

SECTION 2.2

Books of Wisdom



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Rhyme Time

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Have kids stand in groups of two. Instruct one person in each pair to say a word. Then the other person in their pair needs to come up with a legitimate word that rhymes. Once they do, they can switch partners, and the challenge is to see how many times they can switch in two minutes. Have leaders walking around the room ready to offer assistance when needed.

STEP 2: After two minutes, have kids return to their seats. Read a simple poem (e.g., "Roses are red, violets are blue ..."). When you hear the word *poetry*, usually you think of words that rhyme and have a pattern.

STEP 3: Share these concepts.

- There are many different forms of poetry. In fact, most songs are poems set to music.
- Some poetry does not rhyme, and often if a poem is translated from a different language, it will not rhyme.
- Five of the books of the Bible are known as Books of Wisdom, or Poetry Books. Many of these books contain poems that do not rhyme in our language.
- God gave us these Books of Wisdom so that we would learn more about who He is, and how we can better worship Him.

STEP 4: Transition to the main lesson by praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids recognize the importance of the Books of Wisdom and how they impact your lives.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Wise Words

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Ask kids if they have ever heard any wise sayings. Allow several to share. Read several of the wise sayings from below.

- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- Don't judge a book by its cover.
- Appearances are often deceiving.
- Slow and steady wins the race.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What makes a saying wise?
- Are all of these sayings wise? Why or why not?
- How do you know if a saying or advice from a friend is wise?

STEP 3: Transition to the main lesson by explaining that God has given us five books full of wisdom in His Word. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids recognize the importance of the Books of Wisdom and how they impact your lives.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Wisdom and Worship

What You'll Need: Two pieces of paper, masking tape, Bible

PREP: Write Wisdom on one paper, and Reason to Worship on the other. Tape them on opposite walls from each other. Mark all the verses in your Bible ahead of time.

STEP 1: Have the kids stand in the middle of your space, and explain you are going to play a game. Each verse you read will either contain a wise saying or a reason to worship God. When they hear the verses, they need to go to the sign they think most correctly describes the verse — a wise saying or a reason to worship.

STEP 2: Read the following verses out loud, and cheer for the kids as they decide each time.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 (wisdom)
- Psalm 19:1 (worship)
- Job 36:5 (worship)
- Psalm 34:3 (worship)
- Proverbs 19:11 (wisdom)
- Proverbs 18:24 (wisdom)
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 (wisdom)

STEP 3: Share the concepts from the Main Lesson Teaching Outline in the Large Group Guide, and follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Books of Wisdom Overview

What You'll Need: Bibles, Books of Wisdom Handout

PREP: Print the Books of Wisdom Handout, and fold each page in half to look like a book.

STEP 1: Ask for five volunteers who have their Bibles. Assign one of the following verses to each volunteer, giving it to them by handing them the corresponding "book" from the Books of Wisdom Handout. Ask leaders to help kids look up verses, if needed.

These are the verses that the books direct them to:

- Job 42:2
- Psalm 103:1
- Proverbs 1:7
- Ecclesiastes 12:13
- Song of Solomon 2:16

STEP 2: Ask each volunteer to hold up their book and read his or her assigned verse.

STEP 3: Share the following concepts as they relate to each verse.

- God uses the five Books of Wisdom in the middle of the Old Testament to teach us how to make the choices He wants us to make and how to worship Him.
- Job, the first of the books, shows us how God used the problems and trials of Job to teach him and us about God.
- Psalms is a collection of 150 songs that teach us how to worship God, how to ask for God's help, and how to encourage others to know who God is.
- Proverbs is a book of short sayings to help Solomon's son have the wisdom to make good choices.

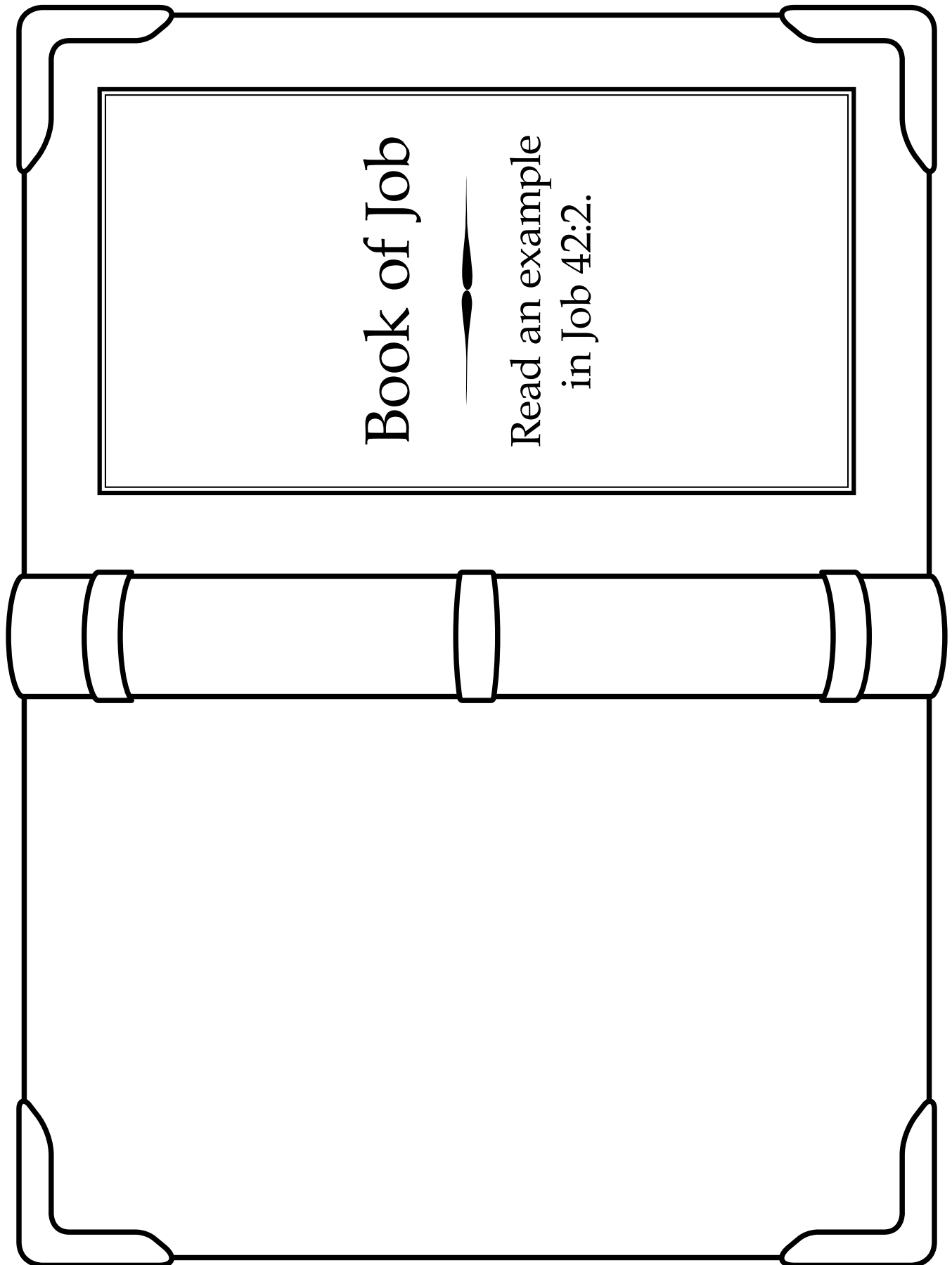
- Ecclesiastes shares Solomon's search for happiness and contentment, which can only be found by fearing God and obeying His commandments.
- Song of Solomon shows what true love between a married man and women should look like.

Notes:



Books of Wisdom Handout

PREP: Print the following pages of the Books of Wisdom Handout, and fold each page in half to look like a book.



Book of Job

Read an example
in Job 42:2.

Book of Psalms

Read an example
in Psalm 103:1.

Book of Proverbs

Read an example
in Proverbs 1:7.

Book of Ecclesiastes



Read an example
in Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Book of Song of Solomon

Read an example in
Song of Solomon 2:16.