

WISDOM

Read **PROVERBS 26:13-28** and answer the questions. (Solomon wrote Proverbs to offer instruction, wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 1:1-7).

1. Summarize the intent in the following verses:

13-16

17

18-19

20-22

23-26

27

28

2. What values can we learn from these?

3. What good advice is taught to encourage responsible living?

4. What attitudes and behaviors are warned against?

5. What is the proverbial intent (application for us today)?



MINOR PROPHETS

Read the book of **MALACHI** and answer the questions. (Malachi was written to a postexilic Israel, after 538 BC.)

1. Describe the history, life situation, and the problems of the people during the time this was written?
2. What is the faith situation, the relationship the people and the nation had with God?
3. What do we have in common with the situation of the first readers? In what ways do we differ?
4. Is the principle of the tithe applicable for us today? Why?
5. What principles can be seen from Malachi that are applicable to us today?

PARABLES

A parable is a short fictional story that teaches a lesson by comparison and usually focus on only one, main point. When Jesus explained the parable of the Sower, He also stated a very important idea in Mark 4:13, *Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?* Jesus wanted them to know that if they understood this parable they would be able to understand all the parables! The parable of the Sower, the seed, and the soils is found in Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

Read **MARK 4:1-20** and answer questions.

1. What events surround the parable?
2. What prompted Christ to speak the parable and to whom was the parable spoken?
3. What are the facts of the parable itself?
4. What would Jesus have wanted the original hearers to “catch” from this? What is THE point?
5. What is the message for us, today? How would you share the applicable truths from this parable to someone today?



EPISTLES

1. Read Paul's letter to **PHILEMON** and answer the questions. Pay attention to "small" details throughout.
2. What kind of writing is it? (Narrative, psalm, prophecy, letter, etc.)
3. Who is the author and who are all the recipients? (Verses 1b-2)
4. How does the writer begin the letter? (Verses 4-7)
5. Describe the purpose of the letter. (Verses 8-16)
6. Describe the author's attitude. (Verses 17-22) What is Paul really saying? In what way does Paul behave as Christ?
7. Summarize in your own words what this letter is all about.
8. What points can we apply to ourselves today?