

May 21, 2023

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Session 2023-21

Shine!
4TH-6TH GRADE

Hi Tweens,

Opening Prayer

Dear God, please enable me with grace to give you due honor at all times. Do not let me disrespect you, but let me serve you with dignity and honor. Let your supernatural power bring me blessing, and let it be well with me throughout the days of my life. For in the name of Jesus Christ I pray.

This week's lesson "**The Book of Ecclesiastes**" we learn that Ecclesiastes reveals that life apart from God is a life without meaning. Jesus is our reconciler who came to restore our relationship with God. A meaningful life can be found through faith in Jesus Christ.

Bible Passage: Ecclesiastes 1-12

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:7 ESV

*Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.*

Bible Verse: Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV

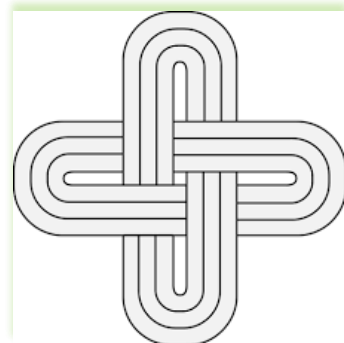
The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Text Truth: Our purpose is to honor God and obey His commands.

Bible Skills Spotlight: Identify and apply biblical principles to personal and social issues. Use other resources to enrich Bible skills and knowledge.

Three random questions for the week:

1. Question 574: Have you ever been in a submarine? (Yes)
2. Question 1417: Are you involved in your local community? (Yes, *Schwartkoff Elementary reading program*)
3. Question 1560: What are your bad habits? (*Eating toooo much food.*)
 - "There are all types of knots that people can make, and some are more sturdy than others. Some are helpful in particular situations."
 - "This is called 'Solomon's Knot,' and this type of knot represents eternity."



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- “What does eternity mean?” (forever)
- “Why do you think this particular knot represents eternity?” (It is without a beginning or ending.)
- “We are going to read from another book that Solomon wrote today, the book of Ecclesiastes.”
- “We know that Solomon valued wisdom, as does God. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon used the wisdom that God gave him to help us as we try to understand difficult things about life.”

ENJOY THIS WEEKS STORY!

King Solomon was wise. God had given him wisdom to understand many things. One day Solomon wrote about the meaning of life.

Solomon asked, “What does a person gain for all his efforts? No one remembers the people who came before and no one will remember those who come later.”

Solomon had examined and explored all kinds of wisdom. He had gathered wisdom from all over the world. Wisdom is good, but wise people die just like foolish people. Everything seemed to be futile (useless) to Solomon.

Solomon tried to gather possessions and have fun. He built houses. He built parks and gardens. He gathered silver and gold. But in the end, it all seemed useless, like trying to chase after the wind.

Solomon tried working. What if he worked hard and became wealthy? This too did not satisfy Solomon. Solomon discovered that no matter how much someone has, they always want more. A man may become rich but never get to enjoy his riches. People should be wise with money, but money does not give meaning to life.

Solomon understood that humans live through different seasons of life. Solomon wrote, “There is a time for every activity on earth. There is a time for people to be born and a time for people to die. There is a time to plant and a time to pull up the plants from the ground. There is a time to cry and a time to laugh. There is a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate.”

God has made each thing beautiful and right in its time. God has put eternity in our hearts. Everything that God does lasts forever. When we see His works, we will be in awe of Him.

Solomon also thought about religious deeds. But he realized that humans cannot do things to impress God. People shouldn’t make big promises to God that they cannot keep. People should obey God and be humble.

Solomon realized that people should enjoy the life God has given them. Life is precious and should be treasured. In the end, Solomon discovered that the most important thing to do—the thing that gives meaning to our lives is to fear (respect with awe) God and obey His commands.

THIS WEEK WE ARE IN THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES!

- “Do you know where to find Ecclesiastes in our Bibles?” (between Proverbs and Song of Songs)

READ Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

- “Is fearing God and keeping His commands what Solomon found to be the meaning of life?” (Yes.)

“Here is this week’s Text Truth again: **Our purpose is to honor God and obey His commands.**”

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- “We see a lot of things everyday that claim to be the meaning or purpose of life. Family, friends, careers, and possessions compete for God’s place in our lives. Let’s remember Solomon’s quest for his purpose and what he found it to really be—to honor God and obey His commands.”



If you have any prayer requests, please send them to **cameronfamily10@gmail.com**. Remember to LAUGH, have a blessed week, watch or come to church Sunday morning, do good in school to the end of this year, and remember **GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE.**

The Tween Teachers

Here is a good video from Saddleback Kids about Solomon:

<https://youtu.be/ihnnK9vQ3nM>

HONOR AND OBEY

Look up each verse in your Bible and read it quietly to yourself. Then pick one verse to read a second time. In the space provided, write a prayer that God will help you honor Him by obeying this verse this week.

EPHESIANS 6:1

PHILIPPIANS 2:14

I THESSALONIANS 5:15

MATTHEW 28:19-20