

The Book of Sirach

Chapters 1 – 3

All wisdom comes from God.

Love for God is the source of wisdom.

If you desire wisdom, keep the Lord's commandments,
in private as well as in public.

Keep the commandment to honor your parents.

Respect for your father will atone for your sins.

Honor for your mother will gain you blessings.

Support your father in his old age.

Even if his mind should fail, show him kindness.

Do not despise him in your health and strength.

Be gentle in the way you live your life.

The greater you are, the more humbly you should behave.

Dear God, please help me always
respect and honor my parents

Chapters 4, 5

Water puts out a fire. Almsgiving makes up for sins.

Do not refuse to help a poor person.

Some people are all talk and no action.

Some people are lions at home, but sheep in society.

Do not give your heart to money.

Do not let passion rule your life.

Be quick to listen, but slow to speak.

Keep your temper under control.

Lord, please help me to be kind and sincere

Chapters 6, 7

Let your acquaintances be many,
but your advisers one in a thousand.

A faithful friend is a sure shelter.
People who love and honor the Lord,
will find a faithful friend.

From your youngest days, seek wisdom.
If you love listening, you will find wisdom.

Stretch out your hand to help poor people.
Console people who are sad. Visit the sick.

In everything you do, remember the purpose of life
and you will avoid evil.

Dear Lord, please help young people to seek wisdom

Chapters 8, 9

Do not look down on an old person.
Old age is our common destiny.

Do not discuss your affairs with everyone you meet.
Be careful when you ask advice.

Do not look lustfully at a woman.
Do not stare at the beauty which belongs to someone else.

Lord, please help me control my tongue and my eyes

Chapters 10, 11

As the magistrate is, so will his officials be.
As the governor is, so will be the inhabitants of his city.

What has dust and ashes to pride itself on?
A king today is a corpse tomorrow.

Do not praise a person for good looks,
nor dislike anyone for appearance.

Small among winged creatures is the bee,
but nothing is sweeter than her honey.

Lord, please give our world good leaders

Chapters 12 – 14

No good will come to a person who persists in evil.
No good will come to a person who refuses to help the poor.

In prosperity you cannot always be sure who is a true friend,
but in adversity you can be sure who is not a friend.

Greed causes a personality to wither.
The pursuit of wisdom causes a personality to blossom.

Lord, please give me the wisdom
to be kind and to avoid greed

Chapters 15 – 19

Wisdom makes us happy. Foolishness makes us sad.
Humility is the pathway to wisdom.

We are free to choose good or evil, wisdom or foolishness.
To live a good life is something everyone can try to do.

If we have done something wrong,
we must ask pardon of the Lord.
We must turn our back on wrongdoing
and face towards the Lord.

Do not indulge in luxurious living.
Too much wine and luxury corrupts the heart.

Avoid gossip and slander.
Be someone who can keep a secret.

The way people dress tells you what work they do.
The way people walk also tells a lot about them.

Lord, please help me turn my back on wrongdoing.
Help me face towards you

Chapters 20 – 23

People who foolishly talk too much become unpopular.
Wise people know when to speak and how much to speak.

The talk of a foolish person is like a load on a journey.
The talk of a wise person is a pleasure to hear.

Lord, do not give me proud eyes.
Do not let lust take control of my life.

Do not let my mouth use coarse and foul language.

Help me avoid sins of impurity, alone or with others.

Lord, please give me the wisdom
to avoid bad talk and bad actions

Chapter 24

Wisdom speaks:

"From eternity, in the beginning, God created me.
God sent me to be everywhere on earth.

Approach me, you who desire me.
Whoever listens to me will stay on the road of goodness."

Lord, please help me seek wisdom
and listen to wisdom's voice

Chapters 25 – 28

Happy the husband of a really good wife.

A good wife is the joy of her husband.

Do not praise a person before they have spoken.

A person's speech reveals what sort of person is speaking.

Among stupid people look for an opportunity to leave,
but among thoughtful people take your time.

Sarcasm and abuse are the mark of an arrogant person.

Resentment and anger are bad for everyone.

Forgive others if they have offended you.

Then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.

Avoid quarrelling and losing your temper.

Do not let your mouth speak scandal.

Lord, please give me the wisdom to control my speech

Chapters 29 – 31

Help others in their time of need.

When people ask you for help, do not turn them away.

Do not let your children grow up wild.

Teach them self control and self-discipline
from their earliest years.

Good health is better than silver and gold.

Better to be poor and healthy than rich and sick.

Do not give in to brooding and fretting
when things go wrong.

Even in the saddest situation,
look for light at the end of the tunnel.

Avoid jealousy and anger.

Jealousy and anger will shorten your life.

A moderate diet will help you sleep well.
Gluttony produces sleeplessness,
biliousness and grumpiness.

Wine was made to cheer our hearts.
But drinking to excess will reduce your strength.

Lord, please help me be moderate with food and drink

Chapters 32 – 34

If you are chosen for an important job,
don't let it go to your head.

When you speak, keep to the point.
Say much in a few words.

Reflect before you act. Look before you leap.

Travel broadens the mind.
Ask God's protection when you travel.

Lord, please bless everyone who is travelling today

Chapters 35 – 37

Be generous as the Lord has been generous to you.
Be cheerful when you make a gift to the Lord.

The humble person's prayer pierces the clouds,
so love the Lord with a humble heart.

If a property has no fence, it will be plundered.
If a man has no wife, he is like a boat without an anchor.

Be careful when you consult other people.
After all consultation, follow the advice of your own heart.

Lord, please give me a cheerful and humble heart

Chapters 38, 39

All healing is a gift of God.

To obtain healing: pray to the Lord, ask forgiveness for sin, then follow the doctor's advice.

Mourn for the dead and honor their graves,
but do not let your heart be controlled by grief.

Ordinary working people have little time for study.
But the Lord blesses everyone who studies wisdom.

Lord, please heal my friend (..name..) who is sick

Chapters 40, 41

Wine and music cheer the heart,
but better than wine and music is the love of wisdom.

Do not speak sharply to people.
Do not ignore people who greet you.

Do not gaze at another man's wife.
Do not carry on with a single girl.

Lord, please help me control my speech and my eyes

Chapters 42, 43

What an amazing world we live in!
The Creator sure did a good job programming everything!
Great is the Lord who made the sun, the moon and stars.
What a beautiful creature is the rainbow!

The seasons, the rain, the snow, lightning and thunder:
all proclaim the glory of God.

How great is God who has made such an amazing universe.
How can we praise and honor him enough?

Dear God, thank you for creating the world.
Please help us live the way you want us to live

Chapters 44 – 50

It is good to remember the famous people in history who had a special love for God.

Remembering their faith and their love for God will give us courage for our daily lives.

They were human and made mistakes, yet they persevered in serving the Lord.

People like Abraham, Moses, David. Let us try to imitate their faith and courage.

Lord, please give me courage to live each day as I should

Chapter 51

When I was young, before I became a traveler, I prayed for wisdom.

Thanks to wisdom, I have been successful in my work. And so I finish this book by praising the God who gave me wisdom:

I give thanks to you, Lord and King, and praise you, God my savior.

For by wisdom you have protected and supported me, and rescued me from so many troubles.

I will praise you all my days and gratefully sing your praises.

Lord, thank you for the wisdom in this book.
Please give me wisdom for each day