

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 1 Workbook

Is Everything is Meaningless?

1 Kings 3:5-15

1. If God asked you the same question He asks Solomon, how would you have answer?

2. For what purpose did Solomon ask for wisdom?

3. What condition does God place on His blessing to Solomon in verse 14?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

1. How does Solomon identify himself at the beginning of the book?

2. According to Solomon, what is meaningless?

3. According to verses 10-11, is there anything new on earth? _____

4. If that was true 3,000 years ago, do you think it is still true today? _____

5. What do you think Solomon means when he says there is nothing new? Do you think he means inventions and stuff? What could he mean?

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

1. How does Solomon's mood sound here in this passage?

2. What did his wisdom bring him, according to verse 18?

3. This pursuit of knowledge Solomon calls, "Chasing after the wind." What do you think that means?

Ecclesiastes 12:13

1. According to Solomon, what is the conclusion to all that has been heard?

2. Based on what we read earlier from Ecclesiastes 1, what should everything else be considered?

3. There is a powerful question we must all confront with this in mind--are you living a life that is rich in meaning, or one that has no meaning?

Workbook Activity

What Does Your Life Mean? - Part 1 (My 10 Most Important Things)

List the 10 most important things in your life. Then prioritize them from 1 to 10 in order of importance.

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

What Does Your Life Mean? - Part 2 (How I Spend My time)

List 10 things you spend your time doing each day. Then prioritize them from 1 to 10 in order of most time spent.

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

1. How can loving God be a part of your friendships?

2. How can fearing God be a part of your life at school?

3. How does obeying God’s commandments affect the way you treat your family?

4. Being honest with yourself, is there anything on your list that you would need to eliminate if you were to take Ecclesiastes 12:13 to heart? If so, what?

5. If everything that is absent of the presence of God is meaningless, why do you think we spend so much time on those things?

Homework

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 1:2
- Read once or twice through the book of Ecclesiastes to become familiar with the wisdom of Solomon.
- How can fearing God and obeying His commandments become the purpose of your life?

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 2 Workbook

The Pursuit

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3
Ecclesiastes 2:4-6
Ecclesiastes 2:7-9
Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

1. What are some things that Solomon lists that he tried in life?

2. What conclusion did he reach about investing his life in these things?

3. Which of Solomon's list is most appealing to you: having fun, having stuff, accomplishing stuff, or the opposite sex?

4. How might investing in that stuff prove to be a waste in your own life?

5. Are any of these things in and of themselves bad or wrong? Why or why not?

6. What makes them a waste of time?

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

1. What was Solomon's reaction to investing so heavily in these things, according to verse 17?

2. What do verses 24-25 say about pleasure?

3. Is it wrong to love life, have fun, or to try new things? Why or why not?

4. What should our foundation be for life?

Matthew 6:19-21
Philippians 4:11-13
Hebrews 13:5-6
Matthew 6:33

1. What does Matthew 6:19-21 say about storing up our treasures?

2. How is this different from what Solomon tried?

3. What does Philippians 4:11-13 say about being content with our lives?

4. How does chasing after stuff defy this attitude?

5. What does Hebrews 13:5-6 say about loving money?

6. In your own words, describe how the world loves money.

7. According to Matthew 6:33, what happens when we seek God first?

Homework

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 2:11
- Take a serious look at how you spend your time and energies. Is there anything that keeps you from experiencing full contentment in Christ? Are you pursuing anything that is actually storing up treasures on earth rather than in Heaven?

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 3 Workbook

There is No Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

1. What do you think Solomon is trying to say here?

2. Do any of the “times” the Bible talks about seem wrong all of the time?

3. What attitude could make these situations all right?

4. Do you think Solomon makes a judgment about the right or wrong of these things, or does he observe that in our world there are times for the good and the bad?

5. Why do you think God allows “bad” things like death and war?

Ecclesiastes 3:11

1. What do you think it means for something to be beautiful “in its time”?

2. What happens when things happen outside of the time God might have intended for them?

3. How do you know when it is time for a certain thing in your life?

4. What about when things happen not in their time, but when they are outside of your control?

Ecclesiastes 3:12

1. What does the verse say are the two things humans should do with their time?

2. What does this mean to you?

3. What do you think "doing good" means in our world today?

4. Think of the time you have (it's 86,400 minutes a day, just 60 minutes an hour). What percentage of that do you think you spend doing good?

5. Every time a minute goes by, you are either cashing in on that time or wasting it. If you're honest, are you wasting more than you are using wisely?

- Are you currently following God's timing in your life? _____

- Are you using the minutes of your day wisely? _____

- Share one thing with your partner(s) that you think you need to change.

Homework

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 3:1
- Review your answers to the three questions above. What changes do you need to make to use your time wisely?

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 4 Workbook

Standing Alone

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

1. What group of people does Solomon mention in this passage?

2. Solomon says those who are dead are happier than those who are alive. What do you think that means?

3. According to verse 3, who is the most fortunate group?

4. Why do you think Solomon is so upset by the oppression he saw?

Ecclesiastes 4:4-8

1. What is better according to Solomon, one handful or two? _____

2. Why do you think people chase more, bigger, and better?

3. Does it surprise you that this was true even back in Solomon's day?

4. Do you believe that stuff can make you happy? Why/why not?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

1. In verse 9, why is it better for people to work together?

2. Why is it better for one who falls not to be alone?

3. Why is it better to lie down with another?

4. Solomon ties together sections on oppression and wealth by talking about how much we need each other. How do they relate?

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24

1. What does a friend do at all times? _____

2. Does this mean that they always get along, never confront, or give you the easy way out?

3. Solomon says friends are for what kind of time? _____

4. What happens to those with unreliable friends?

5. By contrast, what kind of friend should we strive to have?

Homework

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 4:12
- Take some time this week to pray for your friends, especially new friends you've recently met. Work on building trust between you and your close friends.

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 5 Workbook

You Can't Take it With You

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

1. What is Solomon talking about when he says “the house of God?”

2. What is his advice for those going to worship?

3. Why do you think “let your words be few” is good advice for us all?

Ecclesiastes 5:10-17

1. What is Solomon’s view of riches?

2. How is it that the richest man on earth could come to this conclusion?

3. Re-read verse 10. Do you know anyone like this?

4. Why does wealth never bring complete satisfaction?

5. In verses 10-15, Solomon names some of the "traps" that loving money can cause you to fall into. What are some of those traps?

Matthew 19:16-26

1. How hard do you think it is for a rich man to enter Heaven?

2. What are some ways that you can ensure that your money never becomes your master?

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 6:1-2

1. What does Solomon observe to be a good thing?

2. Verse 5:19 includes a gift from God. What is it?

3. The beginning of chapter 6 reveals a point of great misery to Solomon. What is it?

MAKING IT REAL

1. Is there something inherently wrong with having wealth or possessions? Explain.

2. Then, what makes wealth and stuff sinful?

3. If you own something but it will cease to be yours after this world ends, how important is that something?

Homework

- Memorize Luke 16:13
- Think about your search for happiness and what worldly desires have a hold on you. Spend 30 minutes in prayer this week asking God to help you find true happiness in Him.

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 6 Workbook

The Wise & The Foolish

The Choice is Yours

What would you do if faced with the following dilemmas. Be prepared to defend your choice.

Dilemmas:

1. You inherit \$100,000 from a distant uncle you never knew. What do you do with the money?

2. A friend tells you a secret that might get him or her into trouble if others knew. What do you do?

3. You witness someone stealing someone else's purse in a crowded shopping center. How do you react?

Ecclesiastes 6:1-6

Ecclesiastes 6:7-9

Ecclesiastes 6:10-12

Ecclesiastes 7:1-4

Ecclesiastes 7:5-9

Ecclesiastes 7:10-14

Ecclesiastes 7:15-20

Ecclesiastes 7:21-29

1. What do these scriptures say is foolish?

2. What do these scriptures say is wise?

3. How might you apply these verses to your life today?

MAKING IT REAL

1. Can you control whether or not you make wise choices? How?

2. What is a foolish choice you have made recently?

3. Once you make a foolish mistake, what can you do to avoid making that same mistake again?

4. Who are some wise people that you can trust to hold you accountable to wise living? Will you commit to asking them to help you sometime this week?

Homework

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 7:5
- Look again at question four above. Talk with at least one person this week who you know well, and who lives a wise life. Ask him or her to help you live one too.

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 7 Workbook

It's Not Fair!

Ecclesiastes 8:1-8

1. What is someone's attitude toward the king supposed to be?

2. Whoever obeys the king will come to what end?

3. This advice, and the verses around it, all speak about wisdom. How do wickedness and a lack of wisdom go hand-in-hand?

Ecclesiastes 8:9-17

1. Have you ever looked at someone who wasn't honoring God and wondered why he or she seemed to have it so well?

2. Solomon says, "The wicked get what the righteous deserve and the righteous get what the wicked deserve." Have you ever seen this happen? Can anyone give an example?

3. There is an attitude that is prevalent today. It goes, "If I can get away with it, I can do it." Do you know anyone who thinks this way? How is this attitude a bad one?

Ecclesiastes 8:12 (again)

1. Solomon mentions long life. Is long life a result of how you live on this earth? Explain.

Ecclesiastes 9:1-4

1. What is the "certain thing" that awaits the righteous and the wicked?

2. Why is a "live dog better than a dead lion," based on these verses?

3. When you think about the life after this one, how different will it be?

Homework

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 9:4
- Read the book of Ecclesiastes from start to finish. Okay, that may not seem fair, but you will get a lot out of it and it will help you prepare for the next lesson.

Ecclesiastes – Lesson 8 Workbook

Fear God

Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

1. According to verse 1, what outweighs wisdom?

2. Do fools always lose according to verse 6?

3. Why do you think Solomon spends so much time comparing the wise and foolish?

Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

1. Why is it important to remember God while you are young?

2. What are some of the obstacles in your pursuit of God now?

3. How do the teacher's words in verse 9 relate to the judgment of those actions?

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

1. Why would Solomon feel the need to warn young people about staying close to the Lord?

2. Why would he bring up how brief youthfulness is?

3. Can you think of someone who was dominant when they were young but lost that dominance with age?

Matthew 6:33

1. How does this verse relate to Solomon's message?

MAKING IT REAL

1. What does it mean for us today to "fear God"?

2. How does keeping His commandments demonstrate our love of God?

Homework

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 12:13
- Review the following verses from previous lessons: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:11, 3:1, 4:12, 7:5, 9:4 and Luke 16:13
- For more wisdom from Solomon, schedule a time to read the book of Proverbs. Start with the first Proverb on the first day of the month and read one each day. There are 31 Proverbs, so in one month you will cover them all.