

Lesson 1

Wisdom, Prophecy, and Lament

1. What makes this a “wisdom” psalm? What wisdom is being presented? Who are the three different persons described in this brief psalm?
2. Choose one verse or phrase from Psalms 1—3 that stands out to you. This could be something you’re intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Write that here.
3. According to Psalm 1:1–2, what are the conditions we must meet in order to be blessed by God? How do we go about meeting those conditions? What sort of person is described in Psalm 1:4–5? What are the consequences for those who do not meet the conditions described in Psalm 1:1–2?
4. What is a believer’s responsibility to “the wicked” (v. 6)? How does being blessed by God help believers reach out to those who are otherwise destined to “perish” (v. 6)? What practical implications does this have for Christians today?
5. What prompts people to seek out wisdom? Why do the secular answers fall short of providing what they’re looking for? How can the wisdom found in Psalms (and Proverbs) provide the missing pieces? What is the key difference between worldly wisdom and biblical wisdom?
6. Why do you think Psalm 2 is quoted so often in the New Testament? What about the psalm makes it so quote worthy? (See Matt. 3:17; 17:5, for examples.) What is the beatitude (blessing) that ends Psalm 2? Why is it significant that Psalm 2 ends with a beatitude? How does the message of this beatitude compare to the beatitude that opens Psalm 1?
7. What does it mean that the Lord “scoffs” at the kings of the earth? In what ways are the kings’ rebellion directly against the Messiah, Jesus Christ? What is it

about the Messiah's coming reign that causes the kings to rebel? How and where is that mind-set still prevalent today?

8. Why do you think the Spirit speaks first to the kings and leaders in Psalm 2:10–11? Why was this particularly significant for the culture of the day when the psalm was written? Is it also applicable today? Why or why not? What keeps people from doing the “wise” thing as directed in this psalm?
9. What makes Psalm 3 a lament? Why do you think there are so many lament psalms? What is David's specific sorrow here? What is the hope that he longs for? Is it easy for Christians to lament today? Why or why not?
10. Why is the time of the day significant to David in this psalm? What is the symbolic relevance to Christians today? The practical relevance?
11. Where do you turn to find wisdom today? What wisdom do you find from secular sources? How does it compare with what you find in Scripture? How does the wisdom you find in Scripture influence your practical living?
- 12.. What are some of the ways you've rebelled against God (as the kings in Psalm 2 did)? Why did you rebel? What caused you to repent and turn to the Savior? What implications does all this have for how you relate to friends who are rebelling against God?
13. Describe a time when you felt the need to lament something. What did that lament look like? What model for lament does David give in Psalm 3 that you could apply to your own situation(s)?
14. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you'd like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try). **Do you need to trust the wisdom in Scripture? Do you need to learn how to express your lament in a godly way?**

15. Write a prayer below (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you've previously noted. Be honest about your desires and fears.