



A Ha(ng)man's Tale
Esther 7/ February 21, 2021

The Question: What lessons can be learned from Haman's life and death?

The Answer:

1. The _____ Principle
 - a. Proverbs 16:18
2. The _____ Principle
 - a. Proverbs 21:1
3. The _____ Principle
 - a. Proverbs 21:30
4. The _____ Principle
 - a. Proverbs 26:27
5. The _____ Principle
 - a. Proverbs 27:1

Application/Reflection:

1. Reflect upon each of the principles we've discussed and choose one or two that you believe are most relevant to your life right now.
2. Considering the principle(s) you've chosen, write down two or three concrete steps you will take in order to heed the principle(s).
3. Connect with one or two others over the next week and share with them the steps you plan to take and ask them to hold you accountable.
4. Partner with one of the people you've chosen to hold you accountable and read *The Wisdom Pyramid* by Brett McCracken.
5. Once you finish the book (or even if you don't), take the #Wisdom40 challenge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BAPTISM SERVICE MARCH 7**

We are planning a baptism service on March 7 at the beginning of 2nd service (10:45). If you have not yet followed Jesus in the waters of baptism, please consider doing so and contact Pastor Scott to make arrangements.

- **SAVE THE DATE...**

2021 Missions Conference will be April 30, May 1 -2. More information will be available soon!

- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

Please contact the church office, if you would be interested in taking one of our Missionaries out to lunch or dinner during the Missions Conference.

- **AWANA GRAND PRIX – DATE CHANGE**

The Awana Grand Prix is a celebration where many of our Awana students build pinewood derby cars to race and display. (Puggles/Cubbies students race their own Matchbox cars while Sparks, T&T students, and leaders/parents who wish to participate race decorated pinewood derby cars.)

Previously, this year's Awana Grand Prix was scheduled for 3/17 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Due to many being unavailable that week due to DCS Spring Break we're going to move the Grand Prix back one week to 3/24. If this presents an issue for your family and you can no longer participate in the Grand Prix please contact Pastor Brad Harris or talk to one of the ladies at the Awana Admin Table on Wednesday evening to receive a full refund on your car purchase. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.



The Wisdom Pyramid contains six categories/levels. Below are five suggested activities for each category. **Over a span of 40 days, try to check off at least two of the five options in each category.** Print out this page and circle the activities you've completed to keep track of your progress. Bonus points if you can complete three, four, or all five activities in each category!

BIBLE

- Read through the whole book of Proverbs, one chapter a day. Spend five minutes in prayer after your daily reading, asking God to grant you wisdom.
- Pick one passage or entire chapter(s) from Scripture to memorize. Practice daily to help commit it to memory (perhaps following [this method](#)). Some passages to consider memorizing are Psalm 1, Psalm 23, Psalm 46, Isaiah 53, Colossians 1:15-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, Philippians 2:1-11, Revelation 21:1-8, Romans 8, Romans 12, Matthew 5.
- Listen to all the Psalm-based songs in Poor Bishop Hooper's EveryPsalm project (find them on Spotify [here](#)), or other Scripture-based albums like those from [Psallos](#), [The Corner Room](#), [Cardiphonia](#), and others.
- Read Matt Smethurst's short book, [*Before You Open Your Bible: Nine Heart Postures For Approaching God's Word*](#)
- If you have kids, read a Bible story to them (or tell it from memory) at least once a day.

CHURCH

- Attend your church's worship gathering every Sunday (whatever that looks like right now, virtual or in-person).
- Text someone in your church every week and ask how you can pray for them. Then pray for them.
- Send your pastor a note of appreciation, thanking them for how they've led and served in such a difficult year.
- Read a short biography about a missionary, theologian, or key figure in church history. Or read one of the books in Crossway's "[Theologians on the Christian Life](#)" series.
- Gather a couple people from your church to read through *The Wisdom Pyramid* together and discuss.

NATURE

- Go on a daily walk outside, even for just 15 minutes (if that's all you can spare), and go totally unplugged. Leave your phone, headphones, and other electronics at home.
- Take a notepad and find a quiet spot in nature to just sit for an hour. Could be a local stream, pond, or beach; a garden or park in your town; or just under a tree in your backyard. Write down as much as you can about what you observe there. Then, write a few reflections on the kind of Creator who would create "handiwork" like this.
- Visit a park or nature preserve with family or friends, and give everyone 30 minutes to take *one photo* each, of the most beautiful and interesting piece of God's creation they can capture with their camera. Only one photo! Then share your photos with each other and have each person explain why they took their photo of what they did.
- Go to a farm or a local farmer's market and then make a meal using only (or mostly) the food you picked up there.
- Read Wendell Berry's poem, "[The Peace of Wild Things](#)," and then spend a quiet few minutes outside, reflecting and thanking God in prayer for graciously making the world.

BOOKS

- Read an old book (published at least 100 years ago) of enduring Christian wisdom. The "[Popular Patristics](#)" series from SVS Press is full of great options, as is the [Puritan Paperbacks series](#) from Banner of Truth. If you haven't read Athanasius's [On the Incarnation](#), maybe start there.
- Read a work of fiction. Perhaps one of [Karen Swallow Prior's recommendations](#).
- Read a book you will mostly disagree with or find maddening. Once finished, try to write down at least three helpful things you took away from it.
- Re-read a book you love.
- Make a list of the five books (other than the Bible) that have most shaped your faith, with short descriptions of how these books impacted you. Perhaps share your list online.

BEAUTY

- Watch the *Lord of the Rings* movie trilogy (ideally the extended versions!), or one of my selections from this list on TGC's website: [15 Best Films About Faith From the 2010s](#). Watch with family or a couple friends.
- Make something beautiful. A song, a poem, a painting, a wood-carving, a hand-sewn COVID mask, a delicious meal, anything.
- Listen to the entirety of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. You can find it [on YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), and most other streaming sites. If that's too daunting, listen to one of these [6 Works of Classical Music Every Christian Should Know](#).
- Watch one of these Terrence Malick films (that you have not yet seen): [Badlands](#), [Days of Heaven](#), [The Thin Red Line](#), [The New World](#), [The Tree of Life](#), [A Hidden Life](#). Watch on your biggest TV screen and best sound system if possible.
- Memorize an Emily Dickinson poem or a Shakespeare sonnet (or really any poem).

INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Use social media only in positive (non-angry, non-complaining) ways for the 40-day period. Praise someone else's work. Promote good things (music, films, books) you love. Share insightful quotes or Bible verses. Post cute baby photos.
- Take at least one day per week to be completely free of all social media.
- Limit your outside-of-work screen time to one hour or less each day.
- Post something on social media that publicly praises or gives thanks for a person who has modeled wisdom in your life.
- Create a [YouTube playlist](#) that curates a collection of videos you've found helpful or edifying on a topic of your choice. Share it with others who might find the videos beneficial as well.