

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 1, 2022** Family Theme | **The Search for Meaning**
Study Text | **Ecclesiastes 1:1-18**

Objective: Help children see that life apart from God is meaningless and empty and that we look to God and His ways for purpose and meaning in life.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson introduces us to the book of Ecclesiastes, written by Solomon around 934 BC. It joins the other Wisdom books that apply to all people of all time.

Bible Basics: Memorize John 3:16-17 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that life apart from God does not satisfy or provide meaning and purpose. Encourage them to walk with God to find meaning in life.



Key Truth: Apart From God, Human Activity Is Meaningless, Fleeting, and Monotonous (Ecclesiastes 1:1-11)

Ecclesiastes opens with a reference to the *Teacher or Preacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem*. No one fits that description better than Solomon. Solomon summarized life apart from God by using a word that conveys the emptiness or ineffectual outcome of something. It can be translated as vanity, worthless, meaningless, fleeting, or emptiness. Solomon challenged us to consider what life is really like under the sun apart from God. Solomon used the earth and its cycles, people's lack of satisfaction and fulfillment, and the passing of generations to illustrate the emptiness and monotony of life apart from God. Indeed, there is nothing new under the sun. Customs, languages, nations, and tools change, but the people involved are very much like those who went before or will come after. How could *anything* really matter, if that is all there is? We are not designed for meaninglessness, however. Nor are we designed to *find* or *create* our own meaning, either. We are built to live in the meaning and purpose for which God has created us. If we want something lasting and eternal, we will need to find it outside of this world of meaningless monotony. What we do and how we live are important because of God, not because of what we may find here *under the sun*.



Key Truth: Apart from God, Seeking Wisdom and Understanding Is Meaningless (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18)

Solomon certainly achieved much. He had the time and resources to learn whatever human knowledge or wisdom was available in his day. Did such wisdom free him or make him glad? On the contrary, it was a heavy burden. Solomon testified that all of the human activity he had seen or learned about was without lasting meaning. It was no more fruitful than chasing after a breeze. This is the perspective of a man whose heart had drifted away from God. We must recognize how serious what Solomon described really is. He did not mention God until describing the burden He has placed on mankind. It is indeed a heavy burden to understand that an entire life's activity, if done apart from God, will amount to nothing. What good are riches, wisdom, and knowledge if all we can do is disappear into the nameless ranks of those who went before us? We must not give in to the temptation to keep our view "under the sun." We must live life looking upward, to the Son, for our own good and that of those who follow us.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Why do you think human beings long for meaning in life?
- Where can we find lasting meaning in life?
- Why is life meaningless and fleeting apart from God?
- How can we pursue what is lasting and eternal rather than what is earthly and fleeting?
- Why do people find purpose and meaning when walking in close relationship with God?
- What will you do this week to find meaning in a close relationship with God?
- **Where do people in our culture turn looking for purpose and meaning?**
- **Why did Solomon feel like his life was meaningless?**
- **What is the key to having a meaningful life?**

Everyday Extras

Make bubbles by gently combining 1 quart water, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of Dawn Dish Detergent, and 2 tablespoons of corn starch. Allow the mixture to sit for 10 minutes before you use it. Blow (or wave) bubbles through traditional bubble wands or go big with coat hangers and hula hoops. Talk with your children about how temporary the bubbles are. Solomon wrote about feeling that his life was empty and meaningless, just like the bubbles. He looked for purpose in wealth, pleasure, study, and work, but nothing lasted. Ultimately, he realized that knowing God is what gives life meaning.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned children have a special place in Jesus' heart. Some children wanted to come to Jesus, but the disciples tried to keep them away. Jesus told the disciples to let the children come to Him. He or she also heard a Webster Family story where Jamie, Rosie, and Annie learned **Jesus Loves Children** and they are important to Him.

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Date | **May 8, 2022** Family Theme | **The Purpose of Man**
Study Text | **Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:14**

Objective: Children understand what it means to have proper reverence for God and that we should live according to God's Word.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson concludes the book of Ecclesiastes, written by Solomon around 934 BC. It gives us the universal purpose of having reverence for God and obeying Him.

Bible Basics: Review Romans 6:23 and Philippians 2:10-11 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:14

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children or grandchildren about the importance of knowing and walking with God early in life. Teach them what it means to have proper reverence for Him and to live according to His Word.



Key Truth: Believers Live With Judgment and Accountability in Mind (Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:8)

There are two extremes in life. One is to focus on its darkness. *Everything is meaningless!* We see this outlook in many of the earlier passages of *Ecclesiastes*. The other danger is to not take life seriously at all: eat, drink, and be merry, and pay no attention to consequences for oneself or others. Solomon's writings help us avoid both errors if we will pay attention. He addressed the young with the advice to enjoy life, but remember that we will give an account for our lives. Live in such a way that one can enjoy life even as one prepares to meet God. Choosing to live joyfully and vigorously while remembering that we will answer to God – that is a recipe for a happy life. Solomon's advice is to give thought and attention to God while we are young, worshiping and serving Him. The time will come when our abilities and faculties will diminish, when we will not be able to do for God and for others what we once did.



Key Truth: Believers Demonstrate Proper Reverence for God and Obey His Word (Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

Solomon shared his knowledge with his subjects. He worked at discovering and organizing proverbs. He put effort into finding the best way to express wisdom. As a result, what he wrote was trustworthy. The Wisdom literature of the Bible works primarily in two ways. First, like goads, words of wisdom spur us into action, to do the right thing or to move in the right direction. Second, like nails, words of wisdom help to nail things down, keeping us from wandering off on our own away from God. There may be much to be written still, but nothing else to be heard. We await no discovery in art, science, economics, or politics that will invalidate the conclusion of the matter: *fear God and keep His commandments*. Everything else arranges itself around that one central duty. God will have the last word. His judgment or evaluation will prevail. We can do no better than to live the life He has set before us, to fear Him, keep His commandments, and await His final word.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- In what ways do Christians have purpose in life?
- Why is it important to live with judgment and accountability to God in mind?
- What did Solomon say is the duty of all people?
- How could you display reverence for God this week?
- What “commandment” of God do you need to more fully keep?
- **What does it mean to “fear” God?**
- **What are some ways you know Daniel feared God?**
- **How do you keep your purpose focused on God?**

Everyday Extras

For a treat, share some Tootsie Pops — with the Tootsie Roll in the middle of the lollipop. (Or you could have Blow Pops instead with bubble gum in the middle.) Talk about the outside candy shell. It is yummy and enjoyable, but the real reason to eat it is in the middle of the lollipop. That is its purpose! We can have pleasant, enjoyable jobs and relationships with other people, but the real purpose that all of us have is to do what pleases God. We do that by being devoted to Him with love and respect, and by obeying His commandments.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned Jesus told the disciples that the kingdom of God belongs to children as well as grown-ups. He or she heard verses from the Bible that remind us how much **Jesus Loves Children**. Your child also heard a Webster Family story where Jamie asks his dad some questions about what the Bible says.

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Date | **May 15, 2022** Family Theme | **Representatives of Christ**
Study Text | **2 Corinthians 5:1-21**

Objective: Family members live as Christ's representatives to the world, obeying Him and sharing how all people can be reconciled to God.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set around AD 56 when Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers from Macedonia during his third missionary trip.

Bible Basics: Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about what it means for us to live as new creations in Christ and to be Christ's representatives to the world.



Key Truth: Believers Look Forward to Being With the Lord and Having a New Glorified Body (2 Corinthians 5:1-8)

Paul used 2 Corinthians 5 to talk about the believer's future hope of eternity, and our privilege of representing Christ while we are here on earth. Paul assured us that when our physical bodies are destroyed, we will have a new body that is fit for eternity. Although we struggle with the burdens of life here on earth, we have a new body and a new home in Heaven with the Lord to look forward to. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit assures us we will take up new residence in Heaven after we die. With this eternal perspective, Paul could remain confident and encouraged despite his mortality and suffering.



Key Truth: Believers Seek to Please Christ Because of All He Has Done for Us (2 Corinthians 5:9-15)

Paul taught that our goal is to please the Lord, whether we are on earth or in Heaven. Paul's motivation for this mindset included the reality we all will stand before the Lord and give account of all we have done on earth, whether good or bad. The apostle's greatest desire was to hear the Lord say he had done well. Knowing we will all stand before Christ caused Paul to work diligently to reach others with the gospel. In the final analysis, however, it is Christ's death and sacrifice that provide the primary motivation and determination to serve. Because Christ gave His life for us and bore our sin, we should give our lives for His service.



Key Truth: Believers Share With Others How They Can Be Reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

While reminding us that Christ has completed the act of reconciling us to God, making us new in Christ, he also stated that God has now extended that ministry of reconciliation to us. We are now to be ambassadors for Christ, representing Him to the lost world. Paul's entire outlook had changed. The worldly attributes and achievements he once regarded as valuable were not so important anymore. As a result of our relationship with Christ, the believer is a new creation and possesses new life in Christ. Now, the old things, namely the selfish, carnal views and actions, have passed away. The new life, a life of devotion to Christ, has now come. Having reconciled us, the Lord then committed to believers the ministry of telling others how we can be reconciled to God.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does this passage indicate about our identity in Christ and our purpose as believers?
- What are some things we have to look forward to about Heaven?
- How does our hope of Heaven encourage us when we are going through trials?
- What does it mean that we are new creations if we are “in Christ”?
- What does it mean that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation?
- How would you describe what it means to be an ambassador for Christ?
- In what ways could you act as an ambassador for Christ this week?
- **What are some examples Paul gave as old ways of living?**
- **What are some examples Paul gave as new ways of living?**
- **How do you live so others can see Jesus in you?**

Everyday Extras

Ask your child about the role of a foreign ambassador. Where is the ambassador’s citizenship? Is it in the country where he lives? How can Christians live in this world as citizens of another world? You may not know any ambassadors, but perhaps you do have some international friends who live in your area though they are citizens of another country. How would their experience compare or contrast to our role as an ambassador of Heaven? Plan an intentional act of kindness for that international friend. Your child might research a favorite dessert or activity from the friend’s homeland and invite him or her over to share it!

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child began learning **Jesus Heals**. He or she heard the true story of a man who had not been able to walk for a very long time. This man was sitting by a very special pool when Jesus came there. Jesus could see his sad heart and asked the man if he wanted to be healed. The man said, “Yes.” Jesus healed the man and the man was filled with joy.

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Date | **May 22, 2022** Family Theme | **Set Apart for Christ**
Study Text | **2 Corinthians 6:1 – 7:1**

Objective: Family members be growing in holiness, separating themselves from sin.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Like the previous lesson, this lesson is set during Paul's third missionary trip, around AD 56, in between the first letter to the Corinthians and the letter to the Romans. Paul wrote to the believers at Corinth calling them to live holy lives set apart for Christ.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What is the role of the Father? Answer:** The Father loves the Son (John 3:35). He providentially cares for the world and all who are in it (Matthew 6:26). He reveals Jesus to people (Matthew 16:17) and draws them to Him (John 6:44). He forgives sins (Matthew 6:14). He listens to and answers prayers (Matthew 6:9-13). He sends the Holy Spirit to mankind (John 14:26). He keeps believers from the devil (John 10:29), and He sends them out in His service (John 20:21).

Read the Word: 2 Corinthians 6:1 – 7:1

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how to separate themselves from sin and grow in holiness.



Key Truth: Believers' Lifestyles Should Draw People to Christ, Not Push Them Away (2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

Paul challenged the Corinthian believers regarding the type of lives they should be living. He challenged them to follow the example set by him and his team. They lived in such a way that their lives did not hinder people from coming to Christ. Paul listed nine trials or experiences, nine inner qualities of followers of Christ, and then nine paradoxes to support the example he and his team had demonstrated. Even through all these challenges, Paul could remain joyful.



Key Truth: Believers Should Avoid Close, Binding Relationships With Unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:11-16)

Paul instructed the Corinthians to avoid placing themselves in close and binding relationships with unbelievers whose influence and conduct could affect their own lives. This would certainly include false teachers, but also marriages and other binding relationships in which the other person's attitudes, actions, and choices could strongly affect our lives. He supported this command by showing how complete opposites cannot be fully united in belief and purpose. This did not mean, however, that believers are to have no interactions or friendships with unbelievers (see 1 Corinthians 5:9-10).



Key Truth: Believers Separate Themselves From Sin and Keep Growing in Holiness (2 Corinthians 6:17–7:1)

Paul ended this chapter by instructing his readers to make decisions that would move them toward a life of holiness. Since believers are the temple of God by His Spirit, we are to separate ourselves from everything that would defile His dwelling place — our bodies, hearts, and minds. While God's power will most assuredly enable us to do these things, it is placed upon us to be active in the process of sanctification. In an attitude of reverence for God, we can cleanse ourselves by setting aside all sin and consistently choosing what is right, resulting in a growing holiness of our entire person.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean to be unequally yoked or bound together with unbelievers?
- What kinds of relationships might this include?
- What does it look like for us to separate ourselves from sin?
- **What are some things Christians might need to avoid because they could hinder someone from coming to Christ?**
- **What can we do to help ourselves grow in holiness?**
- **What steps do you need to take to separate yourself from sin and to grow in holiness?**

Everyday Extras

A believer's testimony is an important way to lead others toward a relationship with God. That is why we need to make sure we are doing our best to live pure and holy lives. This can be hard when we are surrounded by evil. This might be a fun weekend for a paint run. Have everyone dress in old clothes that you don't mind getting paint on. Wrap one person's shirt securely in plastic wrap. The track can be a 50-yard dash or a loop around the block with someone stationed with various colors of tempera paint in squirt bottles along the way. Multiple "passes" can create quite a collage! When the person who was wrapped in plastic wrap (carefully) removes it, you can see that his or her shirt was protected from the paint. In the same way, believers who rely on the Holy Spirit can stay clean even as they interact in a very sinful world.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child continued learning **Jesus Heals**. He or she heard the true story of when Jesus healed a man who was blind. Jesus made mud from His spit and dirt and put it on the man's eyes. Jesus told the man to go wash his face in a pool of water. When the man did as Jesus instructed, he was healed and was able to see.

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Date | **May 29, 2022** Family Theme | **Strength in Christ**
Study Text | **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

Objective: Family members choose to be content when facing difficulty, knowing God will give them the grace and strength to get through it and use it for His glory and their good.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson, like the previous two, is set in AD 56 and was written by the apostle Paul toward the end of his third missionary trip. Here he instructed the Corinthian believers that Christ's strength is best shown through our weakness.

Bible Basics: Review John 3:16-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how God may use difficulty for our good, and that He has promised to give us the grace and strength we need for every situation.



Key Truth: Believers Exalt God Rather Than Themselves (2 Corinthians 12:1-6)

Paul had many reasons to boast about his life and ministry experiences. He was careful, however, not to use these experiences to brag about himself. Rather, he was intentional in turning the focus toward Christ. Paul spoke in third person about an experience he had by asserting he knew about a man who was given a glimpse of Heaven. He could have actually been taken into Heaven and then returned to earth, or the experience may have strictly been a spiritual one. Paul asserted that if there were to be any boasting, he wished it to be in regard to his weaknesses. The only possible reason for boasting on Paul's part, and ours, is the sufficiency of Christ, and not an experience or ability.



Key Truth: God May Use Difficulty to Keep Us Humble and Dependent on Him (2 Corinthians 12:7)

Paul's vision of Heaven was great, but if not kept in perspective, it could have ruined his earthly ministry. Because God knows our nature and inclination toward pride, He often allows great burdens and great blessings to be mixed in the kettle of our lives. God allowed what Paul called a thorn in his flesh, a *messenger of Satan* to buffet him and keep him humble and reliant upon God. Many scholars believe it was some sort of physical ailment. Paul mentioned twice that this "thorn" was given to him to keep him from becoming conceited or exalted in his own mind. While God may not cause bad things to happen, He does permit them and when He does, they can, and will, accomplish good for the believer. God's grace is sufficient to see us through them.



Key Truth: God Provides Us Grace and Strength for Whatever We Face (2 Corinthians 12:8-10)

These experiences for Paul were certainly heartrending and painful. He pleaded with the Lord three times that this difficulty would be taken away from him. In spite of Paul's pleading, the Lord chose to permit this *messenger* to continue. Although God did not remove the struggle, He gave grace — unmerited kindness and favor that would be sufficient. Further, through Paul's weaknesses in the experiences, God's power would shine through. This power, and not his own, provided Paul the opportunity to boast in his weaknesses. God gave him the grace he needed to endure the trial.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Why is it important to exalt Christ rather than self?
- What are some examples of how God uses difficulty to work in our lives?
- How can we learn to be content while facing trials and difficulty?
- What does it mean that God's power is made perfect in our weakness?
- What does it mean that God's grace is sufficient for us?
- **Why do we need God's strength rather than just our own?**
- **In what situation do you need to be content this week, trusting that God will give you the grace and strength you need?**
- **What verses from the Bible give you strength when facing difficult times?**

Everyday Extras

On chore day, assign your child a task that is beyond his or her ability to do alone. (This will vary with the child's age, but some suggestions would be cleaning out the garage, wiping down the blinds, washing the dog, scrubbing the patio, etc.) Allow your child to work independently for a while, insisting that he or she must find solutions to do the best job possible. Before your child gets too frustrated, join in to help. Talk together about the way the Holy Spirit does that for us. We cannot do what we need to do in our own strength; we must have His help. We can count on Him to enable us to do what we cannot do on our own.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child heard the true story of when Jesus healed a man who could not hear nor speak clearly. The man's friends brought him to Jesus to be healed. When Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with His fingers, the man was able to hear and speak. Only **Jesus Heals** in such unusual ways.