



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 2, Issue 31

Today's Word: -sophy/Sophia

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Lesson 31: "Happy is the Man That Findeth Wisdom"

Are You:

- Reading Scriptures Faithfully?
- Taking Time to Study Things Out in Your Mind?

Today's Scriptures

Proverbs
Ecclesiastes

Lesson 32:

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"

Job 12-13

Job 19, Job 27

Job 42

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Questions to Ponder

- What does it mean to acknowledge God?
- How have the kind words of others helped you at various times?
- What can we do to encourage uplifting humor in our families?

Important Topics in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

These chapters in the Old Testament touch on many different topics, but the sayings and advice we find there very frequently fall into these general topics (below). Choose a handful of your favorite sections from these books and see whether they don't fall into one of these categories.

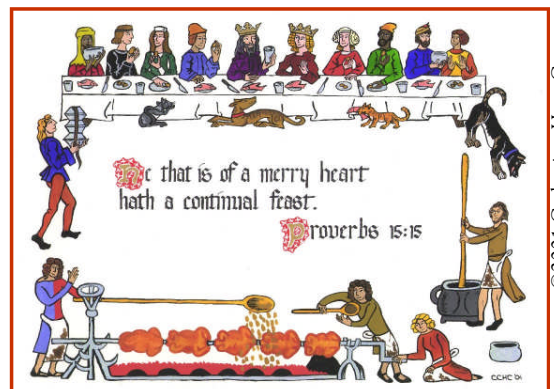
- ◆ Wisdom
- ◆ Trust in the Lord
- ◆ The Words We Speak
 - ◆ Pride
 - ◆ Friendship
 - ◆ Raising Children
- ◆ Happiness and Good Humor

Some School Training Lasts!

My Latin teacher in high school, Mrs. Collings, used to start each class period by making us copy down an "epigraph" which is a "motto or quotation, as at the beginning of a literary composition, setting forth a theme" (from *American Heritage Dictionary*, <http://www.answers.com/topic/epigraph>). By the end of school year, we had a notebook full of these epigraphs, many of which came from Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. As we wrote them down, we would discuss the wording and/or the epigraph's meaning, always feeling just a little bit wiser afterwards. I've never forgotten many of those epigrams because of those discussions and the copying. Even in a completely secular situation, when spiritual truths are expressed in these clever or memorable ways, they can stay with the hearer or reader forever.—W.W. A.

Women figure prominently in the wisdom literature of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. In fact, "Today's word," "Sophia," in both Latin and Greek means "wisdom, skill, or knowledge," and the word *philosophy* means "love of knowledge" (philo=loving; -sophie=knowledge). The traditional symbol of wisdom (and of philosophy) is the owl, which was also the emblem of the Greek goddess Athena, goddess of wisdom and war, with its Roman counterpart as Minerva represented similarly. The cultures of those times were permeated by goddesses (e.g., the Egyptian goddess Maat of justice and social order, the Sumerian goddess Inanna of love and war) who stood for similar qualities. Today, typically "wisdom" is personified by a female.

Two main types of women are referred to in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes: the **virtuous woman** (or woman of worth/substance) and the strange or **foreign woman**. Mothers (see? women again!) taught these scriptures to their children, and because the style was so memorable could pass on these bits of warning and wise instruction more easily. See how many scriptures you can find that refer to either type of women!



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