

ECCLEL



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# Ecclesiastes

## Youth Bible Study

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by Pat Kampenga

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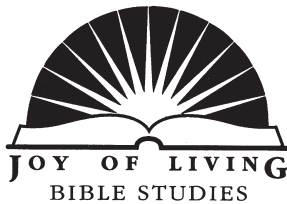
*Joy of Living Ecclesiastes Youth Bible Study*

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# **Ecclesiastes**

## **Youth Bible Study**

**by Pat Kampenga**



## Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living Study**.

### Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

### The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

### For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways. Following are a few suggestions:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

### For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

*Remember* - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 min. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 min. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 min. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

# Helpful Hints for Groups

## Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

## Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps....(then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

## Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.
- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

## Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

## **Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:**

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

## **Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:**

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

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## Ecclesiastes — Game & Craft List

	<b>Game</b>	<b>Craft</b>	<b>Page</b>
Week 1	Simple Relay	Wordless Witness Braelet	7
Week 2	Snatch Handkerchief	Color Pictures	11
Week 3	Car Lot	Shrink Art	16
Week 4	Car Lot	Paper Bag Wreath	21
Week 5	Indian Running	Finish Paper Bag Wreath	28
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Week 7	Who’s Knocking	“Joy” Felt Banner	39
Week 8	Chain Tag	Three Dimensional Nativity	46
Week 9	Base Tag	Crayon Rubbing	52

## ECCLESIASTES - WEEK ONE

### NO LESSON DISCUSSION

- 15 - 20 min. fellowship, free time; make name tags
- 15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: SIMPLE RELAY
- Form lines of 5-6 players, one behind the other, behind an imaginary (or real) line. At the opposite end, place a chair, or other object, or another imaginary line. First player in each line, at the signal races to the opposite goal line, or around the object, back to his line. Tags the next player in line and goes to the end of the line and sits down. Game continues until all players on one team are seated.
- 15 - 20 min. Since there is no lesson for them to discuss, this is a good time to go over the class rules. You may wish to have them share something about themselves, i.e. brothers, sisters, where they live, what they did over the summer, etc.
- to end of class CRAFT: WORDLESS WITNESS BRACELET \*

### MATERIALS

15 inches of leather cord

one bead each:

clear, black, red, white, blue, green, yellow

Knot one end of cord, then string on clear bead. Tie another knot 5 inches from clear bead, then string on beads in color order above; knot cord next to last bead. String un-knotted end through clear bead to form circle (you may need to use a pencil to poke it through) and knot end.

*\*As adapted from Child Evangelism Fellowship Wordless Book, first designed by Charles Spurgeon in 1866.*

(See page 8 for Meaning of Wordless Witness Bracelet.)



## Meaning of Wordless Witness Bracelet

CLEAR	Represents Christ's call to repent and put our faith in Him alone; John 14:6.
KNOT	Represents your birth — physical, spiritual; John 3:6a; 1:13.
BLACK	Represents spiritual darkness because of sin before our new birth; Romans 3:23.
RED	Represents the blood Jesus shed to pay the penalty for sin; Romans 5:8.
WHITE	Represents the forgiveness and cleansing to those who trust in Christ; Acts 3:19.
BLUE	Represents public profession declared by baptism; Acts 2:41.
GREEN	Represents spiritual growth which occurs as we pray, worship, read the Bible, etc.; 2 Peter 3:18.
YELLOW	Represents heaven and glory with Christ; Revelation 21:1-3.
KNOT	Represents the end of life when every person will stand before God; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

*\*As adapted from Child Evangelism Fellowship Wordless Book, first designed by Charles Spurgeon in 1866.*

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 1

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

In the first seven chapters of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher, or Preacher, wonders what will make him happy. He tries all the good things the world has to offer. He tries to find happiness by having fun, getting things, making money, and learning all he could by going to school. But, he learns, just as we must learn, true happiness comes through a belief in God and a personal relationship with His Son Jesus Christ.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 1 - 12.

1. What do verses 1 and 12 tell us about the Teacher?
2. From these two verses, only, who do you think could be the Teacher?
3. Solomon wants to know "Where can man find happiness and satisfaction?" Psalm 40:8 gives us a clue. What does it say?
4. **CHALLENGE:** When should we start to learn about God's law? See 2 Timothy 3:14, 15.
5. How should those who are in God's family through faith in Jesus Christ live? See Colossians 3:17.

### Reread Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 4 - 12.

1. According to verses 4-7, what comes and goes?
2. Read Genesis 1, verses 1,3,6,9,11,14,16,20,25, and 27. Who created the things Solomon talks about?

3. What does Psalm 113:3 tell us we are to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Man can't make the wind stop blowing. Who can make the wind stop? See Mark 4:39 for your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever wanted something so much, you dreamed and talked about it? You even saw just what you wanted in the store or catalog. Then you received this thing as a gift. You may have been happy with it, until you decided you wanted something else. What does Psalm 37:4 say will make us glad?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 13 - 18.**

1. The wisdom Solomon speaks about and the things he has tried, have not included God. He sounds sad. He tried everything in the world, but he found nothing that kept him happy. Where does the believer in Jesus find happiness? See Habakkuk 3:17,18.

## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK TWO**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON ONE**

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: SNATCH THE HANDKERCHIEF

Form two teams; number each player with corresponding numbers; each team forms a line at least five yards apart and line up facing each other. Place a handkerchief, rag, or other item, between the teams. The leader calls out a number, the two players with that number race toward the handkerchief, trying to grab it. The one who grabs it first, races back to the team line, while the opponent tries to tag him. One point is scored for the player returning safely to his line with the handkerchief. Return handkerchief to starting point and repeat play.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 1.

to end of class CRAFT: COLOR PICTURES

### **MATERIALS**

construction paper  
magazines

Have kids cut out and use magazines pictures to create a picture depicting what makes them happy. Then, have them do the same with what makes them sad.

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 1 ANSWERS

In the first seven chapters of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher, or Preacher, wonders what will make him happy. He tries all the good things the world has to offer. He tries to find happiness by having fun, getting things, making money, and learning all he could by going to school. But, he learns, just as we must learn, true happiness comes through a belief in God and a personal relationship with His Son Jesus Christ.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 1 - 12.

1. What do verses 1 and 12 tell us about the Teacher? “The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem.” (verse 12) “I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.” (NIV)
2. From these two verses, only, who do you think could be the Teacher? Solomon.
3. Solomon wants to know “Where can man find happiness and satisfaction?” Psalm 40:8 gives us a clue. What does it say? “I am so happy to do what You want, my God. For Your law is written on my heart!”
4. **CHALLENGE:** When should we start to learn about God’s law? See 2 Timothy 3:14, 15. “But you must keep on believing the things you have been taught. You know they are true. You know that you can trust those of us who have taught you. When you were a small child, you were taught the Holy Bible. It makes you wise to accept God’s salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus.”
5. How should those who are in God’s family through faith in Jesus Christ live? See Colossians 3:17. “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (NIV)

### Reread Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 4 - 12.

1. According to verses 4-7, what comes and goes? “Fathers, sons, and then grandsons come and go. But nothing ever changes. The sun rises and sets. Then it hurries around to rise again. The wind blows south and north, here and there. It twists back and forth and gets nowhere. The rivers run into the sea. But the sea is never full. And the water goes back again to the rivers. Then it flows again to the sea.”
2. Read Genesis 1, verses 1,3,6,9,11,14,16,20,25, and 27. Who created the things Solomon talks about? GOD.
3. What does Psalm 113:3 tell us we are to do? “Praise the Lord from sunrise to sunset!”

4. Man can't make the wind stop blowing. Who can make the wind stop? See Mark 4:39 for your answer. Jesus. "Then He spoke to the wind and the sea. He said, 'Quiet down!' Suddenly, the wind fell! And there was a great calm!"
5. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever wanted something so much, you dreamed and talked about it? You even saw just what you wanted in the store or catalog. Then you received this thing as a gift. You may have been happy with it, until you decided you wanted something else. What does Psalm 37:4 say will make us glad? "Be delighted with the Lord. Then He will give you all your heart's desires."

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1, verses 13 - 18.**

1. The wisdom Solomon speaks about and the things he has tried, have not included God. He sounds sad. He tried everything in the world, but he found nothing that kept him happy. Where does the believer in Jesus find happiness? See Habakkuk 3:17,18. "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior."

[The object of this lesson is to focus on what makes people truly happy. It is important for the young student to learn early that happiness comes from the Lord. As leaders, it is our responsibility to help the youngster look to God for happiness. Soon enough they will try the world's ways, as Solomon did, and prayerfully they will come to the same conclusion. Lasting happiness is in the Lord, not the things of this world.]

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 2

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 2, verses 1 - 11.

1. In Ecclesiastes 1:16,17 Solomon says, "I said to myself, 'Look, I know more than any of the kings before me in Jerusalem. I have greater wisdom and knowledge.' So, I worked hard to be wise instead of foolish." But what does he say about wisdom in Proverbs 1:7?
  
2. In Ecclesiastes 2:1, what does Solomon tell himself?
  
3. What does Solomon say about laughter in Proverbs 17:22a?
  
4. Solomon thought drinking would make him happy. Today, some people drink and use drugs. What does Solomon say about being drunk in Proverbs 23:29-35?
  
5. Here is a list of the other things Solomon did. Which verses tell about each project?  

had many wives	built houses
planted gardens	dug pools for water
had many slaves	had singers and a band
had herds and flocks	

6. Did Solomon get everything he wanted?

7. According to verse 11, how did Solomon feel about all he had done?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 2, verses 17 - 26.**

1. Solomon discovered that the one with man's wisdom and the foolish man both die. But, Daniel tells us about godly wisdom. What does Daniel 12:3 say?

2. Using your dictionary, what does toil mean?

3. How did Solomon feel about those who would enjoy all his wealth after he died? See verse 21.

4. What decision does Solomon come to in Ecclesiastes 2:24-25?



## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK THREE**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON TWO**

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CAR LOT

Set two goal lines and side boundaries. Form into teams of two or three. One player becomes IT, or the whole team can be IT. Teams decide on what type of car they want to be. IT is given the names of these cars. IT calls out the name of a car. Those “cars” try to reach the opposite goal line without being tagged. Once tagged, they must sit down where they were tagged. They can then tag others running passed them, but they must remain seated. IT may call CAR LOT and all “cars” must run and try to reach the opposite goal line, within the side boundaries, without being tagged. IT changes when all players are tagged, or when a time limit has been reached.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 2.

to end of class CRAFT: SHRINK ART

ALEENE’S SHRINK-IT pack has the shrink art materials and directions needed for this project. Most craft stores should carry this craft item. If you are unable to find it, you may contact Aleene’s using a hot line number: 1-800-825-3363; or writing: Aleene’s; Division of Artis, Inc.; 85 Industrial Way; Buellton CA 93427, or check online.

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 2 ANSWERS

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 2, verses 1 - 11.

1. In Ecclesiastes 1:16,17 Solomon says, “I said to myself, ‘Look, I know more than any of the kings before me in Jerusalem. I have greater wisdom and knowledge.’ So, I worked hard to be wise instead of foolish.” But what does he say about wisdom in Proverbs 1:7? “How does a person become wise? The first step is to trust and respect the Lord! Only fools won’t let anyone teach them.”
2. In Ecclesiastes 2:1, what does Solomon tell himself? “I said to myself, ‘Come now, enjoy life! Enjoy yourself to the full.’”
3. What does Solomon say about laughter in Proverbs 17:22a? “A cheerful heart does good like medicine.” [It’s ok to have fun. Life would be boring if we did not have times for pleasure. But, we can’t live just to have fun all the time. It can’t be our main goal in life. Soon what we thought was fun, becomes boring.]
4. Solomon thought drinking would make him happy. Today, some people drink and use drugs. What does Solomon say about being drunk in Proverbs 23:29-35? “Whose heart is filled with pain and sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is the person with bloodshot eyes and many wounds? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns. He tries out all the new mixtures. Don’t let the sparkle and the smooth taste of strong wine trick you. For in the end it bites like a poisonous snake. It stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things. And your mind will be confused. You will say foolish, silly things that would shame you to no end when sober. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast. And after that you will say ‘I didn’t even know it when they beat me up! Let’s go and have another drink!’”
5. Here is a list of the other things Solomon did. Which verse tells about each project?

had many wives	<u>verse 8</u>	built houses	<u>verse 4</u>
planted gardens	<u>verse 5</u>	dug pools for water	<u>verse 6</u>
had many slaves	<u>verse 7</u>	had singers and a band	<u>verse 8</u>
had herds and flocks	<u>verse 7</u>		

6. Did Solomon get everything he wanted? Yes. Verse 10: “I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.” (NIV).
7. According to verse 11, how did Solomon feel about all he had done? “But as I looked at all I had tried, it was all so useless! It was like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.” [We have just read about an experiment Solomon did. He tried to gain as much

“human” knowledge as his brain could hold. He tried having fun and getting high, or drunk. He even went so far as to become the most successful king in all the earth. Everything he tried did not satisfy him. Nothing he tried gave him the happiness he was looking for. He did all there was to do, and he remained unhappy, because it was all done without God.]

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 2, verses 17 - 26.**

1. Solomon discovered that the one with man’s wisdom and the foolish man both die. But, Daniel tells us about godly wisdom. What does Daniel 12:3 say? “And ‘those who are wise, the people of God, shall shine as brightly as the sun. And those who turn many to righteousness will glitter like stars forever.’”
2. Using your dictionary, what does toil mean? “To work long or hard.” (Holt Intermediate Dictionary)
3. How did Solomon feel about those who would enjoy all his wealth after he died? See verse 21. “For I might spend my life searching for wisdom, knowledge, and skill. But then I must leave all of it to someone who hasn’t done a day’s work in his life. He inherits all my efforts, free of charge.”
4. What decision does Solomon come to in Ecclesiastes 2:24-26? “So I decided there was nothing for a man to do but enjoy his food and drink and his job. Then I saw that even this pleasure is from the hand of God. For who can eat or enjoy apart from Him? For God gives those who please Him wisdom, knowledge, and joy. But if a sinner becomes rich, God takes the riches away from him. And He gives it to those who please Him. So here, too, we see an example of foolishly chasing the wind.”

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 3

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 1-8.

1. What does Ecclesiastes 3:1 say about time?
  
2. **CHALLENGE:** Although Solomon does not talk about having a time for prayer, what do these verses say about prayer?

Acts 3:1

Luke 6:12

1 Thessalonians 5:17

3. **PERSONAL:** It is estimated that if we lived to about the age of 70, we will have spent only 19 days in prayer, and 9-12 years in having fun. How much time do you spend in prayer, talking to God? Why not promise God you will give Him a special 5 minutes of every day talking with Him? Remember, you can always give Him MORE time, too.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 9-15.

1. What do these verses say about the way things work in God's world?

Ecclesiastes 3:11a

Romans 8:28

2. What does Jeremiah 29:11 say about God's plan for you?

3. God had a special plan for Esther. What does Esther 4:14b say about God's plan?
  
4. According to verses Ecclesiastes 3:13, how is a man supposed to feel about his work on earth?
  
5. What does James 1:17 say about God's gifts?
  
6. **RISKY:** If every good gift comes from God, how are we to live? See Ecclesiastes 12:13.

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 16-22.**

1. In these verses, Solomon says that for the man without God, the end of life is death. But, what do these verse say about death for those who believe in Jesus Christ?

John 3:16

John 3:36

Romans 6:23

2. **PERSONAL:** Do you have eternal life? You can have eternal life if you believe in Jesus. You see, Jesus was punished for your sins so you wouldn't have to be punished. So, you must confess your sins to God and ask His forgiveness. But, you can't do things right unless you have help. Jesus is your help. Ask Him to come into your heart and help you live to make Him happy. His Holy Spirit will help you live the way God wants you to live.

## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK FOUR**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON THREE**

15 - 20 min.	free time - games, fellowship;
15 - 20 min.	snack and group recreation: CAR LOT (a favorite of the kids; see WEEK THREE schedule for instructions)
15 - 20 min.	discussion LESSON 3.
to end of class	CRAFT: PAPER BAG WREATH (a two week project) created by Jo Marie Caccioppo

### **MATERIALS**

Brown paper sacks (the type for groceries) about 15 bags per wreath. You can make a paper bag wreath (see directions), or you may use a purchased one.

Scissors pencils crayons - “autumn” colors: various shades of red, orange, brown, yellow, gold, etc.

Markers to match crayon colors

To “open” the bag, cut along its seam, then cut off the bottom so the bag lays flat. Have children make several type of leaves on the “opened” paper sacks. Each wreath will require about 40 leaves. Leaf making takes quite some time, so it will need to be finished the following week. If you have a die cutter with a leaf stencil, use it as it will save time. The children are a little hesitant to make so many leaves. They can either make their own leaf or use a pattern. Some leaf patterns are shown on page 22.

After leaves have been traced, color in autumn colors, then trace around edges with markers so they stand out. Trace “veins” in the leaves. Later, they will be “fold” lines. Cut out the leaves.

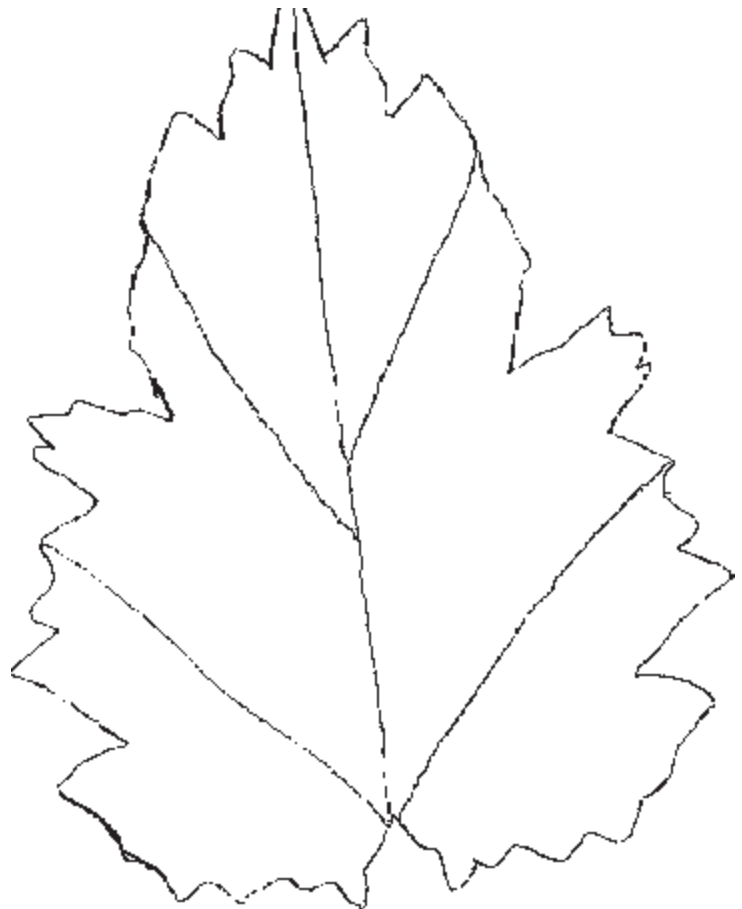
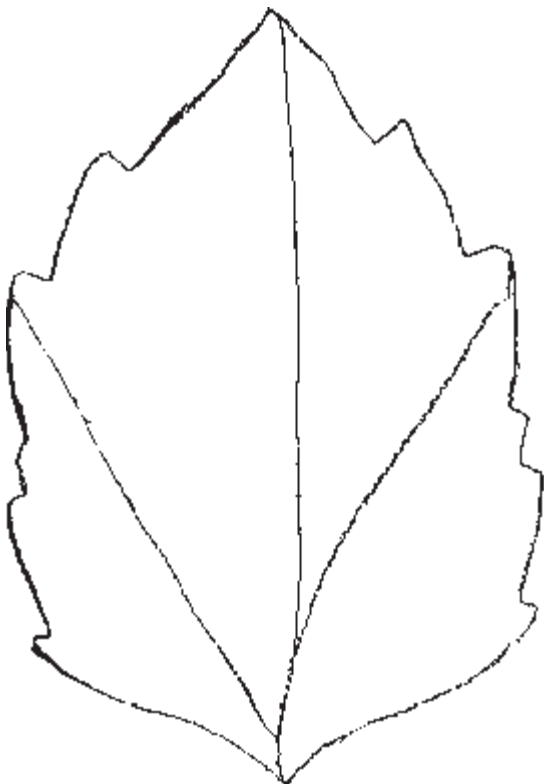
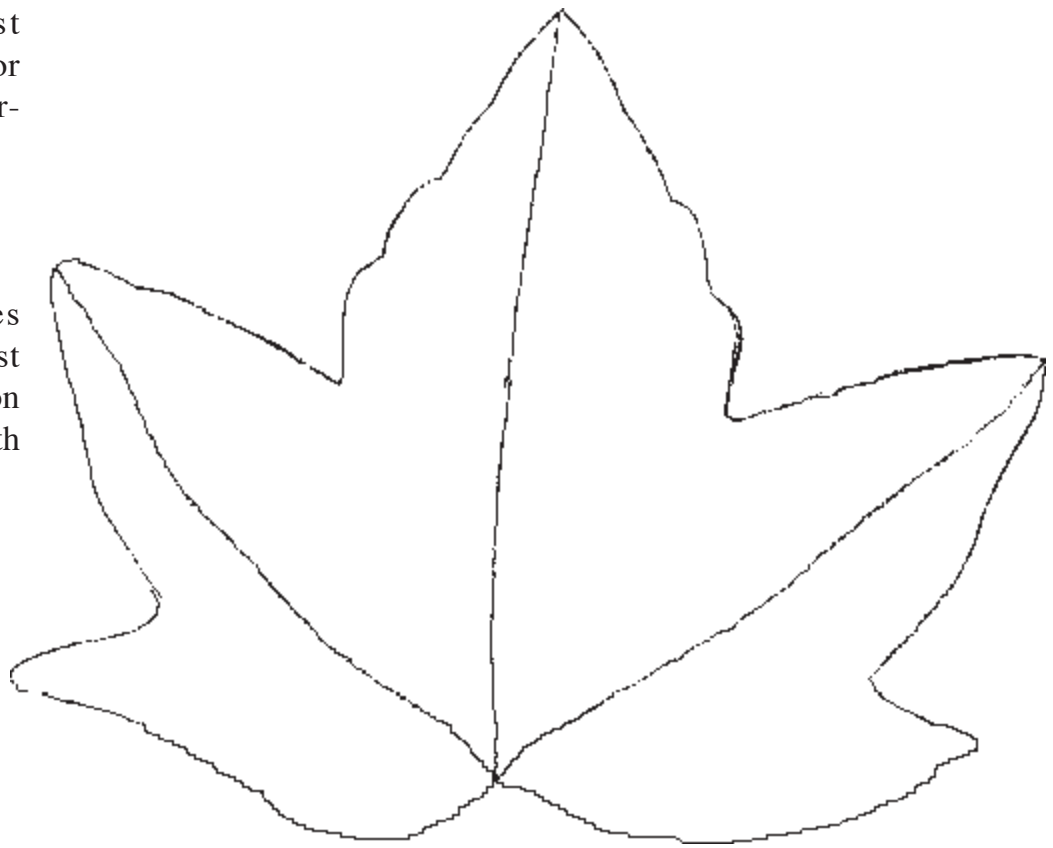
To make the wreath: cut one paper sack on seam, and cut off bottom. Grip long edge, and roll, crunching the bag as you roll it. Once rolled, form a circle and staple ends together. Place each wreath in Aleene’s Fabric Stiffener until completely soaked. Lay soaked wreath on wax paper and allow to dry for about one week.

OPTIONAL: When wreath is dry, wrap with ribbon.

Attach cording to wreath for hanging. Fold leaves along “veins”, curl leaves if desired. Hot glue leaves randomly to wreath until it is full. Decorate wreath with ribbon, acorns, or other adornment.

These are just samples. Any size or shape desired is perfectly fine.

Lines on leaves are FOLD lines, just as you see “veins” on real leaves (crease with fingernail or ruler.)



## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 3 ANSWERS

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 1-8.

1. What does Ecclesiastes 3:1 say about time? “There is a right time for everything.”
2. **CHALLENGE:** Although Solomon does not talk about having a time for prayer, what do these verses say about prayer?

Acts 3:1 “Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon. They went there to take part in the three o’clock daily prayer meeting.”

Luke 6:12 “One day soon after that He [Jesus] went out into the mountains to pray. He prayed there all night.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Always keep on praying.” [Note, three different times for praying are mentioned in these verses. However, this last one is the attitude we need to cultivate.]

3. **PERSONAL:** It is estimated that if we lived to about the age of 70, we will have spent only 19 days in prayer, and 9-12 years in having fun. How much time do you spend in prayer, talking to God? Why not promise God you will give Him a special 5 minutes of every day talking with Him? Remember, you can always give Him MORE time, too.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 9-15.

“FITTING TOGETHER IN GOD’S PLAN”, can be explained as assembling a puzzle. The first thing we do when we want to put a puzzle together is to look at its picture, either on the box cover, or the puzzle itself, (if it’s a “toddler” type wooden puzzle) before we dump it onto our work place. The next thing we usually do is find the straight sided pieces so we can make the edges.

At first, we don’t know where each tiny piece fits, but as we look at colors, and size and keep trying different pieces, we find the right ones that fit together, and the edge is formed. Next, we begin work on the inside. Again, we look at color, size, and shape of each piece to find the right one that will help us move the puzzle along to completion.

Sometimes, we might finish a corner, or a small section of the puzzle, but the entire puzzle is still incomplete. So, we continue putting pieces together until it is all finished. We will finish many areas of the puzzle, but until the last piece is in place, it is still incomplete. When it is finished, we have a piece of work that looks like the picture.



That's how it is when God works in our lives. He is the Master puzzle maker. He created us and He knows just where we fit into His creation puzzle. We can't see the finished picture of God's puzzle yet, because all the pieces haven't been put into place. But, just as we completed sections of our puzzle, God shows us how our lives fit into His master puzzle. We will see God's completed puzzle someday, but until then He is finishing the section of His puzzle where we fit in. And His puzzle will be beautiful in His time.]

1. What do these verses say about the way things work in God's world?

Ecclesiastes 3:11a "He hath made every thing beautiful in His time." (KJV) [Beautiful here means appropriate, right. No matter what happens God has a plan for every man's life. He has made everything fit together so that the end result fulfills His plan.]

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (KJV)

2. What does Jeremiah 29:11 say about God's plan for you? "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for evil. I want to give you a future and a hope."

3. God had a special plan for Esther. What does Esther 4:14b say about God's plan? "And who knows? God may have made you queen so you could help at this time!"

4. According to Ecclesiastes 3:13, how is a man supposed to feel about his work on earth? "Second, he should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of his work. For these are gifts from God."

5. What does James 1:17 say about God's gifts? "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (KJV)

6. **RISKY:** If every good gift comes from God, how are we to live? See Ecclesiastes 12:13. "Here is my final advice: honor God and obey His commands. This is really the reason you are here."

### **Read Ecclesiastes chapter 3, verses 16-22.**

1. In these verses, Solomon says that for the man without God, the end of life is death. But, what do these verse say about death for those who believe in Jesus Christ?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV)

John 3:36 “And all who trust God’s Son to save them have eternal life. Those who don’t believe and obey Him will never see life. But the anger of God will stay upon them.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NIV)

2. **PERSONAL:** Do you have eternal life? You can have eternal life if you believe in Jesus. You see, Jesus was punished for your sins so you wouldn’t have to be punished. So, you must confess your sins to God and ask His forgiveness. But, you can’t do things right unless you have help. Jesus is your help. Ask Him to come into your heart and help you live to make Him happy. His Holy Spirit will help you live the way God wants you to live.

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 4

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 4, verses 1-8.

As we read these first six verses, let's remember that Solomon is looking at people who do not obey God. They are separated from Him. "When Solomon uses the phrase 'under the sun', he is talking about the" world we see. "He is not talking about" the things of God, the "spiritual or eternal things." (quotes from *Soul Search*.)

1. Using your dictionary, what does 'oppression' mean?
  
2. **RISKY:** How would you describe oppression?
  
3. What does 1 John 3:16 say about God's love?
  
4. **PERSONAL:** If you are God's child, will you be a bully, or try to always be the boss? Why?
  
5. In Ecclesiastes 4:4-6, Solomon says some people overwork because they are jealous of what others have, so they work harder to get more. He also says there are some people who like to have things, including money, given to them but do not work for it. What do these verses say about working to have more things than anyone else?

Hebrews 13:5

Matthew 6:21

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 4, verses 9 - 16.**

1. What are the four reasons Solomon gives for having at least one good friend?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **RISKY:** What is the difference between a permanent marker and a washable marker?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Sometimes athletes are very popular. They are the best in their sport. Does that athlete stay on the top forever? Is he permanent? What sometimes happens?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. If we seek leadership, power, money, influence, and popularity without having a relationship with God through Jesus, we will not be satisfied. What must we seek in order to find satisfaction? See Matthew 6:33.

## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON 4**

15 - 20 min. free time- games, fellowship

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: INDIAN RUNNING

Chose 5 or 6 players to leave the room. They arrange themselves in any order they want. They return to the room, running once around it, and leave. They rearrange themselves and return to the room. One at a time the other players must name the correct order of the players as they ran around the room. The child who guesses correctly chooses five others to leave with him and the game continues.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 4

to end of class CRAFT: Finish PAPER BAG WREATH

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 4 ANSWERS

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 4, verses 1-8.

As we read these first six verses, let's remember that Solomon is looking at people who do not obey God. They are separated from Him. "When Solomon uses the phrase 'under the sun', he is talking about the" world we see. "He is not talking about" the things of God, the "spiritual or eternal things." (quotes from *Soul Search*.)

1. Using your dictionary, what does oppression mean? "Cruel, unjust treatment; crushing; a sense of being overpowered; feeling of heavy discomfort and depression." (Holt Intermediate Dictionary.)
2. **RISKY:** How would you describe oppression? [It would be similar to a bully beating up on someone smaller, with a crowd watching but not helping.]
3. What does 1 John 3:16 say about God's love? "We know what real love is from Christ's example in dying for us. So we also ought to lay down our lives for our Christian brothers."
4. **PERSONAL:** If you are God's child, will you be a bully, or try to always be the boss? Why? [We are trying to teach about oppression. Some children may be old enough to fully comprehend oppression; others will not. Use some illustrations from your life that may further explain oppression.]
5. In Ecclesiastes 4:4-6, Solomon says some people overwork because they are jealous of what others have, so they work harder to get more. He also says there are some people who like to have things, including money, given to them but do not work for it. What do these verses say about working to have more things than anyone else?

Hebrews 13:5 "Don't love money. Be happy with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never fail you nor forsake you.'"

Matthew 6:21 "If your treasures are in heaven, your heart will be there too."

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 4, verses 9 - 16.

1. What are the four reasons Solomon gives for having at least one good friend?
  - a. verse 9: "Two can do more than twice as much as one. And the results can be much better." [You can have more fun if you have someone to share it. Or, two can get the work done more quickly and easily.]

b. verse 10: “If one falls, the other pulls him up. But if a man falls when he is alone, he’s in trouble.” [A friend who knows all about us can help us do the things God wants us to do.]

c. verse 11: “Also, on a cold night, two under the same blanket get warmth from each other. But how can one be warm alone?” [This could mean emotional warmth. If we don’t have a close friend, we are very lonely and cold inside.]

d. verse 12: “And one standing alone can be attacked and beaten. But two can stand back-to-back and win! Having three is even better. For a cord with three strands is not easy to break.” [There will come times when we’ll get into trouble. It is always good to have a friend on our side. It’s like when Mom tells us not to wander off from the house unless we have someone with us. If we disobey and go off alone and get hurt, who is there to run and get help? In other words, God knows we need to have friends, that is why Christians need other Christians.]

2. **RISKY:** What is the difference between a permanent marker and a washable marker? A permanent marker cannot be washed off or removed. A washable marker can be removed with water or some other type cleaner.
3. Sometimes athletes are very popular. They are the best in their sport. Does that athlete stay on the top forever? Is he permanent? What sometimes happens? No, they don’t stay on top forever. They might get hurt and have to drop out of the game; or someone better comes along to take his/her place.
4. If we seek leadership, power, money, influence, and popularity without having a relationship with God through Jesus, we will not be satisfied. What must we seek in order to find satisfaction? See Matthew 6:33. “Give Him first place in your life. Live as He wants you to. Then He will give all these things to you as well.”

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 5

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 5, verses 1 - 9.

1. Using your dictionary what do these words mean?

worship

vow

2. **PERSONAL:** From your definition, what does worship mean to you?
  
3. When we go somewhere, we have to get dressed before we leave the house. As we get ready to go out, we also must prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship. How does Philippians 4:8 tell us we should prepare for worship?
  
4. **RISKY:** In Ecclesiastes 5:1, what do you think is the best word that describes how we should enter God's presence?
  
5. What does Solomon say about making a vow in verses 4 and 5?

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 5, verses 10 - 20.

1. What does verse 10 say about money?



2. **CHALLENGE:** According to 1 Timothy 6:10, is being rich evil? What is evil?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. **HARD:** 1 Timothy 6:7 and Ecclesiastes 5:15 are very much alike. What does each one say? Try to combine the two scriptures and put them into your own words.  
  
1 Timothy 6:7  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Ecclesiastes 5:15
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. People must work so they can have food, shelter, clothing, etc. But, Solomon is telling us that to work just to have more and more money so we can have a big treasure on earth will not bring complete happiness. What does Matthew 6:19,20 say about treasure?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is God's gift according to Ecclesiastes 5:19?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Where does 1 Timothy 6:17 tell us we get enjoyment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. **PERSONAL:** Since reading these scriptures, do you understand that having lots of money will not make you happy? Parents want to make sure their children have everything they need. But sometimes, there isn't enough money to buy that one thing you think you can't live without. Are you willing to wait for it, and while you are waiting, to be happy and content with what you do have?

## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK SIX**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON FIVE**

15 - 20 min.	free time - games, fellowship;
15 - 20 min.	snack and group recreation: CAR LOT (see week 3 for instructions)
15 - 20 min.	discussion LESSON 5
to end of class	CRAFT: "BOOKS TO BIND" by Esther K. Smith from the "Creative Classroom" Jan./Feb. 1991; adapted by Jo Marie Caccioppo

### **MATERIALS**

large needle  
thread  
paper clips  
white bond paper (typing; 8 1/2 by 11) 4 per pamphlet  
construction paper - 1 1/2 per pamphlet  
mat board - 1 per pamphlet, same size as the half sheet of bond paper (cereal boxes make inexpensive boards)

### **FOR EACH PAMPHLET**

Fold 4 sheets of white paper in half, cut along fold line, there are now 8 "pages". Fold one sheet of construction paper in half, cut (save remaining half for cover). Fold the 8 half-sheets of bond paper and the half-sheet of construction in half, with the construction paper on the outside. Open folded sheets after creasing, and secure with paper clips.

Bind book using heavy thread and needle. Thread needle and knot. With construction paper as bottom page, from the underside, poke the needle through the center of the fold, back in (to the construction side) at bottom of fold (about 1/2" from edge), up through inside center, cross over to top of fold (about 1/2" from edge) back in through construction side. Secure ends with square knot.

Cut construction paper 1/2" larger than mat board and book pages (as they lay flat). Spread construction paper with glue, lay mat board on top, press and hold. Trim corners of construction paper; fold edges over mat board, smoothing to avoid air bubbles, press.

Position sewn pamphlet onto hard cover; trim if necessary. Glue the construction paper to front and back of mat board. If endpapers feel damp, insert extra paper between damp paper and the book pages. Allow to dry, and press under a heavy object.

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 5 ANSWERS

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 5, verses 1 - 9.

1. Using your dictionary what do these words mean?

worship    “To honor or pay reverence to as divine.”

vow        “Solemn promise or pledge.”

2. **PERSONAL:** From your definition, what does worship mean to you?
3. When we go somewhere, we have to get dressed before we leave the house. As we get ready to go out, we also must prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship. How does Philippians 4:8 tell us we should prepare for worship? “And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say one more thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely. Dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.”
4. **RISKY:** In Ecclesiastes 5:1, what do you think is the best word that describes how we should enter God’s presence? [The word “listen”. We need to come into worship in anticipation of hearing Him speak to each of us. God uses the sermon, Sunday school teacher, music, and His word to speak to us. We must be prepared to listen. Worshipping God is not entertainment, but expecting a fresh encounter with God every time you worship.]
5. What does Solomon say about making a vow in verses 4 and 5? “When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.” [This promise to God may be to help another person. If that is so, we need to fulfill it. We may promise God to spend more time reading the Bible and praying; we need to keep that promise that same day and not forget about it. Or, we may ask forgiveness for some sin and promise we won’t do it again. We need to remember to keep that promise too.]

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 5, verses 10 - 20.

1. What does verse 10 say about money? “He who loves money shall never have enough. How foolish it is to think that riches can make you happy!”
2. **CHALLENGE:** According to 1 Timothy 6:10, is being rich evil? What is evil? No. “The love of money is the first step toward all kinds of sin. Some people have even turned away from God because of their love for it. As a result they have pierced themselves with many sorrows.” [This does not mean if one has money they should feel guilty. This means loving money, making money is a person’s goal in life; money has become a person’s idol. And idolatry is sin.]

3. **HARD:** 1 Timothy 6:7 and Ecclesiastes 5:15 are very much alike. What does each one say? Try to combine the two scriptures and put them into your own words.

1 Timothy 6:7 “After all, we didn’t bring any money with us when we came into the world. We can’t carry away a single penny when we die.”

Ecclesiastes 5:15 “Naked a man comes from his mother’s womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand.” (NIV)

4. People must work so they can have food, shelter, clothing, etc. But, Solomon is telling us that to work just to have more and more money so we can have a big treasure on earth will not bring complete happiness. What does Matthew 6:19,20 say about treasure? “Don’t store up treasures here on earth. For they can rust away or they might be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value. And there, they are safe from robbers.” [The very, very, rich, who want money only for themselves, fear people will take their money from them. Solomon even warns of this in verses 11-14.]
5. What is God’s gift according to Ecclesiastes 5:19? “Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work - this is a gift of God.” (NIV)
6. Where does 1 Timothy 6:17 tell us we get enjoyment? “Tell those who are rich not to be proud. Tell them not to trust in their money. It will soon be gone. Their pride and trust should be in the living God. He richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.”
7. **PERSONAL:** Since reading these scriptures, do you understand that having lots of money will not make you happy? Parents want to make sure their children have everything they need. But sometimes, there isn’t enough money to buy that one thing you think you can’t live without. Are you willing to wait for it, and while you are waiting, to be happy and content with what you do have?

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 6

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 6, verses 1 - 12.

1. **CHALLENGE:** Solomon lists several things in verses 2-3a that man values. What are they?
  
2. If a man works hard, becomes rich, and has lots of things, is he promised he will get to enjoy them? Write out the verse that you use for your answer.
  
3. According to Hebrews 9:27a, what happens to all people?
  
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you ever wish for something so hard you miss out on enjoying the things you have? What does Philippians 4:11 say?
  
5. What does Proverbs 29:20 say about words?

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 1 - 7.

1. Solomon says in verse 4 that the wise man thinks about and learns from the tough times in his life. What does the fool think about?
  
2. **RISKY:** What happens when bike safety rules are broken? What can you learn from this experience?

3. What does Hebrews 12:11 say happens when we break the rules?

4. Use your dictionary to find the meaning of these words.

extortion

bribe

5. According to verse 7, what happens to a wise man?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 8 - 12.**

1. What does 1 Corinthians 13:4 say?

2. What does James 1:19-20 say?

3. According to Ecclesiastes 7:9, where does anger live?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 13 - 18.**

1. According to verse 14, what does God allow?

2. What does Romans 8:28 say about the tough things that happen in our life?

3. **PERSONAL:** What does Romans 8:28 mean to you?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 19 - 29.**

1. What do these two verses say about human beings?

Ecclesiastes 7:20

Romans 3:23

2. But what is God's gift to us? See Romans 6:23.
3. How did God make man according to Ecclesiastes 7:29?
4. What does Judges 17:6 say about right and wrong?
5. **PERSONAL:** If you have sinned against God, what can you do to make things right again? See 1 John 1:9 for your answer.

## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK SEVEN**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON SIX**

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: WHO'S KNOCKING?

The child who is IT sits in a chair in the front of the room. Players stand behind IT. The teacher-chosen child quietly walks up behind IT and knocks. IT says "Who is knocking at my door?" The knocker answers "IT is I." IT has three trials to guess who is knocking. If IT guesses correctly, the knocker becomes IT. If IT cannot guess, the knocker's identity is told. He remains IT until he guesses correctly.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 6

to end of class CRAFT: "JOY" FELT BANNER (Pattern included) Created by Jo Marie Caccioppo

### **MATERIALS**

felt - white, green, yellow, red (or other desired colors)

glue - white, or sticks

scissors

markers - for tracing banner pattern

yarn, ribbon, or string

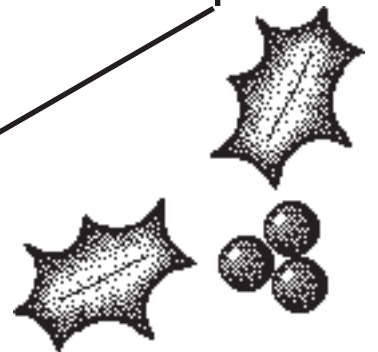
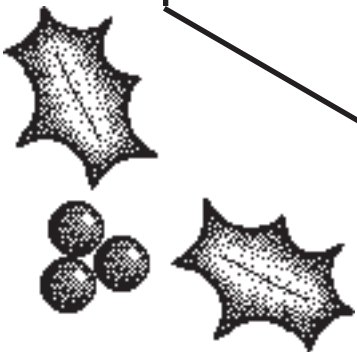
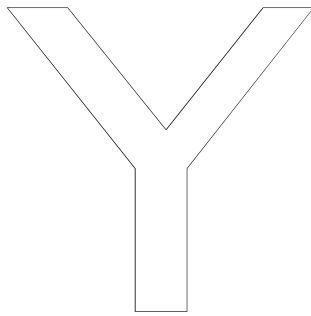
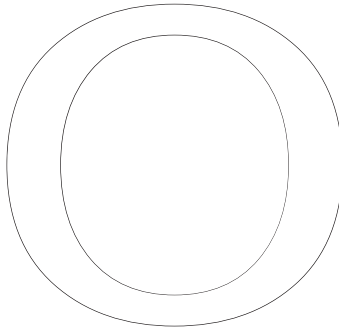
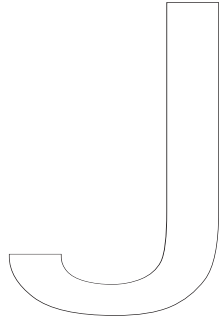
doll rod or skewer

Cut "JOY" letters and 1 leaf from paper pattern (see page 40). Place paper banner pattern on white felt and cut out. Using paper pattern, cut letters from yellow felt. With paper leaf pattern cut leaves from green felt. Make holly from red felt using sharp paper punch, or cut small circles.

Glue banner top to skewer or doll rod. Glue letters onto banner in desired design - horizontal, vertical, diagonal, etc. Glue leaves and holly in place, as desired. Attach yarn to edges of skewer for hanging.



Fold



## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 6 - ANSWERS

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 6, verses 1 - 12.

1. **CHALLENGE:** Solomon lists several things in verses 2-3a that man values. What are they? Wealth, possessions (things), honor (popularity), children, long life.

[Some children may wonder, but not ask “Why is a proper burial important?” At that time, the way a person was buried showed if he were rich or poor. Also, the reference to the stillborn child is figurative. A stillborn child was never alive. It never saw the sunshine, or the moonlight. It never saw its family. It wasn’t known by anyone on earth. It never learned anything. That is how Solomon is painting the picture of the man without God.]

2. If a man works hard, becomes rich, and has lots of things, is he promised he will get to enjoy them? Write out the verse that you use for your answer. No. Verse 2b: “But God does not enable him to enjoy them [wealth, possessions, honor], and a stranger enjoys them instead.” (NIV)
3. According to Hebrews 9:27a, what happens to all people? [They all die.] “It is planned that men die only once.”
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you ever wish for something so hard you miss out on enjoying the things you have? What does Philippians 4:11 say? “Not that I was ever in need. I have learned how to get along happily if I have much or little.” [Solomon is reminding us we can’t keep wishing for something we don’t have. We need to enjoy what we do have because it has all come from God.]
5. What does Proverbs 29:20 say about words? “Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” (NIV)

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 1 - 7.

1. Solomon says in verse 4 that the wise man thinks about and learns from the tough times in his life. What does the fool think about? “Yes, a wise man thinks much of death. But the fool thinks only of having a good time now.”
2. **RISKY:** What happens when bike safety rules are broken? What can you learn from this experience? [Answers will vary. Give opportunity to share. We want the children to understand Solomon is telling us tough times teach us how to live better than we learn from having everything we want.]
3. What does Hebrews 12:11 say happens when we break the rules? “We don’t like being punished while it is happening. But afterwards we can see the result, a quiet growth in grace and character.”

4. Use your dictionary to find the meaning of these words.

extortion “act or obtain money, etc., by force, threats, etc.” (Holt)

bribe “gift made or promised to a person to influence him to decide or act dishonestly.”

5. According to verse 7, what happens to a wise man? “Extortion turns a wise man into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the heart.” (NIV)

### **Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 8 - 12.**

1. What does 1 Corinthians 13:4 say? “Love is very patient and kind. It is never jealous or envious. It never boasts or is proud.”
2. What does James 1:19-20 say? “Dear brothers, remember this! It is best to listen much, speak little, and not become angry. Anger doesn’t make us good. And God demands that we be good.”
3. According to Ecclesiastes 7:9, where does anger live? “Do not be quickly provoked [stirred up, excited] in your spirit [emotions], for anger resides [lives] in the lap of fools.” [Some children may use this verse if a parent becomes angry with them for breaking rules. If we think about the times we become angry, we realize we may look foolish. So, being angry once doesn’t make someone a fool. Living in constant anger makes us a fool. Being angry isn’t healthy for anyone. Even when anger is necessary, we still may look foolish, but, we are not always a fool.]

### **Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 13 - 18.**

1. According to verse 14, what does God allow? “Enjoy success whenever you can. When hard times come, know that God gives hard times as well as good times. Everyone should know that nothing is sure in this life.”
2. What does Romans 8:28 say about the tough things that happen in our life? “Everything that happens to us is working for our good. We know this is true if we love God and fit into His plans.”
3. **PERSONAL:** What does Romans 8:28 mean to you?

### **Read Ecclesiastes chapter 7, verses 19 - 29.**

1. What do these two verses say about human beings?

Ecclesiastes 7:20 “There is not a single man in all the earth who is always good and never sins.”

Romans 3:23 “Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God’s perfect glory.”

2. But what is God’s gift to us? See Romans 6:23. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (RSV)
3. How did God make man according to Ecclesiastes 7:29? “And I found that God made men to be good. But each has turned away to follow his own downward road.”
4. What does Judges 17:6 say about right and wrong? “For in those days Israel had no king. Everyone did what they wanted to. They did what seemed right in their own eyes.”
5. **PERSONAL:** If you have sinned against God, what can you do to make things right again? See 1 John 1:9 for your answer. “If we confess our sins, He can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 7

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 8, verses 1 - 10.

1. **CHALLENGE:** In Ecclesiastes 8:2, Solomon says to obey the king. In verse 3, he says "Don't always try to get out of doing your duty, even when it's not fun. For the king punishes those who disobey." Now, replace the word "king" with "Mom, Dad, teacher, baby-sitter, aunt, uncle." What do these verses mean to you?
  
2. If you have a bicycle, you have rules for riding it. What are some of the rules for bike riding? What could happen if you break the rules?
  
3. Ecclesiastes is not the only place that tells us to obey the rulers, rules, law, or government, so does Romans 13:1-6. According to Romans 13:1, who put the rulers in power?
  
4. Who are we disobeying and what will happen when we break the rules according to Romans 13:3?
  
5. What does 1 Timothy 2:1,2 tell us we are to do for those who are in authority?

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 8, verses 11 - 17.

1. Sometimes punishment for doing wrong doesn't happen right away. According to verse 11, what do some people think?

2. **PERSONAL:** When you do wrong, are you always found out? If your crime is discovered right away, do you ever have to wait for punishment? If you do, how do you feel?
3. What does Romans 12:19 tell you about the punishment some people will receive?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 9, verses 1 - 10.**

1. **RISKY:** We are told in verse 3 that the same thing happens to everyone. What do you think that is?
2. What does Daniel 12:2 say happens after life on earth has ended?
3. How can you have eternal life? See John 3:36.
4. **RISKY:** What do the living have according to verse 4?
5. In verse 7, Solomon tells us to enjoy life. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us the “joy of the Lord is our strength.” What does Psalm 118:24 say about joy?

**Read Ecclesiastes chapter 9, verses 11 - 18.**

1. Solomon tells us in verses 11-12 that everyone finally dies. What does Psalm 1:1-3 tell us about the person who follows the Lord?
2. **PERSONAL:** What was one thing you learned about obeying from this lesson?

## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK EIGHT**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON SEVEN**

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Two players are chosen to be "IT". They join hands and with their free hand try to tag the other players. The first player tagged joins hands between the two "IT". The remaining players, when tagged, join the tag line between the original two "IT". Only end players (IT) may tag. It is permissible for the player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging resumes. The game ends when the last player is caught or when a time limit has been reached. The last two players tagged become "IT". Set boundary lines to restrict play to a small area.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 7

to end of class CRAFT: THREE-DIMENSIONAL NATIVITY

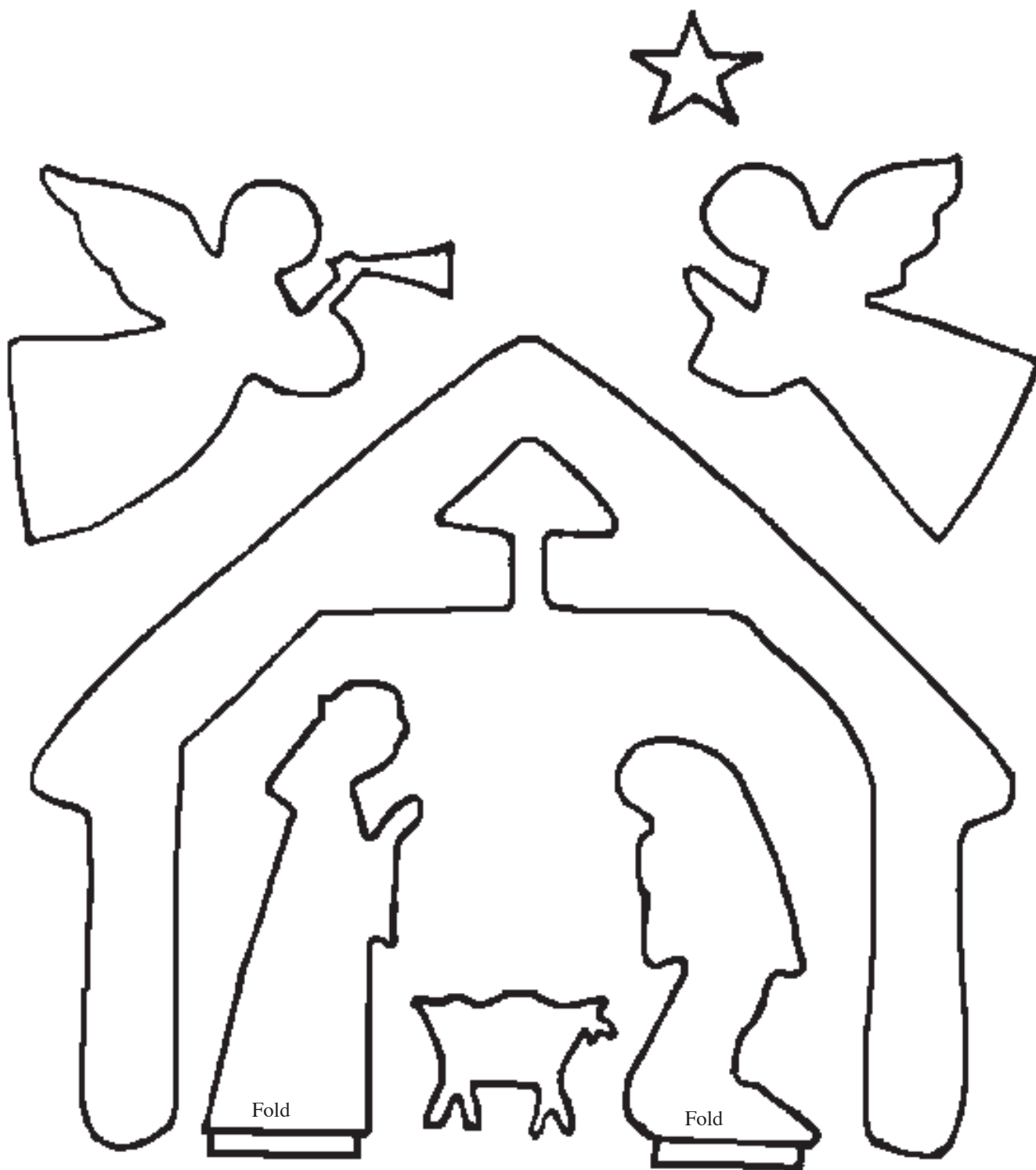
### **MATERIALS**

empty cereal boxes  
nativity scene stencil (see page 47)  
brown paper grocery sacks  
white paper  
crinkle ribbon  
tacky glue

**NATIVITY KIT:** Copy one stencil per child onto white paper. Cut cereal boxes along seams: box front and back for the stable frame and back; box sides for the figures. Shred paper sacks, to be used for straw. Hand each kit to a child.

Have each child cut figures from white paper. Trace stable frame and back on un-printed side of cereal box front and back. Trace figures on the un-printed sides of cereal box. Glue sides, roof, and floor to stable back. Glue figures inside stable onto floor. Glue shredded paper to outside roof to look like straw. Shredded paper can also be glued onto inside floor, if desired.

Pattern taken from Santa's Christmas Stencils, a Golden Book. Copyright 1979, Western Publishing Company, Inc., Racine, WI 53404.





## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 7 ANSWERS

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 8, verses 1 - 10.

1. **CHALLENGE:** In Ecclesiastes 8:2, Solomon says to obey the king. In verse 3, he says “Don’t always try to get out of doing your duty, even when it’s not fun. For the king punishes those who disobey” (TSLB). Now, replace the word “king” with “Mom, Dad, teacher, baby-sitter, aunt, uncle.” What do these verses mean to you? [There will be various answers. Allow as many who want to share the opportunity to do so.]
2. If you have a bicycle, you have rules for riding it. What are some of rules for bike riding? What could happen if you break the rules? [A stolen bike because of no lock; hit while crossing the street because you didn’t look; grounded by parents because you went “off limits”, etc.]

[A child may wonder if there is ever a time the law can be broken. The circumstance under which laws should be broken are if they go against God’s laws. You may wish to use the example of Peter and John when they did not listen to the Council who forbade them to teach in the name of Jesus. Acts 4:1-19.]

3. Ecclesiastes is not the only place that tells us to obey the rulers, rules, law, or government, so does Romans 13:1-6. According to Romans 13:1, who put the rulers in power? [Obey the rulers because God is the one who has put them there. There are no rulers anywhere that God has not put in power.”]
4. Who are we disobeying and what will happen when we break the rules according to Romans 13:3? [So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God. They will be punished.”]
5. What does 1 Timothy 2:1,2 tell us we are to do for those who are in authority? [I direct you to pray much for others. Beg for God’s mercy on them. Give thanks for all He is going to do for them. Pray for kings and all who have power over us. Then we can live in peace and quietness. We can spend our time in godly living and thinking much about the Lord.”]

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 8, verses 11 - 17.

1. Sometimes punishment for doing wrong doesn’t happen right away. According to verse 11, what do some people think? [God does not always punish sinners right away. So people feel it is safe to do wrong.”]
2. **PERSONAL:** When you do wrong, are you always found out? [Answer should be “YES”.] If your crime is discovered right away, do you ever have to wait for punishment? If you do, how do you feel? [Answers will vary.]

3. What does Romans 12:19 tell you about the punishment some people will receive? “Dear friends, if people are mean to you, don’t try to get even. Leave that to God. He has said that He will pay them back.”

### **Read Ecclesiastes chapter 9, verses 1 - 10.**

1. **RISKY:** We are told in verse 3 that the same thing happens to everyone. What do you think that is? [Death.]
2. What does Daniel 12:2 say happens after life on earth has ended? “And many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up. Some will rise to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” [Separation from God.]
3. How can you have eternal life? See John 3:36. “And all who trust God’s Son to save them have eternal life. Those who don’t believe and obey Him will never see life. But the anger of God will stay upon them.”
4. **RISKY:** What do the living have according to verse 4? Hope. [The meaning behind the “live dog and dead lion” of verse 4 is this: “In those days a dog was considered a despicable (ugly) creature. The lion has always been viewed as a beast of power, majesty, and grandeur.” Therefore, as ugly as a dog is, it is better to be alive than dead because “there is hope for the living. While there is life, there is a chance to prepare for death. There is a time to prepare to meet God. And when we die, there are no more opportunities to do anything worthwhile on earth.” (Soul Search)
5. In verse 7, Solomon tells us to enjoy life. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us the “joy of the Lord is our strength.” What does Psalm 118:24 say about joy? “This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.” [White garments and oil denote a celebration. White was hard to keep crisp and clean, so the ordinary person wore them only for special occasions.]

### **Read Ecclesiastes chapter 9, verses 11 - 18.**

1. Solomon tells us in verses 11-12 that everyone finally dies. What does Psalm 1:1-3 tell us about the person who follows the Lord? “Oh, the joys of those who do not listen to the advice of evil people! They do not hang around with sinners. They do not laugh at the things of God. But they take joy in doing all God wants them to. They think about God’s laws day and night. They think about ways to follow Him more closely. They are like trees along a river. They have sweet fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never get dry and fall off. All that they do succeeds.”
2. **PERSONAL:** What was one thing you learned about obeying from this lesson?

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 8

### Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 10, verses 1 - 10.

1. Read Proverbs 15:6 with Ecclesiastes 10:1-3. What does Proverbs 15:6 say about the good and the wicked?
2. What does Proverbs 15:1 say about words?
3. **RISKY:** Why do you think a sharp axe is better for cutting wood than a dull one?

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 10, verses 11 - 20.

1. What does verse 12 say about the words of the wise and the fool?  
  
wise  
  
fool
2. A fool talks about knowing what will happen in the future. What does James 4:14 say?
3. What does verse 20b say about talking about someone?

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 11.

1. The meaning of verses 1-2 is for us to give to others, because we, too may someday need help. What does Matthew 7:2 say about how we treat others?

2. **HARD:** According to Ecclesiastes 11:6 we are to plant seed. This means we are to tell others about Jesus. Why should we keep planting seeds?
3. Ecclesiastes 11:10a says “we are to cast off (put away) the troubles of our body” (NIV). Where does 1 Peter 5:7 say we are to put our troubles?

### **Read Ecclesiastes 12.**

1. When should we remember our creator?
2. What is Solomon’s advice in verses 13-14?
3. God knows everything about us and someday He will judge us says Solomon. What do these New Testament verses say about God’s judgement?

Romans 2:16

Hebrews 4:13

4. In Hebrews 4:14-16, we are told Jesus is in heaven to help us. He experienced everything we do, but He didn’t sin. So, He knows how we feel. Because He knows how we feel, what does Hebrews 4:16 say we can do?
5. **PERSONAL:** Have you decided to commit your life to serve the Lord? Is Jesus your Savior? If He is your Savior, why not ask Him for His help to serve Him? If you have never asked Him to be your Savior, why not ask Him now? Just confess your sins, ask for His forgiveness, and then ask Him to help you serve Him.

## **ECCLESIASTES - WEEK NINE**

### **DISCUSSION - LESSON EIGHT**

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 minutes Snack and group recreation: BASE TAG

Use a piece of cardboard to make one base per player. (An empty cereal box is good, and then it can be used for stencils during craft time below.) Scatter bases around the playing area. Choose "IT," who stands on one of the bases near the center of the playing area. Other players each stand on one base. When "IT" leaves his base, so must the others. "IT" tries to tag a player before the player reaches a new base. Only one player may stand on a single base. If a player is tagged, he becomes the new "IT."

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 8

to end of class CRAFT: CRAYON RUBBING - Rubbings are a very old art form. They are most often made from "relief" surfaces such as gravestones, monuments, or any other carved object or artifact. Earliest rubbings from wood blocks date back to Japan during the 8th century. And stone rubbings date back to China in 175. Stone rubbings were the primary source of duplications. This duplication process continued even after the development of wood block printing made reproduction of texts easier.

### **MATERIALS**

dark crayons, chalk or pencil  
thin paper  
objects and surfaces to rub  
scissors  
cardboard (cereal boxes separated)

Choose objects or surfaces with interesting textures; paper clips, coins, combs, raised greeting/Christmas cards, keys, stencils, etc. Place paper over surface to be rubbed and rub hard with the side of the crayon, pencil, or chalk. Be sure to hold the object in one place while rubbing. Using different colors, direction, and pressure give the same rubbing its own character.

OPTIONAL: trim rubbing and glue to cardboard for mounting.

## ECCLESIASTES - LESSON 8 ANSWERS

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 10, verses 1 - 10.

1. Read Proverbs 15:6 with Ecclesiastes 10:1-3. What does Proverbs 15:6 say about the good and the wicked? “There is treasure in being good. But trouble follows the wicked everywhere.”
2. What does Proverbs 15:1 say about words? “A gentle answer turns away anger. But harsh words cause fights.”
3. **RISKY:** Why do you think a sharp axe is better for cutting wood than a dull one? verse 10: “A dull axe needs great strength. Be wise and sharpen the blade.” [It takes longer and more strength to split wood with a dull axe than it does a sharp one. The wise man sharpens the axe. This means the wise is prepared for a project before he starts doing it. A fool starts working on it before the directions are given. A wise man waits for instruction before beginning a project.]

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 10, verses 11 - 20.

1. What does verse 12 say about the words of the wise and the fool?

wise      gracious, pleasant to hear

fool      ruins him, talks too much

2. A fool talks about knowing what will happen in the future. What does James 4:14 say? “How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is like the morning fog. Now you see it. But soon it is gone.” [No one knows what the future holds. Christians should not be looking at horoscopes, or go to fortune tellers, or read fortune cookie predictions. Only God knows the future for everyone.]
3. What does verse 20b say about talking about someone? “For a little bird will tell them what you’ve said.”

### Read Ecclesiastes chapter 11.

1. The meaning of verses 1-2 is for us to give to others, because we, too may someday need help. What does Matthew 7:2 say about how we treat others? “For others will treat you the way you treat them.”
2. **HARD:** According to Ecclesiastes 11:6 we are to plant seed. This means we are to tell others about Jesus. Why should we keep planting seeds? “Keep on planting your seed. For you never know which will grow. Perhaps all of it.”

3. Ecclesiastes 11:10a says “we are to cast off (put away) the troubles of our body” (NIV). Where does 1 Peter 5:7 say we are to put our troubles? “Let God have all your worries and cares. He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.”

### **Read Ecclesiastes 12.**

1. When should we remember our creator? verse 1. In our youth. [We are to commit our lives to God while we are young, and can serve Him to our fullest potential. As we grow older, we begin to tire physically and cannot do as much as we did when we were young.]
2. What is Solomon’s advice in verses 13-14? “Here is my final advice: honor God and obey His commands. This is really the reason you are here. For God will judge us for all the things we do. He will judge us for every hidden thing, good or bad.”
3. God knows everything about us and someday He will judge us says Solomon. What do these New Testament verses say about God’s judgement?

Romans 2:16 “The day will come when God will command Jesus Christ to judge everyone’s secret life. He will judge their inmost thoughts and motives. This is all part of God’s great plan, which I am telling you about.”

Hebrews 4:13 “God knows about everyone everywhere. Everything about us is wide open to the eyes of our living God. Nothing is hidden from Him to Whom we must explain all we have done.”

4. In Hebrews 4:14-16, we are told Jesus is in heaven to help us. He experienced everything we do, but He didn’t sin. So, He knows how we feel. Because He knows how we feel, what does Hebrews 4:16 say we can do? “So let us come boldly to the Throne of God. There He will give us His mercy. And there we will find grace to help us in times of need.”
5. **PERSONAL:** Have you decided to commit your life to serve the Lord? Is Jesus your Savior? If He is your Savior, why not ask Him for His help to serve Him? If you have never asked Him to be your Savior, why not ask Him now? Just confess your sins, ask for His forgiveness, and then ask Him to help you serve Him.