



Psalms

Wisdom Psalms

Interpreting the Text:

Pick a psalm from the 'wisdom psalms' category. These are: 1, 14, 37, 73, 91, 112, 119, and 128.

1. What defining characters of wisdom psalms are present here? What words or phrases tell us that this is a wisdom psalm?
2. How is the Law/Torah understood in this particular psalm? Does this psalm speak to an understanding of justice?
3. In what ways does this wisdom psalm feel like advice being given to the reader?

Applying the Text:

1. What does it tell us that the very first psalm is considered a wisdom psalm?
2. Do the wisdom psalms teach that the Lord always rewards the righteous? Is it always in the same way?
3. What does the psalmist in the wisdom psalms teach us to do in the face of adversity? Can we find similar lessons in the other wisdom literature (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes)?
4. The wisdom psalms seem to show that study itself is a form of worship or prayer. Is study part of your prayer practice? What other forms of prayer do you practice that might not "look like" prayer at first glance?