm. It is also called a song of ascents, which were psalms that were recited as the people of Israel walked up the hills in their journey to Jerusalem. This psalm was written by Solomon.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Solomon said that unless Yahweh builds the house or guards the city, it is useless for a person to do these things. [127:1]
- ☐ Solomon said that it was useless to constantly work hard because Yahweh provides for his beloved as they slept. [127:2]
- ☐ Solomon said that children are a heritage from Yahweh. He said that the man who had many children was blessed. [127:3-5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [127:1] What happens if Yahweh does not build the house and does not guard the city?
When Yahweh does not build the house, those who build it work uselessly. If Yahweh does not guard the city, the watchman stood guard uselessly.
2. [127:1] What do you think Solomon meant in verse 1?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant that we should not attempt even worthwhile efforts without prayer and seeking God's wisdom.
3. [127:2] Why is it useless to constantly work hard, according to Solomon?
Yahweh provided for his beloved as they slept.
4. [127:3] What did Solomon say was a heritage and a reward from Yahweh?
Children were a heritage and a reward from Yahweh.
5. [127:4] What did he say that the children of one's youth were like?
Children were like arrows in the hand of the warrior.
6. [127:5] When will the blessed man, who has his quiver full of children, not be put to shame?
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his enemies in the gate.

Psalms 127:1-5 continued

7. [127:4-5] Why do you think that Solomon compares children of a person's youth to the arrows of a warrior?
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps Solomon meant that when the parents grow old, the children will be old enough to protect them like arrows protect a warrior. Perhaps he meant that children can be directed by young and godly parents in a way Solomon was comparing to the way that a hunter or a warrior directs his arrows when he shoots them with his bow.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 1:20-33 Wisdom rebukes fools

Background: The book of Proverbs is full of sayings, and it often uses metaphor to make a point. It often contrasts good and evil, or wise and foolish, as a theme. The sayings in Proverbs do not always connect to each other, and they may not be intended to communicate something that always happens.

In this passage, wisdom is presented as a woman who is speaking and will be referred to as “Wisdom,” “she,” or “her” in this section.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Wisdom calls out to people in the streets, the market, and the city gates. [1:20-21]
- ☐ She asks people who are naive, mockers, and fools how long they will continue their ways. [1:22]
- ☐ She says that if they turn because of her correction, she will make her words known to them. [1:23]
- ☐ Because they have refused to listen to her, she says that she will laugh at them when disaster comes upon them. [1:24-27]
- ☐ She says that they will cry out to her at that time, but she will not answer. [1:28]
- ☐ Because they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear Yahweh, and because they did not accept her counsel, they will have to eat the fruit of their actions. [1:28-31]
- ☐ She says that they will be destroyed because they turned away and were indifferent. [1:29]
- ☐ But those who listen to her wisdom will be safe and will have no fear of danger. [1:33]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:20-21] Who calls out to people in the open market, noisy streets, and city gates?
Wisdom calls out to the people.
2. [1:22] What does Wisdom ask the people?
She asks them how long they will remain foolish, delight in mockery, and hate knowledge.
3. [1:20-21] Why do you think Wisdom calls out to people in the streets and at the city gates?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps she sees the danger of their foolish living, and she wants to invite them to learn God's wisdom so that they can live in a way that honors God. Perhaps she calls out in these areas of the city because there are many people there.
4. [1:23] What did Wisdom say she will do if they listen to her correction?
She will pour out her spirit and make her words known to them.

Proverbs 1:20-33 continued

5. [1:23] What do you think this means?
(Answer may vary.) It probably means that those who listen to her will be filled with wisdom.
6. [1:24-25] What do the foolish people refuse to listen to?
They refuse to listen to Wisdom's instruction and correction.
7. [1:26-27] What will happen to these foolish people?
They will be afraid, terrible things will happen to them, and Wisdom will laugh at them.
8. [1:28] When disaster comes, what will the foolish people do?
They will call out to Wisdom and seek her, but they will not find her.
9. [1:29] Why will they not find Wisdom?
They will not be able to find her because they hate knowledge and do not choose to fear Yahweh. They will not accept Wisdom's instruction and despised her correction.
10. [1:31] What will the foolish eat and be filled with?
They will eat and be filled with the fruit of their ways and their schemes.
11. [1:31] What do you think this means?
It probably means that they will get the punishment they deserve because of their evil actions.
12. [1:32] Why will the foolish be destroyed?
They will be destroyed because they turned away and were indifferent.
13. [1:33] How will those who hear and obey Wisdom live?
They will live in peace and without fear of danger.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 3:1-12 The rewards of God's wisdom

Background: A teacher of wisdom is speaking to a learner referred to as "son." In this passage, the son could be a child or other learner, and the instructions apply to both males and females: to everyone who reads these words.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The teacher told the son to remember and keep his commandments. This would help him to live a long and peaceful life. [3:1-2]
- ☐ The teacher told the son to be loving and faithful, and he would be approved by God and man. [3:3-4]
- ☐ The teacher told the son to trust Yahweh completely, instead of relying on his own understanding. [3:5]
- ☐ He told the son to acknowledge Yahweh, and Yahweh would direct him. [3:6]
- ☐ The teacher told the son not to see himself as wise. Instead, he should fear Yahweh and turn away from evil. [3:7]
- ☐ Doing this would keep him in good health and refresh his body. [3:8]
- ☐ The teacher told the son to honor Yahweh with his wealth. Then Yahweh would fill the son's storehouse with food. [3:9-10]
- ☐ The teacher told the son that he must not refuse when Yahweh corrected him, because Yahweh disciplines those he loves just as parents correct their children that they love. [3:11-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:1] What did the teacher tell the son not to forget?
He told him not to forget his teaching.
2. [3:1] What did the teacher want the son to keep in his heart?
He wanted him to keep the teacher's commandments in his heart.
3. [3:2] What would the teacher's instructions give to the son?
They would give him a long life and peace.
4. [3:3] What does the teacher warn the son about in verse 3?
He warns him not to let love and faithfulness ever leave him.
5. [3:4] What would the son find from God and man?
He would find favor and a good reputation.

Proverbs 3:1-12 continued

6. [3:5] What must the son not rely on?
He must not rely on his own understanding.

7. [3:5] Why do you think the teacher commanded this?
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he wanted the son to remember that Yahweh is the source of all wisdom, and he must trust Yahweh with all his thinking.

8. [3:7] What does the teacher instruct the son to avoid?
He warns him to avoid seeing himself as wise.

9. [3:8] What would fearing Yahweh and turning away from evil do for the son?
It would bring healing to his flesh and refreshment to his bones.

10. [3:9] What must the son do with his wealth?
The son must honor Yahweh with his wealth.

11. [3:10] What would happen if the son honored Yahweh with his wealth?
His storehouses would be filled with food and his vats would be bursting with new wine.

12. [3:11] What did the teacher tell the son not to despise?
He must not despise Yahweh's instruction.

13. [3:12] Who does Yahweh discipline?
He disciplines those he loves.

14. [3:12] What did the teacher compare this to?
He compared it to the way that a father corrects the son that delights him.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 6:6-11 Warning against laziness

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The teacher told the learner to consider the ways of the ant, so that he could be wise. [6:6]
- ☐ The teacher said that the ant does not have a ruler, yet it stores up food in the summer and during the harvest. [6:7-8]
- ☐ The teacher asked how long the lazy person would keep sleeping. [6:9]
- ☐ After a little more sleep and a little more rest, the lazy person will become poor, as if a robber attacked him and left him with nothing. [6:10-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [6:6] What should a lazy person study?
A lazy person should study the ant.
2. [6:7] What does the ant not have?
The ant does not have a commander, officer, or ruler.
3. [6:8] What does the ant do in the summer and during harvest, although it has no commander?
The ant prepares and stores its food in the summer and during harvest.
4. [6:9] What did the teacher ask the lazy person?
The teacher asked how long the lazy person would lie down, and when he would arise from sleep.
5. [6:10-11] What will happen to the lazy person who keeps wanting a little more sleep and a little more rest?
Poverty will come to him like a robber. The lazy person's needs will attack him like a man who has a weapon.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 10:1-13

Contrasts between the righteous and the wicked

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The writer said that a wise son makes his father rejoice, but a foolish son makes his mother grieve. [10:1]
- ☐ Treasures gained by wickedness are worthless, but right deeds deliver people from death. [10:2]
- ☐ Yahweh does not let the righteous soul go hungry, but he will thwart the wicked from getting what they want. [10:3]
- ☐ A lazy person will be poor, but a hard worker gains riches. [10:4]
- ☐ A wise son harvests crops in summer and does not bring disgrace by sleeping. [10:5]
- ☐ Righteous people receive blessings, but the wicked speak to cover up violence. [10:6]
- ☐ When the righteous die, people are happy to remember them. But a wicked person's name is quickly forgotten. [10:7]
- ☐ Wise people accept commands, but talkative fools are ruined. [10:8, 10]
- ☐ A person who acts honestly will be safe, but dishonest people's deeds are found out. [10:9]
- ☐ The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked covers up violence. [10:10]
- ☐ Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins. [10:12]
- ☐ Wisdom is spoken by the wise, but violence comes to those who have no sense. [10:13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [10:1] What does a father do when he has a wise child?
He rejoices.
2. [10:2] What delivers a person from death?
Doing what is right delivers a person from death.
3. [10:3] What will Yahweh prevent from happening to the righteous person?
He will not allow them to go hungry.
4. [10:4] What do you think it means to have lazy hands?
(Answer may vary.) It seems to mean that a person is lazy and not motivated to work. Therefore, that person grows poor.
5. [10:5] What does a wise son do in the summer?
A wise son gathers the crops in summer.

Proverbs 10:1-13 continued

6. [10:6] What do those who do what is right receive?
Those who do what is right receive blessings.
7. [10:7] When people remember a righteous person, how do they feel?
Remembering a righteous person makes people happy.
8. [10:8] What does a person with a wise heart do?
A person with a wise heart accepts commands.
9. [10:9] What happens to a person with integrity?
A person with integrity will walk securely.
10. [10:10] What will happen to a talkative fool?
A talkative fool will come to ruin.
11. [10:11] What kind of mouth does a righteous person have?
A righteous person has a mouth like a water spring of life.
12. [10:11] What do you think this means?
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps it means that the righteous person speaks good and wise words that give life and blessings to the hearer.
13. [10:12] What does love cover?
Love covers all sins.
14. [10:12] What do you think this means?
(*Answer may vary.*) It probably means that when a person really loves someone, that person is quick to forgive sins and to overlook faults.
15. [10:13] Where is wisdom found?
Wisdom is found in the words of a person who has good judgment.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 14:1-7 Contrasts between the wise and foolish

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A home is built up by a wise woman but is spoiled by a foolish one. [14:1]
- ☐ The person who lives righteously shows respect to Yahweh, but a dishonest person despises him. [14:2]
- ☐ The person who talks like a fool will be punished, but what the wise person says will save him. [14:3]
- ☐ A feeding trough is clean when there are no cattle, but crops come from the strength of an ox. [14:4]
- ☐ An honest witness will not lie, but a dishonest person will even tell lies in court. [14:5]
- ☐ Mockers cannot find wisdom, but a discerning person finds it easily. [14:6]
- ☐ Stay away from foolish people because you will not learn anything from them. [14:7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [14:1] What does a wise woman do?
A wise woman builds her house.
2. [14:2] Who despises Yahweh?
A person with dishonest ways despises Yahweh.
3. [14:3] What will the words of the wise do?
The words of the wise will save them.
4. [14:4] Where does an abundant crop come from?
It comes from the strength of an ox.
5. [14:5] What does verse 5 say about a faithful witness?
A faithful witness does not lie.
6. [14:6] What happens when a mocker seeks wisdom?
A mocker cannot find wisdom.
7. [14:7] What should a person do when he meets a foolish person?
He should go away from the foolish person.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 20:1-8 Sayings about foolishness

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A person led astray by drinking too much alcohol is not wise. [20:1]
- ☐ The person who makes a king angry will lose his life. [20:2]
- ☐ A person of honor avoids quarrels, but every fool is quick to argue. [20:3]
- ☐ If a lazy person does not plow when he should, he will not have a crop at harvest. [20:4]
- ☐ A person with understanding knows how to learn the deep purpose in a person's heart. [20:5]
- ☐ Many people claim to be loyal, but there are very few faithful friends. [20:6]
- ☐ A righteous person lives with integrity, and his children will be blessed. [20:7]
- ☐ A ruler who decides cases knows evil things when he sees them. [20:8]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [20:1] Who is not wise?
Whoever is led astray by wine or strong drink is not wise.
2. [20:2] What happens to someone who angers the king?
Someone who angers the king will lose his life.
3. [20:3] What does every fool do?
Every fool joins an argument.
4. [20:4] Why will a lazy person not have a crop at harvest time?
A lazy person will not have a crop because he did not plow when he should have plowed.
5. [20:5] What is the purpose of a human heart like, and who can draw it out?
It is like deep water, but a discerning person can draw it out.
6. [20:5] What do you think this means?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means that it is hard to know someone's thoughts and intentions, but a wise person can find out what they are.

Proverbs 20:1-8 continued

7. [20:6] What kind of person is difficult to find?
A faithful person is difficult to find.
8. [20:7] What will happen to the sons of a man who walks in integrity?
They will be blessed.
9. [20:7] Why do you think such a man's sons will be blessed?
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps this means that they too will have learned to live with integrity, which is its own blessing.
10. [20:8] What must a king do from his throne?
He must act as a judge over the evil before him.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 24:1-9 Sayings about wisdom

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Do not be jealous of evil people. Stay away from them, because they plan and speak of trouble. [24:1-2]
- ☐ A house is built using wisdom. Its rooms are filled with riches through using knowledge. [24:3-4]
- ☐ A wise man has great strength, and it is good to get guidance when you go to war. [24:5-6]
- ☐ Wisdom is too high for a fool. [24:7]
- ☐ A schemer plans to do evil, and what a fool thinks up is sinful. [24:8-9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [24:1] What does the writer warn about in verse 1?
He warns people not to envy those who are evil.
2. [24:2] Why should people stay away from those who are evil?
They should stay away because evil people plan violence and speak of trouble.
3. [24:3] How is a house built?
A house is built through wisdom.
4. [24:4] How does knowledge fill such a house's rooms?
Knowledge fills them with precious and pleasant riches.
5. [24:5] What does a man of knowledge do?
He grows in strength.
6. [24:6] What brings victory in war?
Victory in war comes from the guidance of many advisors.
7. [24:7] What is too high for a fool?
Wisdom is too high for a fool.
8. [24:7] What do you think this means?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps it means that wise sayings are too hard for a foolish person, and he does not understand their meaning.

Proverbs 24:1-9 continued

9. [24:8] Who plans to do evil?
A master of schemes plans to do evil.
10. [24:9] What did the writer say is sin?
A foolish plan is sin.

Comment Section:

Proverbs 30:1-9 Agur's words of wisdom

Part 1

Background: This passage mentions a man named Agur. No one is sure who he was. Ithiel and Ucal may have been disciples of Agur.

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Agur, the son of Jakeh, wrote these words to Ithiel and Ucal. [30:1]
- ☐ Agur said that he did not have a human being's understanding. [30:2]
- ☐ He said that he had not learned wisdom or knowledge of the Holy One. [30:3]
- ☐ Agur asked who had gone up into heaven and come down. He asked who had gathered the wind in his hands or wrapped the waters in his garment. He asked who had established the earth, and what was his name and the name of his son. [30:4]
- ☐ Agur said that every word of God is tested, and that God is a shield to those who take refuge in him. [30:5]
- ☐ No one should add to God's words, or he will be disciplined and shown to be a liar. [30:6]
- ☐ Agur asked God to keep him away from arrogance and lies, and he asked God not to give him either poverty or riches. [30:7-8]
- ☐ He asked God not to make him rich, or else he might deny God. He asked God not to make him poor, or else he might steal and thus profane God's name. [30:8-9]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [30:1] To what people did Agur the son of Jakeh say these words?
He declared these words to Ithiel and Ucal.
2. [30:2] What did Agur say about his understanding?
He said that he did not have the understanding of a human being.
3. [30:3] What did the author say about his wisdom and knowledge?
He said he had not learned wisdom and he did not have knowledge of the Most High.
4. [30:4] Why do you think that Agur asked the series of questions in this verse?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he used these questions to say that it was impossible for a human to do these things, and only God is that great. Perhaps he meant to show how God's power and knowledge is so much greater than even the wisest human's power. When he said, "Surely you know," perhaps he meant "surely you know that only God can do these things."
5. [30:5] What does verse 5 say about God?
He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Proverbs 30:1-9 continued

6. [30:6] What will happen to someone who adds to God's words?
God will discipline the one who adds to God's words, and God will expose that person as a liar.

7. [30:7-8] What was the first thing that the author asked to have from God?
He asked for God to put vanity and lies far away from him.

8. [30:8] How wealthy did the author wish to be?
The author wished to have neither poverty nor riches.

9. [30:9] What was the author afraid that he would do if he were rich?
The author was afraid that he would deny Yahweh.

10. [30:9] What was the author afraid that he would do if he were poor?
The author was afraid that he would steal, which would dishonor Yahweh's name.

Comment Section:

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 Everything is meaningless

Background: Ecclesiastes is a group of short teachings that try to answer questions such as "What do people gain from all their labor?" Ecclesiastes is a series of thoughts about a variety of subjects, all of them about the purpose and worth of various actions and events. The author concludes that all the work we perform and all the knowledge and skill we gain is like a vapor that disappears, and that we must fear Yahweh and keep his commandments.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The words of this book were from a person called "the Teacher." [1:1]
- ☐ The Teacher considered everything to be meaningless. [1:2]
- ☐ Nothing man did changed the cycle of things on earth. Nothing was new under the sun. [1:3-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [1:1] Who was the Teacher?
The Teacher was the descendant of David and king in Jerusalem.
2. [1:2] What did the Teacher say about everything?
The Teacher said that everything was meaningless.
3. [1:2-3] What do you think the Teacher meant by saying everything was meaningless?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps he meant that all the work done by people seemed to be futile.
4. [1:3] What question did the Teacher ask about work?
The Teacher asked what profit a man gained from all his work.
5. [1:4] What did the Teacher say remained forever?
The earth remains forever.
6. [1:5-7] What did the Teacher see in the world around him?
Many things in nature seem to cycle around and end up where they started.
7. [1:8] How did the Teacher feel about what he observed?
What he observed made him weary and did not satisfy or fulfill him.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 continued

8. [1:8] Why do you think the Teacher felt weary and not satisfied or fulfilled?
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he felt this way because no one could explain to him what he observed.
9. [1:9-10] What did the Teacher say about things that seemed new?
The Teacher said that anything called new had already existed long ago.
10. [1:9] What do you think the Teacher meant by saying "There is nothing new under the sun"?
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he meant that he did not find anything in this world that was really new.
11. [1:11] What did the Teacher say about the things that happened long ago and things that will happen in the future?
The Teacher said that people did not seem to remember the things that happened long ago, and what happens in the future will likely be forgotten also.

Comment Section:

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 Man's work and God's work

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God gave people work to complete. [3:9-10]
- ☐ God made everything suitable for its time and gave people a sense of eternity even though they do not understand the deeds of God. [3:11]
- ☐ God's gift to people was that they should rejoice, do good, eat, drink, and enjoy their work. [3:12-13]
- ☐ Whatever God does lasts forever and cannot be changed because God has done it so people will honor him. [3:14]
- ☐ Whatever exists and will exist has already existed, but God causes people to seek the hidden things. [3:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [3:10] Who gave people work to do?
God gave people work to complete.
2. [3:11] How did God make things?
God made things suitable for their time.
3. [3:11] What do you think the Teacher meant by saying that God has placed eternity in our hearts?
(*Answer may vary.*) Perhaps he meant that God has made us aware that there is more to life beyond our current existence.
4. [3:11] What can people not understand?
People cannot understand the deeds that God has done.
5. [3:12] What is the best thing a person can do?
Rejoice and do good all their lives.
6. [3:13] What did the Teacher say was God's gift to humanity?
God's gift was for everyone to be able to eat, drink, and find enjoyment in their labor.
7. [3:14] What did God allow to be added to or taken away from his work and why?
God did not allow anything to be added to or taken away from his work, so that people would honor him.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 continued

8. [3:15] What did God make human beings seek?
God made human beings seek hidden things.

Comment Section:

Ecclesiastes 5:1-8 Our attitude toward God

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A person should go to the house of God to listen, not to offer the sacrifices of a fool. [5:1]
- ☐ People must think carefully before speaking in God's presence. [5:2]
- ☐ A dream comes because of many worries. A fool's voice can be known by his many words. [5:3]
- ☐ When you make a vow to God, you should fulfill it quickly, because God has no pleasure in fools. [5:4]
- ☐ It is better not to make a vow at all than to promise one and then fail to fulfill it. [5:5]
- ☐ Do not let your mouth cause you to sin, and do not say that you made a mistake by vowing. God may be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands. [5:6]
- ☐ Many dreams and many words are meaningless. Instead, fear God. [5:7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [5:1] What should a person do when going to God's house?
A person should go there to listen, not to offer the sacrifices of fools who do not understand that they are doing is wrong.
2. [5:2] What reason did the Teacher give for why to let words be few?
He said this is because God is in heaven and people are on earth.
3. [5:3] According to the Teacher, what is likely to happen when a person has too many things to do and worry about?
That person is likely to have bad dreams.
4. [5:3] According to the Teacher, what is likely to happen when a person speaks many words?
The more words that a person speaks, the more likely that person is to say something foolish.
5. [5:2-3] Why do you think the Teacher said that a person should be slow to speak or to bring up a matter in the presence of God?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps the Teacher saw many people around him who were speaking foolishly to God, as if God were a human instead of the Most High. Perhaps he saw people promising things loudly to God in order to impress those around them, and then they would carelessly break those promises to God.
6. [5:4] What must a person do when they make a vow to God and why?
They need to fulfill their vow quickly by doing what they promised to do, because God does not delight in fools.

7. [5:5] What is a better thing to do than to make a vow that you might not carry out?
It is better not to make a vow.
8. [5:6] Why do you think that the Teacher next said not to allow your mouth to cause your flesh to sin?
This indicates that it is sinful not to keep a vow that you made to God.
9. [5:6] What did the Teacher say could happen if someone vows falsely, or if someone tries to get out of a vow by saying it was a mistake?
This could make God angry and provoke him to destroy the works of a person's hands.
10. [5:7] The Teacher said that many dreams and words were meaningless. What did he say to do instead?
He said to fear God.

Comment Section:

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Instructions for youth about remembering God

Background: Ecclesiastes 12 uses a set of word pictures to show the different parts of the human body that stop working as well when people age, such as their eyesight, teeth, and hearing.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ People should call to mind their Creator when they are young, before difficult days and years of displeasure come. [12:1-5]
- ☐ A person should call to mind their Creator before their spirit returns to God. [12:6-8]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. [12:1] What should a person do when they are young?
They should call to mind their Creator.
2. [12:1, 6] What do you think it means to call to mind your Creator?
This probably means to remember and think about God who created you.
3. [12:2] What returns after the rain, at the time that the Teacher describes here?
Dark clouds return after the rain.
4. [12:3] Why will women stop grinding?
Because they are few.
5. [12:3] What do you think it meant that the women will stop grinding because they are few?
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps this is a word picture about an old person's teeth that do not grind and chew as well because there are so few of them. Perhaps it is a word picture about when many other people that an old person knew have died.
6. [12:4] What will startle men?
The voice of a bird will startle men.
7. [12:5] Where will people go at the time that is described here?
They will go to their eternal home.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, cont'd

8. [12:6-7] What should a person do before his spirit returns to God?
He should call to mind his Creator.
9. [12:8] What did the Teacher say everything is?
The Teacher said that everything is meaningless.

Comment Section:

Song of Songs 1:1-4

The bride expresses her love for the groom

Background: The author of this book is unknown. Some people think Solomon was the author. Solomon was the wisest king to rule over Israel. There are two main characters, a man and a woman who are probably betrothed. Sometimes it is difficult to know who is talking. The book has three main interpretations. It may be a story about Yahweh's love for Israel, a story about Jesus' love for the Church, or a story about a man and a woman's love for one another to show that love is a gift from Yahweh.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The writer of the book said that this was Solomon's song. [1:1]
- ☐ The woman in the passage desired for the man to kiss her. She said his love was better than wine. [1:2]
- ☐ The woman said the man's scent was good. She said that young women loved the man because he had a good name (or reputation). [1:3]
- ☐ The woman wanted the man to take her with him. [1:4]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the writer say about the song? [1:1]
The writer said that the song was Solomon's song.
2. What did the woman in the passage want the man to do? [1:2]
She wanted him to kiss her.
3. What did the woman say about the man's love? [1:2]
She said that it was better than wine.
4. What did the woman say about the way the man smelled? [1:3]
She said that his fragrance was pleasing.
5. What did the woman say about the man's name? [1:3]
She said that his name was like flowing perfume, so the young women loved him.
6. What do you think she meant when she said that his name was like flowing perfume? [1:3]
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps this meant that he had a beautiful sounding name. Perhaps it meant that he had a good reputation.

Song of Songs 1:1-4 continued

7. What did the woman want? [1:4]

She wanted the man to take her with him.

Comment Section:

Song of Songs 4:9-15 The groom delights in the bride's beauty

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The man said that his betrothed had captured his heart with a glance. [4:9]
- ☐ He said that her love was wonderful. [4:10]
- ☐ The man said that her lips and her kisses were sweet like honey and milk. The scent of her garments was fragrant. [4:11]
- ☐ The man said that his beloved was like a protected garden, full of fruits and spices. [4:12-14]
- ☐ The man said that she was like a fountain in a garden, like a stream flowing from the mountain. [4:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the man say about his betrothed bride? [4:9]
He said that she had stolen his heart with just one glance, and with just one jewel of her necklace.
2. What did the man say about her love? [4:10]
He said that her love was sweeter than wine and that it was sweeter than the fragrance of any perfume or spice.
3. What did the man say about his beloved's lips and mouth? [4:11]
He said that they were sweet like honey and milk.
4. What did he say about her garments? [4:11]
They were fragrant.
5. What did the man say his betrothed was like in verse 12? [4:12]
He said that she was like a sealed garden.
6. What do you think it meant that she was like a sealed garden? [4:12]
(Answer may vary.) Perhaps the man was saying that she was beautiful and pure. Perhaps he was saying that she was a virgin and had reserved herself for him alone.
7. What did the man say that his betrothed was like? [4:13-15]
He said that she was like an orchard full of fruit, like fragrant spices, and like a spring of water.

Comment Section:

Song of Songs 5:9-16 The bride describes her groom

Background: In this section the young women of Jerusalem are asking the new bride questions about her beloved.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The young women asked the bride what made her beloved better than any other man. [5:9]
- ☐ She said that he was handsome and outstanding among others. [5:10]
- ☐ She said that his head was like gold and his hair was dark and curly. [5:11]
- ☐ She said that his eyes were like doves by water, bathed in milk and set like jewels. [5:12]
- ☐ She said that his cheeks were like sweet spices, and his lips were like delightful lily flowers. [5:13]
- ☐ She said that his body was like precious materials such as gold, jewels, and cedar wood. [5:14-15]
- ☐ She called the man her beloved and her friend. [5:16]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What question did the young women of Jerusalem ask the bride? [5:9]
They asked what made her beloved better than any other man.
2. How did the bride answer the young women? [5:10]
She said that her beloved was radiant and ruddy, outstanding from among ten thousand.
3. How did she describe her beloved's head and hair? [5:11]
She said that his head was like gold. She said that his hair was dark and curly.
4. How did the bride describe her beloved's eyes? [5:12]
She said that his eyes were like doves by streams. She said that his eyes were bathed in milk and mounted like jewels.
5. What did she say about her beloved's cheeks and lips? [5:13]
She said that his cheeks smelled like good spices. She said that his lips were like lilies dripping with myrrh.
6. What did the bride say about her beloved's arms and legs? [5:14-15]
She said that his arms were like gold set with jewels, and his legs were like pillars of marble set on pure gold.

Song of Songs 5:9-16 continued

7. What did the new bride call her groom? [5:16]
She said that he was her beloved and friend.

Comment Section: