



Session 12	WISDOM, JOB Andy How
Verses from passage	Job 28:28 Job 1:1, 6-12, 20-22 and 2:1-6 and 9-10
Key Passages	<p>Job 28 (where is <i>wisdom</i> to be found?)</p> <p>Job 1-2 (outside Christ, Job is the best example of <i>wisdom</i> in Scripture)</p> <p>Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (God wants right living to flow from the heart – true wisdom)</p> <p>Psalms 111, especially v. 10 (the source of <i>wisdom</i>)</p> <p>See also 1 Cor. 1:23-24 (Christ <i>is wisdom</i>) and James 1:5, (God gives wisdom to those who ask) 3:13-18 what <i>wisdom</i> looks like in daily living.</p>
Main Points	<p><i>Wisdom</i> is understanding how to live well and doing so. Another word for it might be <i>integrity</i>. It is a primary theme running through the Bible, parallel to the theme of Law. The difference is that Wisdom <i>is</i> right living which springs from a pure heart, not from being bound by rules (Law).</p> <p>Scripture reveals that the Sovereign Creator God of love who is behind everything, is the source of true wisdom and holds the secret of Life and Being. He is the Lord. He is also Father of ALL (Eph. 4:6). He wants the very best for us, made us in his image, and wants to reform us from our fallen, sinful state. That's his reason for giving Israel his Law, but from the start he wanted a people whose hearts were given to him. Before Christ such people were characterised by <i>the fear of the Lord</i>. Through the gospel such people are characterised by <i>repentance towards God and faith in the redeeming work of Christ</i>. This is the source of true Wisdom, the key to life and right living.</p> <p>Job provides the greatest example of wisdom Scripture. Ch 28 takes us on an impossible search for wisdom and ends by saying where it is to be found. (v. 28). Ch 1 presents Job as one who has the key. BUT, to start with, we might think his supposed <i>fear of God</i> (fear = wholehearted faith and total obedience or integrity) really comes from his wealth and health. The 'accuser', the Satan, confronts God with this view. Job passes the tests that follow with flying colours, showing that his discovery of true wisdom is the one thing he cannot and will not let go, though he loses life itself. Indeed, Job provides us</p>



	with a rare Old Testament reference to the certainty of meeting God beyond the grave (Job 19:25-27).
Discussion questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Give opportunity for each person to respond freely to the main points, simply listening, not replying to thoughts people share.2. It is possible that something will come out of the first question which will lead to an interesting and worthwhile study, so that you discard some or all of the following questions.3. Reflect on the link between 'fearing God' (opening your heart to God through repentance from sin and faith in the work of Christ), and Wisdom.4. What does this wisdom 'look like'? How does it differ from being clever?5. Wisdom often leads to experience of God's blessing (see also Matthew 6:33), so what is the lesson from Job's suffering?
This week	Make a point of praying for God's wisdom. Use the verses from James 3:13-18 to help you think of ways in which this wisdom shows itself in the daily life of a believer in Christ.