Chapter 15 speaks to God’s mercy: “But you, our God, are kind and true, patient, and ruling all things in mercy.”

The Holy Book of “Wisdom of Solomon” consists of 19 chapters. The Holy Book is divided into 3 main parts:

1. Chapter 1 through 6: Talks to us about the importance of seeking Heavenly Wisdom
2. Chapter 7 through 10: Reveals to us Wisdom and Her attributes.
3. Chapter 11 through 19: Gives us a glimpse of God’s gentle and merciful wisdom as well as warning about Idolatry.

I invite you my beloved reader to experience for yourself living a life that is filled with the Heavenly Wisdom. You will find success following you everywhere you go. Joy will fill your heart. You will feel the continuous presence of our awesome God.

Where to start from?
In your morning prayers ask God to give you His Wisdom, you may also want to put a little piece of folded paper on the altar with this request.

Obtain a personal version of the Orthodox or Catholic Holy Bible based upon the Greek Septuagint which will include the Book of “The Wisdom of Solomon”. And always remember our Lord said “seek and you will receive” May the Lord fill you with His Wisdom.

— A Mighty Arrows, St. Mary, Atlanta GA

* You will not find it in the Protestant compilation of the Bible, when the Protestant split from the Catholic Church they excluded this book along with a few other books. However, our Russian church firmly accepts the Wisdom of Solomon as part of the Holy Bible that is inspired from the Holy Spirit/Wisdom.

The Holy Book of “The Wisdom of Jesus, the Son of Sirach” (or simply “Wisdom of Sirach”) or perhaps more widely known as the Book of Ecclesiasticus is mostly made up of unconnected

Holy Book of Sirach

by Elizabeth Assad
St. George, Tampa FL

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From the cell of His Grace Bishop Youssef...

Reflections upon ἁγνησίας ἰμανόων a Spiritual Friendship ἵπτερυφ ἰμανόων

“But by God’s grace, I am what I am, and the grace that He gave me was not without effect. I have worked harder than any of the other apostles, although it was not really my own doing but God’s grace working in me” (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Morale: Learn and follow the ways of God’s grace.

First, it is essential that you should meet to read the Holy Bible together and pray the Agpyea together. Reading the Holy Bible together can be looked upon as a challenge to first help each other to learn all the Holy Books of the Bible, their location (Old Testament, Apocrypha or New Testament), and who the inspired writer was for each Holy Book. Following this “working knowledge” step, one can begin at the very first Holy Book of Genesis and progress through the entire Holy Bible with reading and discussion each week until completion. It will be a goal for the spiritual friendship building the spirituality of both members and will make a lasting memory of your teenage years.

Second, following Holy Bible study, the two members of the spiritual friendship may desire to go eat together and share in semi-social with religious overtones, conversation as well, the events of the past week, struggles and accomplishments. This type of friendship should not venture toward study for examinations, movie attendance, computer programming, or sports activities but rather its basic premise focuses on the common thread of spirituality.

“If you think you are standing firm you had better be careful that you do not fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Morale: Don’t think that you are strong lest you fall.

A spiritual friendship must be a continuous ongoing friendship which does not adapt to personal inclinations ed sayings which bear on all kinds of topics.

The author of this blessed book is thought by many scholars to be a man by the name of Jesus Ben Sira, a “man of Jerusalem” (50:23). Ben Sira ran a Biblical studies school for young Jewish men and was believed to be a philosophical observer of life, as easily inferred from the nature of his written thought. Ben Sira himself speaks with a wider knowledge, only acquired by one who traveled a great deal.

The principal doctrines of Jesus, the son of Sirek were that just like all other inspired writers in the Old Testament, that God is One and eternal, also that there is no other God besides Him. The Wisdom of Sirach deals with a variety of subjects such as the individual, the family, and the community in their relations with one another and with God. It addresses friendship, education, poverty and wealth, the law, religious worship, and many other matters which reflect the religious and social customs of the time. The basic theme of the author of the Holy Book of Ecclesiastics is that of “wisdom.” This book is said to have split into two sections, in which both sections contain the theme of wisdom.

The first part of the book directly instills the fear of God and the fulfillment of His commands, wherein consist true wisdom. The second part of the book depicts the Divine wisdom and the practice of wisdom in various actions of everyday existence.

The first chapter in the Holy Book of Sirach begins with praise of the Lord. Rejoicing, saying "All wisdom cometh from the Lord and is with Him forever" (1:1). Ben Sira then begins to explain the qualifications to obtain the Lord’s wisdom. He says that the root of wisdom is fear of the Lord and when this is attained one will receive long life.

Ben Sira then further explains what one shall do if he desires the wisdom of the Lord which is to follow His commands. As said in the Holy Book of Sirach 2,8, “You who fear the LORD, trust him, and your reward will not be lost.” This is one of the verses in Sirach in which summarizes the first section of the Holy Book of Ecclesiastics.

In the second part of the Wisdom of Sirach advice is given in all parts of one’s life. Advice is handed to the parents of children, to never close their eyes in a decision and to hold firm, advice is also given to friends and the rich and also to the poor. In the Holy Book of Sirach, it says to be faithful to thy neighbor and you will never have to worry for your own part.

"Lend to your neighbor in his hour of need, and pay back your neighbor when a loan falls due; Keep your promise, be honest with him, and you will always come by what you need." (Sirach 29: 2-3). In all of his advice and explanations of how one shall act in specific events, Ben Sira reminds the reader not to forget the Lord. Ben Sira continually brings the Lord’s name in between pauses to constantly remind the person that God is great and will repay the person in multitudes if they follow His commands.

In conclusion to the appraisal of the Wisdom of Sirach, Ben Sira carries on about the blessed followers of the Lord in which occupy seven of the last eight chapters in the Holy Book Wisdom of Sirach.

The last chapter is that of praise and thanksgiving. Just as we shall always end a chapter of our wisdom in prayer and thanksgiving in the Lord for the blessings He has handed us, this is exactly what Ben Sira does. Jesus Ben Sira’s continuous praise of the Lord is truly exemplified in this last chapter and in his last words; Ben Sira once again selflessly gives advice to his brethren. He says “Let your spirits rejoice in the mercy of God, and be not ashamed to give Him praise; Work at your tasks in due season, and in His own time God will give you your reward.”(51:29-30).