

## Reaction Papers for Wisdom Literature

### 1. Job

- a. **Summary:** Write a 750 word reaction paper to Job addressing the questions raised by the book about our motives for serving God. You should read the article on the website by Larry Crabb in order to prepare for your response.
- b. **Form:** You do not need to cite outside sources and no cover page is necessary. Just write the paper out in Word, make sure it's at least 750 words, edit and save it just in case. Then just cut and paste the text into the proper spot in Moodle.
- c. **Point:** I'm not necessarily agreeing with Crabb's article, nor am I necessarily disagreeing with it. It is just another articulation of the discussion about why we serve God now. If you're familiar with any of the writings of John Eldredge (Journey of Desire, Sacred Romance, Wild at Heart or Waking the Dead) you may find this an even more interesting discussion, but that background certainly is not necessary to do this assignment. What I want you to do is to reflect on the message of Job, and the article by Crabb, and then most importantly reflect on your own life and do your best to write out your own thoughts about why you're choosing to live your life God's way (hopefully that's the case, but perhaps with some people who are currently struggling or who are very self-reflective and honest it won't be).
- d. **Grading:** Form will be worth 2 points; demonstrating an understanding of the message of Job is worth 3 points (please don't repeat the message of Job, but make sure you interact / deal with it); and careful, honest reflection on your own experience is worth 5 points. The total is 10 points; the three reaction papers together make up 10% of your final grade. Late work is generally 10% off per day late. All reaction papers are due at 5:00 pm. You can see a detailed grading rubric in Moodle for each paper. Here is the one for Job:

<b>Form and length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poor or disorganized writing</li> <li>• less than 500 words</li> <li>• several grammatical errors</li> </ul> <p><b>0 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inconsistent writing</li> <li>• less than 750 words</li> <li>• a few misspellings and punctuation issues</li> </ul> <p><b>1 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information presented in logical and easy-to-follow way</li> <li>• 750 words minimum, proper spelling, punctuation and grammar</li> </ul> <p><b>2 points</b></p>		
<b>Understanding of the message of Job</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• totally misses the proper relationship between motives and trials.</li> </ul> <p><b>0 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• misunderstands the role of suffering and trials.</li> </ul> <p><b>2 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understands the proper relationship between motives and trials.</li> </ul> <p><b>3 points</b></p>		
<b>Honest self-reflection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes no effort to connect the book with real life.</li> </ul> <p><b>0 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes general observations about the Christian life</li> </ul> <p><b>1 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes cliché'd observations about his/her own life from the book</li> </ul> <p><b>3 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes general observations about his/her own life from the book</li> </ul> <p><b>4 points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes insightful and thoughtful observations about his/her own life from the book</li> </ul> <p><b>5 points</b></p>

## 2. Ecclesiastes

- a. **Summary:** Write a 750 word reaction paper to Ecclesiastes addressing almost any topic raised by the book as presented in class.
- b. **Form:** You do not need to cite outside sources and no cover page is necessary. Just write the paper out in Word, make sure it's at least 750 words, edit and save it just in case. Then just cut and paste the text into the proper spot in Moodle.
- c. **Point:** Ecclesiastes can easily be misunderstood. I hope that you understood the final message of the book, that God really wants you to enjoy life as you seek to live it within his guidelines. Even in the midst of the curse, a good God has created life for his children to enjoy as best they can. This doesn't mean that the goal is to enjoy life in a hedonistic way for pleasure's sake, but that in pursuing God, one should find great pleasure along the way. How do you respond to these truths? You might answer according to your life right now, or you might think in terms of a life's calling or work? Again, any kind of thoughtful personal response to the truth of the book will be acceptable.
- d. **Grading:** Form will be worth 2 points; demonstrating an understanding of the message of Job is worth 3 points (please don't repeat the message of Job, but make sure you interact / deal with it); and careful, honest reflection on your own experience is worth 5 points. The total is 10 points; the three reaction papers together make up 10% of your final grade. Late work is generally 10% off per day late. All reaction papers are due at 5:00 pm.

## 3. Song of Solomon:

- a. **Summary:** Write a 750 word reaction paper to Song of Solomon addressing almost any topic raised by the book as presented in class.
- b. **Form:** You do not need to cite outside sources and no cover page is necessary. Just write the paper out in Word, make sure it's at least 750 words, edit and save it just in case. Then just cut and paste the text into the proper spot in Moodle.
- c. **Point:** I'm interested in your personal response to the message of the book. I don't need you to repeat the teaching of the book, unless you want to crystallize it in order to respond. Some of the ideas you might want to pursue are: Tell me if you saw some truth for the first time. Let me know how it will change the way you live. How does the message of the book speak to our culture? How does the message of the book speak to the Cedarville University culture? Do you agree with the wife as she tells her story? Does the book call for changes in your own life? If so, what and how will you change?
- d. **Grading:** Form will be worth 2 points; demonstrating an understanding of the message of Job is worth 3 points (please don't repeat the message of Job, but make sure you interact / deal with it); and careful, honest reflection on your own experience is worth 5 points. The total is 10 points; the three reaction papers together make up 10% of your final grade. Late work is generally 10% off per day late. All reaction papers are due at 5:00 pm.