

Name _____

Worksheet 17

Interpreting the Proverbs

Find and interpret fifteen proverbs from the Book of Proverbs and five from the Book of Ecclesiastes. Cite each proverb that you use.

Proverb	Interpretation

Name _____

Worksheet 18

Kinds of Psalms

Summarize the psalms listed in each category. Then give a definition of each kind of psalm, using your own words.

1. Psalms of lament:	
Psalm 3	
Psalm 10	
Psalm 38	
Psalm 44	
2. Psalms of praise and thanksgiving:	
Psalm 19	
Psalm 33	
3. Psalms of instruction:	
Psalm 1	
Psalm 104	
Psalm 105–6	
4. Liturgical psalms:	
Psalm 24	
Psalm 100	

Worksheet 19

Egyptian Proverbs

The Old Testament Wisdom authors sometimes borrowed from ancient Egyptian sources. One such source was the Teachings of Ptah-Hotep (2575–2134 BC). Read some of Ptah-Hotep's teachings here and compare them with the Book of Proverbs. How are they the same? How are they different? How does the advice apply to people today?

50–60 (Compare with Proverbs 2:1–5 and 19:20.)

My students, in all things, be intelligent, not arrogant,
Be wise, not over-confident.
Seek advice from the powerless,
As well as from the powerful.
No one ever reaches one's full potential.
There is always more to learn.
Wisdom hides like emeralds,
But it can always be uncovered . . .
. . . in a poor man,
. . . in a young woman grinding grain.

85–95 (Compare with Proverbs 11:21 and 17:13.)

If you become a ruler, do what is right,
Stay above reproach.
Be just in your decisions,
Never ignoring the law.
Injustice brings punishment,
Injustice brings all your work to nothing.
Injustice brings success for a moment,
Justice brings success for two generations.

120–42 (Compare with Proverbs 23:1–3.)

If you work for someone else,
Take what your master offers.
Do not look about with envy,
Do not always hope for more.

Stand humbly until your master speaks to you,
Speak only when spoken to.
Laugh when your master laughs,
Try to please your master in everything.
But remember this,
No one knows what is in another's heart.

When masters are at the table,
They may seem to dispense favors as they see fit,
. . . to favor those who are useful,
. . . to favor those who think as they do.

The wise soul is guided by the divine assembly,
Therefore, do not complain about their choices.

147–60 (Compare with Proverbs 25:13.)

If you become a messenger for the powerful,
Be completely reliable on every assignment.
Carry out your orders to the letter.
Withhold nothing.
Forget nothing.
Forge nothing.
Repeat nothing.
Embellish nothing.
Do not make harsh language worse.
Vulgarity turns the mighty into enemies.

278–96 (Compare with Proverbs 6:23–29 and 7:24–27.)

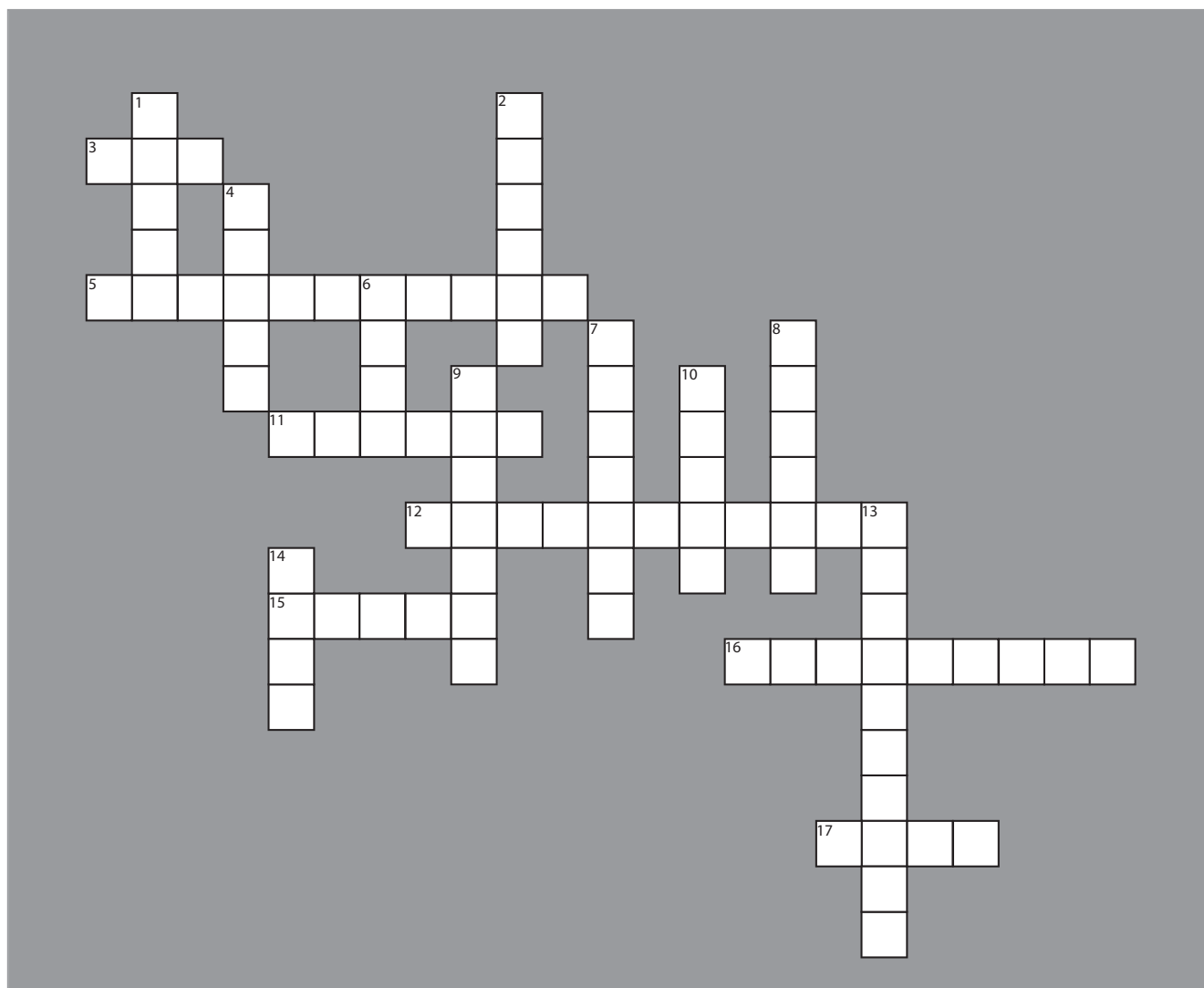
If you become the father of a household or are a houseguest,
Stay away from the women of the house.
Keep your mind on business, your eyes off pretty faces.
Foolish dreams become casualties of unwise actions.
Escape love sickness and lust,
And succeed in everything else you do.

328–34 (Compare with Proverbs 12:4 and 31:1–31.)

If you become a landowner, establish a household,
Be faithful to your wife.
Feed her, clothe her, make her happy.
And she will provide you with an heir.
Do not sue her in court,
But do not let her dominate you.
To judge a woman's moods
Is to read a woman's eyes.
A wife who shares her husband's wealth
Is a wife who is faithful to her husband.

Worksheet 20

Chapter 1D Crossword Puzzle

*Across*

3. One who suffers greatly
5. Poetic style of the Psalms
11. The “fear of the Lord” is the beginning of this
12. The Book of Wisdom was written in Greek and reveals this influence
15. Selfless love
16. God speaks to Job from this
17. The Song of Songs is this kind of poetry

Down

1. The Hebrew word for “wisdom”
2. The Song of Songs is often interpreted as a symbol of his love of the Church.
4. A biblical song
6. Sexual love and desire
7. A short, wise saying
8. What Qohelet believes the world is
9. The “collector” of Ecclesiastes
10. The original psalmist
13. Another name for the Book of Sirach (2 words)
14. A person venerated for his or her experience, judgment, and wisdom