

# “WISDOM IS FOUND IN FAITH AND TRADITION”

## The Book of Sirach

### Who wrote The Book of Sirach?

The Book of Sirach was written by Jesus Ben Sira, a Jewish sage who was the son of Eleazar, and the grandson of Sirach.

### How did The Book of Sirach get its name and/or what does that name mean?

Sirach is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Jesus Ben Sira the original author. The subtitle of the book, Ecclesiasticus, means "Book of the Church."

### When did these events take place?

The Book of Sirach was written between 200 and 175 B.C. It was later translated into Greek sometime after 132 B.C.

### For more about The Book of Sirach:

See page 699 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

You don't have to look farther than TV or the newspapers to see how popular culture is often at odds with our Catholic beliefs. The practices of abortion and euthanasia are just two of the realities that remind us that the battle for what is true, and what is right still needs to be constantly fought to be won. You probably would imagine that the people in Biblical times were free of these kinds of pressures.

The Book of Sirach is proof that people of faith had to survive cultural pressure long before the birth of Christ. This book, written between 200 and 175 B.C. is both a call and a warning to the Jewish people about the importance of practicing their faith even though they were surrounded by a culture that had a different set of values. The Godless influence of the Greeks was so strong among the Jewish people that sages like Ben Sira, the author of Sirach, were constantly trying to remind the faithful that truth could only be found in their faith and that God would bless and reward only those who maintained its practice and tradition.

Ben Sira was to the Jews in Jerusalem what our parish priests and religious educators are to us. Shepherds who do everything they can to protect their flock in a culture full of threat and danger. If we listen to them by putting Christ first in our lives, we too can be delivered to safety.

**Interesting Fact:** The Book of Sirach is the only Book in the Bible that clearly identifies who its author is, who the translator is and when it was written.

**Bonus Point:** According to Sirach, the eyes of the Lord are how many times brighter than the sun?